



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality  
and the Empowerment of Women

# Report on the evaluation function of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, 2017

2018  
Annual Meeting  
Executive Board

Verasak Liengsriwat  
Director a.i  
UN Women Independent Evaluation and Audit  
Services (IEAS)

## **Global Evaluation Strategy (2018-2021)**

- Articulates the strategic direction of UN-Women's evaluation function
- Use of gender-responsive evaluation for learning and strategic decision-making elevated

## **Corporate Evaluation Plan (2018-2021) – new areas to be included:**

- Joint evaluation of the Common Chapter of the Strategic Plan 2018–2021

## As per the Executive Board's decision in August 2017

- **Independent Evaluation and internal audit** functions co-located under one oversight umbrella
- New Charter **for Independent Evaluation and Internal Audit** (IEAS)
- Synergy and complementary while maintaining its operational and functional independence and integrity

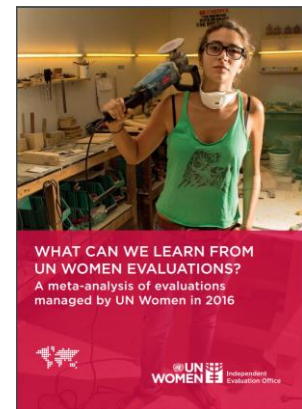
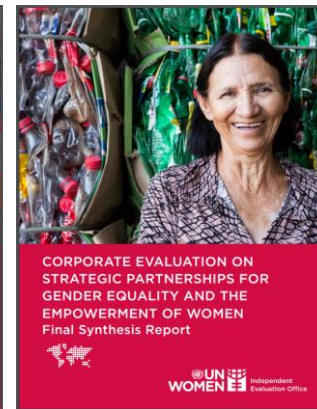
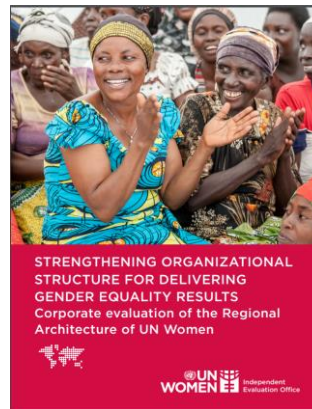
# UN WOMEN Corporate Evaluations

Corporate evaluations ensured comprehensive coverage of UN Women Strategic Plan 2014-2017

In 2017, 3 evaluation reports presented to the Executive Board

Evaluation approaches and methodologies

- 7 corporate evaluations
- 4 meta-analysis
- 2 joint reviews on gender policies and practices in the UN System and beyond



- Inclusive System Evaluation for Gender Equalities, Environments and Marginalized Voices (ISE4GEMs)
- Exploratory study on big data to improve evaluation

## **Decentralized evaluation ensured comprehensive coverage of Strategic Notes**

- 116 decentralized evaluations completed 2014-2017
- Coverage of CPE reached 27 per cent since 2015
- 9 CPEs completed in 2017, representing 75 per cent increase over 2016
- 37 decentralized evaluations completed in 2017

- Steady progress achieved in all Key Evaluation Performance Indicators
- Submissions of management responses reached 100%
- All field offices appointed either officer or focal point for M&E
- 89% of offices conducted at least one evaluation
- 95% of evaluations were externally assessed as 'meet' or 'exceeding the established standards'
- 86% offices reported use of evaluative evidence

Key performance Indicator (KPIs)	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Target 2017
Financial resources invested in evaluation	1.3%	2.2%	2.0%	2.9%*	2.7%	3%
Human Resources for Monitoring and Evaluation	83%	98%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Evaluation Coverage	67%	68%	71%	84%	89%	100%
Evaluation Implementation Rate	83%	71%	76%	84%	84%	95%
Quality of evaluations (satisfactory and above)	85%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

\*The figure for 2016 & 2017 is calculated using a new methodology, and therefore it's not comparable to previous years.

Key performance Indicator (KPIs)	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Target 2017	Overall assessment
Evaluation reports posted on public website	85%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	Achieved
Management response submission to the GATE	85%	86%	86%	94%	100%	100%	Achieved
Implementation of MR	88%	83%	85%	94%	85%	100%	On track
Use of evaluations	-	71%	75%	-	86%	90%	On track





# Enhanced communication to facilitate use of evaluation

- Use of evaluation elevated as key pillar
- Innovative communication and knowledge management
- IES web traffic increased
- Transform remained the most accessed evaluation product

**UN WOMEN INDEPENDENT EVALUATION SERVICE SNAPSHOT – Evaluation for gender equality**

**Our vision and work**  
The UN Women Evaluation Strategy aims to provide evidence for a more relevant, effective and efficient UN Women with greater impact on the lives of women and girls it serves. Through evaluations, capacity building, partnerships and UN system-wide coordination UN Women asks: "Are we doing the right things for gender equality? Are we doing those things right? Are we doing them on a scale that makes a difference?". We look both inward to evaluate UN Women activities and outward to strengthen the evaluation community at large. We work at country, regional and global level to fully engage with the opportunities and challenges by the Sustainable Development Goals and UN Women's Strategic Plan.  
We champion gender responsive evaluation – an evaluative lens that considers and challenges the structures that contribute to gender inequality and contributes to the realization of equality for all. We assess progress toward creating a world where no woman, no girl, no one is left behind.

**Objectives**  
1) Improve use of gender-responsive evaluation (GRE) by UN Women and its partners for learning, strategic decision making, policy and programme development  
2) Provide timely and relevant evaluative evidence on UN Women's contribution to development and organizational effectiveness and efficiency results  
3) Increase demand and conduct of GRE to support accountability for GE commitments in SDGs and beyond

**Strategic focus**

Conduct corporate evaluations and establish effective corporate evaluation systems	Strengthen decentralized evaluation culture and systems for greater accountability and improved programming	Lead UN coordination on GRE to generate system-wide accountability	Support national evaluation capacity-building for GRE	Strengthen evaluation use
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**Key Activities 2018-2021**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct 8-2 corporate studies</li> <li>Provide technical assistance to 12 HQ-led evaluations</li> <li>Joint evaluation of gender equality results</li> <li>Expand methodological developments (gender responsive and impact evaluation, big data and system approach)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-manage 100% of Country Portfolio Evaluations and regional evaluations</li> <li>Provide technical assistance to 100% of country office led evaluations</li> <li>Support professionalization initiatives</li> <li>Maintain a gender experts roster</li> <li>Oversight, quality assurance and accountability systems: GATE, GERAAS, GEOS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote SWAP (System Wide Action Plan) reporting and analyze its results</li> <li>Collect and disseminate good practices and lessons learned in gender responsive evaluations</li> <li>Develop guidance on evaluation of gender policies</li> <li>Contribute to UNEG strategy and activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leverage existing partnerships on national evaluation capacity development for gender responsive evaluation and evaluating the SDGs with a gender lens (EvalPartners, EvalGender+)</li> <li>Establish new partnerships with learning institutions on gender responsive evaluations and impact evaluation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deepen engagement with key internal and external stakeholders on the focus, timing and follow-up to evaluations</li> <li>Invest in substantive knowledge sharing through knowledge and learning partnerships</li> <li>Transform IES into a "knowledge hub" for GRE</li> </ul>
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**Evaluation use facilitated through effective evaluation communication, advocacy and knowledge management**

**Drivers of Change**

Partnerships Networks	Innovation	Knowledge Hub
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**Key Achievements 2013-2017**

<b>2013</b> Created an evaluation policy Conducted 8 corporate evaluations covering the integrated mandates and SP impact areas	<b>2014</b> Created an evaluation strategy (2013-2017)	<b>2015</b> Published the UN Women Handbook on Gender Responsive Evaluation Conducted 4 meta-analyses on all UN Women evaluations	<b>2015</b> Launched EvalGender+ with external partners Conducted 2 joint reviews on gender policies and practices in the UN System and beyond	<b>2016</b> Lead efforts to update UNEG Norms and Standards, including new norms on gender equality and human rights 104 decentralized evaluations	<b>2017</b> Created new evaluation strategy (2018-2021)
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## Looking for #genderdata?



Search UN Women Corporate Evaluations

Search all UN Women Evaluations on GATE

Read TRANSFORM- A magazine for gender responsive evaluation

Search the Gender Equality Evaluation Portal



**EVALUATION BRIEF**

**UN WOMEN**

**PARTNERING FOR TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE**  
Corporate evaluation of UN Women's Strategic Partnerships for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

May 2017

Gender Responsive Evaluations strengthened UN system-wide accountability for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

- Co-convened the UNEG professional peer reviews of the evaluation function of UN organizations
- Co-convened the Human Rights and Gender Equality Working Groups
  - 72% entities either exceeds or meets the UN SWAP EPI standards
  - UN Women made significant increase in performance of UN SWAP EPI
- UN Women supported 12 UNDAF evaluation and 4 Joint Evaluation

- Global and regional multi-stakeholder partnership, e.g. EvalGender+ (co-chair)
- Country-led gender responsive M&E systems and country-led evaluations (Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Zimbabwe and Argentina)
- Global and regional exchange and capacity development on gender responsive evaluation in the framework of the SDGs
- Case studies on national evaluation policies and systems in Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia

# Global Advisory Committee's assessment of the evaluation function in 2017

## **The committee acknowledged:**

- Impressive performance of the evaluation function
- Extensive use of evaluation evidence by UN Women

## **The committee recommended:**

- Capture stories of change and impact of UN Women
- Functional integrity of audit and evaluation functions
- Facilitate use of evaluation findings
- Influence system-wide practice and gender responsive national evaluation capacity development

- Significant progress achieved across all Evaluation Performance Indicators
- Investment made in enhancing knowledge, learning and communications increased the influence and uptake of evaluation insights
- Evaluation Strategy and Corporate Evaluation Plan 2018-2021 fully aligned to support UN Women's strategic directions to strengthen development effectiveness
- Support from Management of the UN Women created a more conducive environment for greater absorption of lessons and recommendations generated by evaluations.
- UN Women's continuous investment helped to influence integration of gender equality perspectives both within UN System and beyond