

# STRENGTHENING EVALUATION FOR IMPROVED PROGRAMMING: UNFPA Evaluation Quality Assessment

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**Evaluation Report  
Number 21**





# Evaluation Report #21

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**NOTE:** The views expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations Population Fund.



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# Foreword

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Evaluation is an important management tool that enables us to make informed decisions based on learning. It is a key element of Results-Based Management and is well integrated in UNFPA's programming and strategic planning processes. As UNFPA works in an ever-changing environment, not only within the UN system but also in the broader environment of development aid and national context, it is important that the Fund uses this tool effectively so that it remains relevant and meaningful. Evaluation can tell us if we are doing the right thing in the right way, and how we can improve our work to ensure that UNFPA's activities and programmes have greater impact. Thus, evaluation helps us to develop a stronger evidence base to support UNFPA's work. It also helps the organization to be more accountable for results; this contributes to empowering our ultimate beneficiaries.

In 2005, UNFPA commissioned the first-ever meta evaluation – evaluation of evaluations. We wanted to have a hard look at the quality of our evaluation work, using recognized international standards as a benchmark. We also wanted to determine what kinds of improvements were needed.

The Evaluation Quality Assessment tells us clearly that UNFPA needs to improve the quality of its evaluations. It is increasingly important to pay greater attention to using standard evaluation criteria, such as relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability, and to ensure that all evaluations provide an assessment of the organization's interventions from a gender mainstreaming and human rights perspective.

This meta evaluation has provided a number of valuable recommendations for action; we have included a detailed management response. As we move forward with our follow-up to the report's findings and recommendations, UNFPA will strengthen its evaluation capacity as well as practices. We further plan to conduct a second meta evaluation in 2010 in order to determine whether our new measures have brought about any measurable improvements.

I am confident that our renewed efforts to improve the quality of evaluation will lead to better use of evaluation findings and recommendations and, ultimately, to improving the lives of people we serve.



**Thoraya Ahmed Obaid**  
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# Acronyms

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<b>AI</b>	Appreciative Inquiry
<b>ALNAP</b>	Active Learning Network on Accountability and Participation
<b>CO</b>	Country Office
<b>COAR</b>	Country Office Annual Report
<b>CP</b>	Country Programme
<b>CST</b>	Country Support Team
<b>DALY</b>	Disability Adjusted Life Year
<b>DOS</b>	Division for Oversight Services
<b>EQA</b>	Evaluation Quality Assessment
<b>ICPD</b>	International Conference on Population and Development
<b>KAP</b>	Knowledge, Attitude and Practice
<b>MTR</b>	Mid Term Review
<b>MYFF</b>	Multi-Year Funding Framework
<b>OECD-DAC</b>	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development – Development Assistance Committee
<b>OVI</b>	Objectively Verifiable Indicators
<b>PM&amp;E</b>	Planning, monitoring and evaluation
<b>PRSP</b>	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
<b>RBM</b>	Results based management
<b>RH</b>	Reproductive Health
<b>SWAps</b>	Sector Wide Approaches
<b>TSD</b>	Technical Support Division
<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>UNEG</b>	United Nations Evaluation Group

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