

TRANSEC JRM



UN Women's UN System Coordination and Broader Convening Role in Ending Violence Against Women

Why evaluate UN Women's UN coordination and broader convening role in ending violence against women?

PAGE 4

What value and benefit does UN Women's UN coordination and broader convening role in ending violence against women bring to UN Women and to other partners?

PAGE 9

Moving forward: Six ways to strengthen UN Women's UN coordination and broader convening role in ending violence against women

PAGE 21



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the 22nd issue of Transform, which focuses on a critical step towards achieving gender equality: ending violence against women and girls (EVAW). Violence against women and girls is a significant global problem that takes many forms and has both immediate and long-term physical and mental health consequences. UN Women's work in this area spans its integrated mandate of normative support, United Nations system coordination, and operational activities on the ground. In working towards preventing and responding to violence against women and girls, UN Women coordinates and works with partner agencies in the UN system and also convenes and collaborates with civil society, the private sector, local governments and women's organizations. To gain further insight into this important strategic area, the Independent Evaluation Service (IES) of the UN Women Independent Evaluation and Audit Services (IEAS) led an evaluation to assess the contribution of UN Women's coordination and convening role to EVAW results.

The evaluation found that UN Women's mandate to lead, promote and coordinate the UN system's work on gender equality and women's empowerment is a strategic asset that enables it to engage in both normative advocacy and operational support, with coordination acting as a bridge between the two. However, the evaluation also found that the existing accountability mechanisms are insufficient and need to be complemented with an appropriate coordination for EVAW results framework. In addition, lack of a clearly articulated, concrete value proposition of coordination has constrained the operationalization of the coordination role in thematic areas, while other challenges include a lack of sufficient financial investment and appropriate metrics to showcase the value of UN Women's coordination work to the United Nations system as a whole.

The recommendations in the evaluation are forward looking. They suggest reaffirming UN Women's mandate to coordinate for results in key thematic areas, clearly articulating the value proposition of coordination to accelerate EVAW outcomes, strengthening inter-agency and in-house coordination mechanisms, as well as systematically documenting and communicating the impact of the organization's coordination efforts.

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Think Beyond. Stay Ahead.

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Contents



Why evaluate UN Women's United Nations coordination and broader convening role in ending violence against women?

PAGE 4



Key insights

PAGE 9

Moving forward: Six ways to strengthen UN Women's United Nations coordination and its broader convening role in ending violence against women

PAGE 21



Learning from this corporate evaluation: Reflections from management

PAGE 27

Comprehensive methodology for a broad evaluation

PAGE 29



ON THE COVER Violinist, June-Chanakarn Wisuk Cho - To launch the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence on November 25 2020, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the UNiTE Inter-agency group hosted the Asia-Pacific Regional Curated Dialogue livestreamed in the format of a TV programme.

Photo ©UN Women/Supasan Banyongkasena



**Why evaluate UN Women's
United Nations coordination and
broader convening role in ending
violence against women?**

UN Women's United Nations system coordination and broader convening role in ending violence against women

*Are we getting it
right?*

*Does our support
positively change
the lives of women
and girls and
contribute to
gender equality?*

*To get better results,
we need to know
what works. We
also need to know
what doesn't work
and how to fix it.*

UN Women's Independent Evaluation Service (IES) of the Independent Evaluation and Audit Services (IEAS) conducted a corporate evaluation of UN Women's United Nations system coordination and broader convening role with civil society, governments and other partners in ending violence against women (EVAW) as part of the revised UN Women Corporate Evaluation Plan (2018–2021). The evaluation was initiated in December 2020 and completed in April 2021.

UN Women works to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls (VAWG), to increase access to services for survivors and to make private and public spaces safer for women and girls. In working towards ending VAWG, UN Women leverages its integrated mandate through the provision of normative support, coordination of the United Nations system, and implementation of its operational activities.

UN Women engages on multiple fronts by partnering with governments, United Nations organizations, civil society organizations and other partners to build capacity among multiple stakeholders to prevent and respond to VAWG in public and private spaces; to raise awareness of the causes and consequences of VAWG; to provide policy and technical guidance on legislation and policy reform; to provide essential services for survivors; and to collect and analyse data, provide thought leadership and disseminate knowledge products on this issue, including through established global communities of practice.

The evaluation studied the value and benefit of UN Women's coordination activities and broader convening role in achieving collective outcomes in EAW. The overarching

question of the evaluation was: What value and benefit does UN Women's United Nations system coordination and broader convening role in EAW bring to UN Women, United Nations organizations, governments and other partners, and to the overall achievement of collective EAW outcomes?

The evaluation covered the period from 2018 to 2020, focusing in particular on UN Women's United Nations system coordination and convening role in EAW during the current Strategic Plan for 2018–2021 and allowed for the inclusion of relevant historical results and mechanisms. Although not a focus of this evaluation, the emerging lessons learned on coordination and convening from the Spotlight Initiative to eliminate VAWG were also considered to the extent possible.

What value and benefit does UN Women's United Nations system coordination and broader convening role in EAW bring to UN Women, United Nations organizations, governments and other partners, and to the overall achievement of collective EAW outcomes?



[Corporate evaluation of UN Women's UN System coordination and broader convening role in EAW](#)

UN Women's Joint Programmes and Initiatives in Ending Violence Against Women



Joint Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence, a partnership between UN Women, UNFPA, WHO, UNDP and UNODC



The EU-UN Spotlight Initiative, a partnership between the European Union and the United Nations to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful practices



Global programme on **violence against women data** (with WHO)



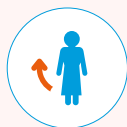
The Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls Global Initiative



INTER-AGENCY INITIATIVE: the United Nations Trust Fund (UNTF) on EAW

Administered by UN Women, the UNTF for EAW is a global, multilateral grant mechanism that supports efforts to prevent and end violence against women and girls

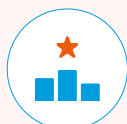
EVALUATION QUESTIONS



What is the **strategic significance** of UN Women's United Nations coordination and broader convening role in advancing globally agreed goals on EVAW?



How has UN Women **operationalized** its UN system coordination and broader convening power on EVAW issues?



What are the **results** of UN Women's UN system coordination and broader convening role on EVAW issues?



How has UN Women's coordination and convening role contributed to EVAW during the **COVID-19 global pandemic**?



What **lessons** emerge from programmes where UN Women's UN coordination and broader convening work has led to **demonstrated impact** in EVAW?

During the COVID-19 pandemic, UN Women played an integral role in the United Nations system response and in raising awareness of VAWG. This included leading the development of an [inter-agency statement on VAWG in the context of COVID-19](#), supporting the United Nations Secretary-General's political engagement strategy on gender-based violence, providing substantive input to support the inclusion of violence against women in the [COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker](#) in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, and producing and disseminating a [series of EVAW and COVID-19 policy briefs](#) on key issues to help inform the adaptation of policies and programmes in developed and developing countries at different stages of the pandemic.

The evaluation findings are expected to contribute to strategic decision-making, organizational learning, accountability and the strengthening of UN Women's United Nations system coordination and broader convening role in EVAW, including through the development of UN Women's Strategic Plan for 2022–2025.

The primary intended users of the evaluation are the UN Women Executive Board, senior management and programme staff directly working on, or with an interest in, EVAW. The evaluation is also intended to be useful for other actors working on EVAW, including civil society organizations, United Nations organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and development partners.



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What methods and tools are available to advance gender-responsive evaluation?

What can we learn from successful gender-responsive evaluation approaches?

How can we empower rights holders and maximize their participation?

GOOD PRACTICES IN GENDER-RESPONSIVE EVALUATIONS

Download the interactive PDF [here](#)

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