WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM UN WOMEN EVALUATIONS?

A Meta-analysis of evaluations Managed by UN Women in 2016

META-ANALYSIS BRIEF

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A meta-analysis of evaluations managed by UN Women in 2016

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Agenda

Purpose

What does a meta-analysis do? What information does it provide?

Purpose: What does a meta-analysis do?

Evaluation **findings and insights** across multiple evaluations

Synthesis

Accessible knowledge to inform UN Women policies, strategies and new strategic plan (2018-2021)

Transforms UN Women evaluations into accessible knowledge

Purpose: What does a meta-analysis do?

Makes reference to previous meta-analyses for patterns and insights into organizational effectiveness
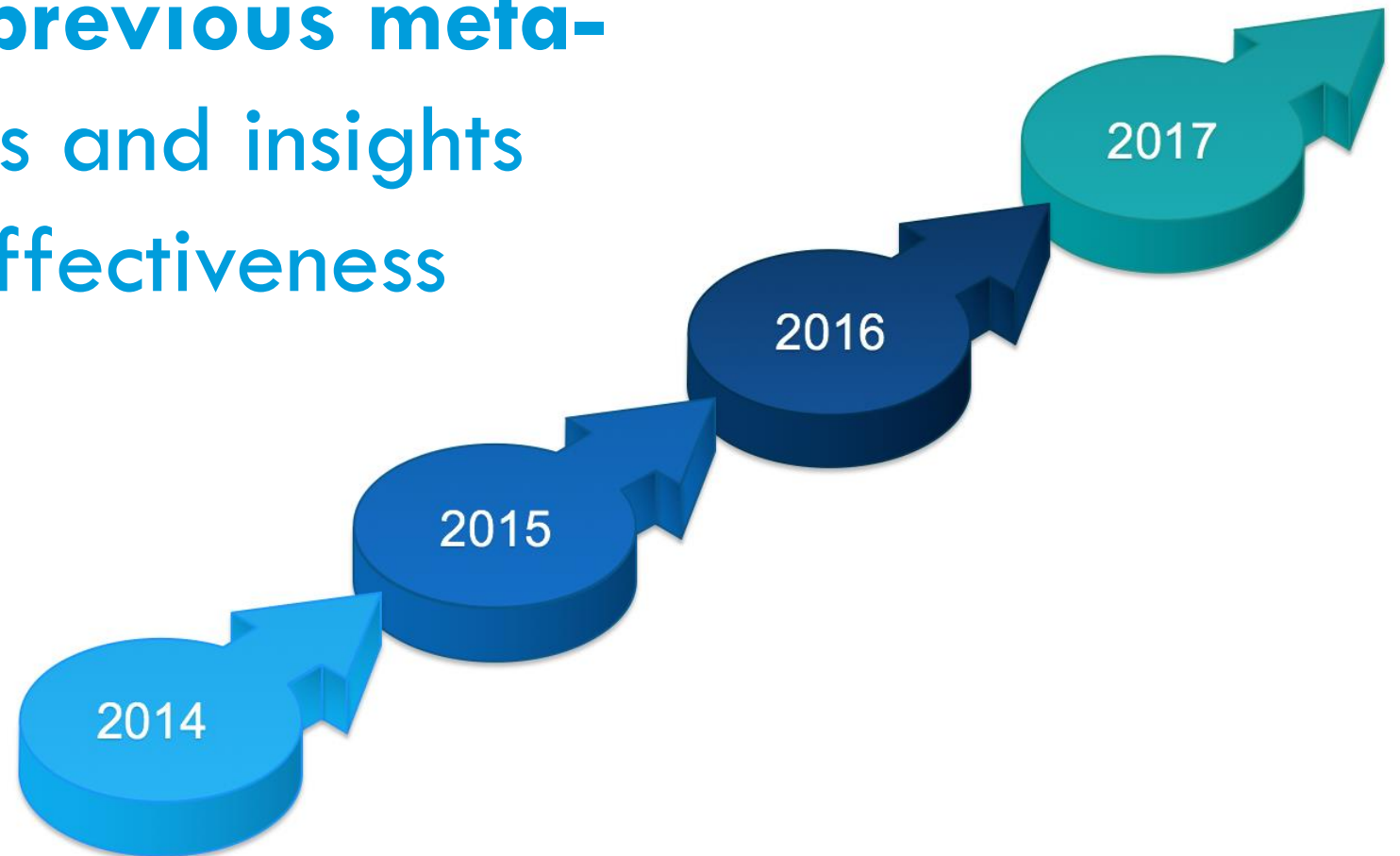
Scope and Methodology

What is scope and methodology?

Meta-analysis scope and methodology

- ☐ Total good quality evaluations managed by UN Women in 2016

- ☐ Applied structured analysis against:
  - ◻ OECD DAC development effectiveness criteria
  - ◻ UN Women Strategic Plan drivers of change

Findings

Relevance – Effectiveness – Sustainability – Efficiency – Culture of Results
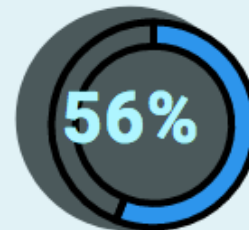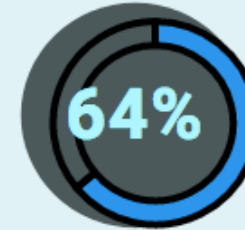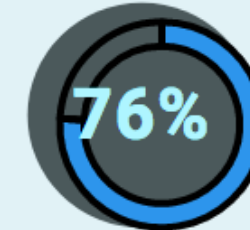
Overarching Findings

Satisfactory Rating

| Relevance	Effectiveness	Sustainability	Efficiency	Culture of Results
95%	97%	56%	64%	76%

UN Women interventions are relevant and effective for development.
Sustainability and efficiency have the most potential to improve.

Findings on Relevance

Relevance of UN Women interventions increasingly positive since 2013

Recently, relationships with partners have improved.
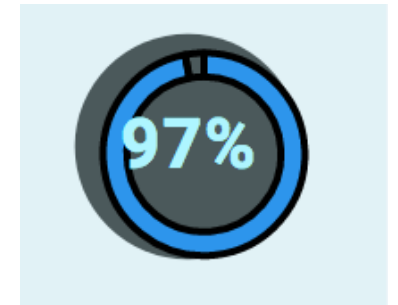
95%
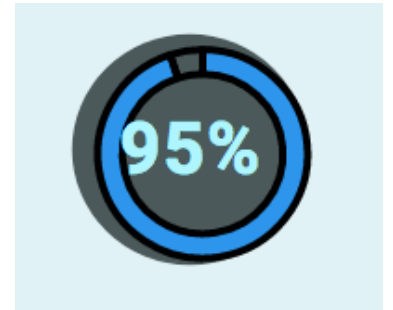
Satisfactory

Next steps

Continue consolidating programming relevant to the needs of:

- women and girls
- national policy goals
- strengthening working relationships with partners.

Findings on Effectiveness

Establishing **decentralized capacities** is essential to UN Women's leadership on gender equality.
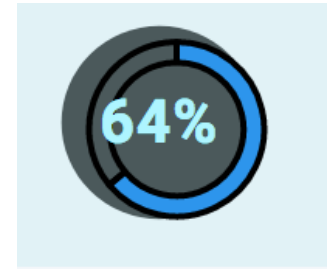
97%

Satisfactory

Next steps

Expand this leadership role at the country level through:

- Closer integration of UN coordination
- Operational programming with strategic notes (SN).

Findings on Efficiency

UN Women's systems are efficiently using the resources currently available to the organization.
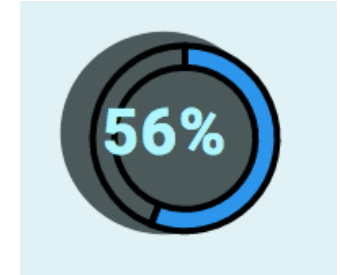
64%

Satisfactory

Next steps

Given current financial constraints, UN Women should **continue to reinforce** the financial management and programme execution capacities of strategic partners.

Findings on Sustainability

Sustainability across UN Women's operational portfolio is mixed.

**56%**

Satisfactory

Next steps

Achievements have been found to increase when supported by:

- Participatory approaches
- Co-creation
- Longer term programming cycles and commitments

Findings on a Culture of Results

Evaluations found strengthened results based management systems compared to previous years.

This largely validates the organizational focus on RBM.

76%
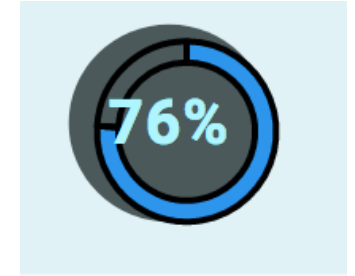
Satisfactory

Next steps

Promising area for improvement → strengthening indicators for monitoring **human rights based approaches to programming.**

Insights

Strategic drivers of change at UN Women

Making the case for investment in data

Several evaluations studied the intersection of **efficiency and data use**

Result

Findings support increased investment (financial and HR) for **potential ROI**

1) At the **country level,** evidence and data is emerging as a strength.

2) Translating this into corporate assets requires **new systems and technical work.**

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UN Women as a 'knowledge hub'

UN Women's role as a **knowledge hub** is emerging as the **centerpiece of its effectiveness** in advancing gender equality and empowerment of women.

UN Women acts as a KNOWLEDGE HUB for gender equality

Global level

Regional level

Country level

Alliance building as a driver of change

5 **Factors critical to effective alliance building**

Working with political systems

Creating space for women

Facilitating meaningful dialogue

Engaging stakeholders in all stages

Establishing strong partnerships with businesses

Meaningful relationships are central to UN Women's effectiveness.

There is a strong case for leveraging improvements in successful relationships for greater effectiveness.

Innovation and technology to drive change

Evaluative evidence on UN Women digital innovation strategies is not yet available;

however,

evaluations show that innovating traditional processes can enhance:

participation --- co-creation --- social cohesion

Reflections

7 key takeaways

Conclusion

❑ UN Women interventions are **consistently delivering relevant and effective** contributions towards gender equality outcomes and policies.

❑ Establishing the **decentralized capacity** has been central to strengthening UN Women's leadership on gender equality.

❑ UN Women's **great strength** is managing the resources that it does have; its **greatest need** is to systematize effective mobilization of new resources from diverse and sustainable sources.

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Conclusion

❑ UN Women's role as a **knowledge hub** is the **centerpiece** of its global effectiveness.

❑ **Evidence and data** is an emerging strength at the country-level.

❑ Successful **alliance-building is a long-term endeavor** grounded in nurturing social cohesion and local ownership.

❑ **Substantive improvement in RBM systems,** but efficiency and sustainability have the greatest potential for continued improvement.

THANK YOU

Questions, reflections & responses

INGA SNIUKAITE, Director, a.i., Independent Evaluation Office