Independent Evaluation Office

The Magazine for Gender-Responsive Evaluation

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What can we learn from UN Women evaluations?

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Dear Readers,

As part of its continuous effort to promote learning and accountability, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) Independent Evaluation Office undertakes an annual meta-analysis to ensure that the body of evidence produced by corporate and decentralized evaluations is synthetized to help strengthen programming and organizational effectiveness.

This year's meta-analysis contributes to this effort by synthesizing insights and drivers of change from multiple evaluations. The analysis transformed evaluative evidences into accessible knowledge for future systematic strengthening of programming, organizational effectiveness and the evaluation function. The analysis will help contribute to better understanding of the context in which ongoing and new initiatives will be implemented.

We hope you find the synthesis useful to further reflect on and feed the learning into future thinking and practices to drive transformative change on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

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Think Beyond. Stay Ahead.

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A meta-analysis of UN Women evaluations in 2016

Meta-analysis: A unique view of the bigger picture

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The meta-analysis approach: Synthetizing evidence

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PORTRAIT OF AMIRA ABI KHALIL. SHE HAS OWNED AND OPER-ATED HER BRICK AND STONE TRADING COMPANY FOR EIGHTEEN YEARS SINCE 1997. LEBANON EMERGED FROM A 15-YEAR CIVIL WAR IN 1990, BEGINNING ITS SLOW BUT STEADY RECOVERY. TODAY IT IS CONSIDERED AN UPPER-MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRY, BUT ECONOMIC GAINS ARE INEQUITABLY DISTRIBUTED AMONG SOCIAL GROUPS AND SKEWED TOWARDS URBAN AREAS.

2

A unique view of the bigger picture

The successful positioning of UN Women as a knowledge-based organization on gender equality and the empowerment of women (GEEW) rests in part on its ability to harness, communicate and use evidence and knowledge from evaluations.

UN Women has a growing body of evidence from evaluations and has taken significant steps to strengthen results-based management (RBM), program performance, and learning from evaluations. Lessons drawn from evaluations have spurred the development of new approaches and helped to make the case to either reinforce ongoing work as appropriate, or to inform changes in UN Women approaches and business processes.

UN Women, as a knowledgebased organization, continuously seeks ways to accelerate its development results through improved organizational effectiveness. То further facilitate the review of evaluative evidence and transform it into accessible knowledge, the UN Women Independent Evaluation Office annually produces a metaanalysis report. The aggregation and synthesis of evidence from multiple evaluations is proved to be a potent approach to better understand what kinds of programmatic approaches and interventions are working best across the range of countries UN Women serves.

By examining a wide range of evaluations to identify common

findings and conclusions, this year's meta-analysis emphasized how UN Women interventions consistently contribute to gender equality outcomes and policy changes, driven by its decentralized capacity, and how it facilitates meaningful relations and dialogue among diverse stakeholders. The analysis also pointed out how the organization can further enhance efficiency and sustainability of its interventions. Overall, UN Women's development effectiveness is being driven by its strategic planning processes, the relevance of its interventions, and its efficiency in using limited resources. Future strategies to augment UN Women's existing achievements can include nurturing gender equality expertise in national systems, investing in UN Women's own expertise in resource mobilization and data systems, and deeper integration of programming and coordination through country-level strategic notes.

Hopefully this meta-analysis will help UN Women staff in their current efforts as well as assist them in striving towards the bigger picture of driving transformational change in pursuit of gender equality and the empowerment of women.



Unique insights for gender equality

PORTRAIT OF CLOTHING DESIGNER LARA KHOURY IN HER STUDIO IN BEIRUT.

The UN Women Global Evaluation Reports Assessment and Analysis System (GERAAS) considers the meta-evaluation to be a systematic and formal assessment of the quality of evaluation reports against UN Evaluation Group evaluation standards, and the meta-analysis to be an instrument to synthesize evaluation findings, conclusions and recommendations from a series of evaluations that meet UN Evaluation Group quality standards.

In the current Corporate Evaluation Plan (2014–2017), annual meta-analyses are scheduled to ensure that the body of evidence produced by evaluations, including those managed by field offices, can be consolidated and inform corporate-level policies and strategies. This meta-analysis aggregated and synthesized information generated from 36 corporate and decentralized evaluations in 2016 that were submitted to GERAAS.

The purpose of this meta-analysis is to capture the key insights from evaluation reports rated satisfactory or higher according to UN Women standards. The findings will be used to inform the implementation of the UN Women Strategic Plan 2018-2021. META-EVALUATION: An assessment of the quality of evaluations.

META-ANALYSIS: A synthesis of findings, conclusions and recommendations from various evaluations.

Analysis



Drivers of change



EVIDENCE KNO DATA & HUB STATISTICS

KNOWLEDGE AI HUB BI M

ALLIANCE BUILDING & MOVEMENT FOR CHANGE



TECHNOLOGY



ENGAGEMENT

YOUTH



SOUTH-SOUTH

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW TO MANAGE OR CONDUCT AN **EVALUATION AT UN WOMEN?**

HOW CAN **EVALUATION BE** A DRIVER FOR **CHANGE TOWARDS GENDER EOUALITY** AND WOMEN'S **EMPOWERMENT?**

HOW IS GENDER-RESPONSIVE **EVALUATION** DIFFERENT FROM OTHER **EVALUATION?**

HOW TO MANAGE GENDER-RESPONSIVE EVALUATION

EVALUATION HANDBOOK



Find out how UN Women manages gender-responsive evaluation with the new UN Women Evaluation Handbook: How to manage gender responsive evaluation.

> The Handbook is available at: http://genderevaluation.unwomen.org





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