





Dear Readers,

Meta-analysis offers a unique opportunity for learning and provides useful feedback for influencing positive change. The knowledge created and the lessons learned through this exercise subsequently provides a basis to continuously reflect on what works and what does not work to improve future programming and implementation.

As part of its continuous effort to promote learning and accountability, the UN Women Independent Evaluation Office undertakes an annual meta-analysis to ensure that the body of evidence produced by corporate and decentralized evaluations are synthetized and used to inform corporate-level and decentralized policies and strategies.

To serve the dual purpose of accountability and learning, annual meta-analyses alternate between a focus on accountability and learning. This way the exercise is more robust and relevant, serving better the organization.

This meta-analysis constitutes the second synthesis of UN Women commissioned evaluations since the adoption of the current Strategic Plan (2014–2017). Since the focus of last year was on accountability, this year's focus was on learning. Evidence from a total of 21 evaluations managed by UN Women in 2014 were included in the analysis, representing at least 51 countries. Additional corroborating lessons were also included from 23 evaluation reports completed in 2013.

We hope you find the synthesis useful to further reflect on what works and what does not in accelerating efforts towards achievement of 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 2014

We learn, therefore we are





CONCLUSIONS

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Four conclusions about UN Women interventions

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APPROACH

THE META-ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY:
Synthetizing evidence

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ON THE COVER: This photo, by Fitria Rifkii, is part of the 2014 United Nations Day Asia Pacific Photo Contest on gender equality referring to the historic Beijing +20 conference, which marks the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women.





We learn, therefore we are

The ultimate success of evaluation depends on the extent to which it is used by the organization to contribute to organizational accountability, informed decision-making, and learning to improve performance and achievement of results. An evaluation function does not operate in a vacuum. Its success as a tool to enhance results-driven work lies in organizational capabilities to reflect, absorb and continuously learn from evaluations.

this respect, UN Women Independent Evaluation Office. Programme Division and regional offices are joining forces to ensure that evaluations are used to inform ongoing and new programming. The programme approach that UN Women uses defines a programme as "an integrated set of activities implemented over a period of time to produce a number of inter-connected outputs and outcomes". These contribute to the achievement of the goals and outcomes articulated in the UN Women Strategic Plan. Compared with projects, programmes take a wider view, aim for higher level results and bring together more and inter-related elements in the pursuit of those results.

This enables more holistic and cross-thematic responses that are necessary to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment.

Programme formulation involves many steps including: context and situation analysis for gender equality and women's empower-

goals; UN Development Assistance Framework outcomes, and the UN Women Strategic Plan; baselines and indicators; implementing partners; financial and human resources; and potential risks. To ensure relevance and effectiveness, it is very important for UN Women programming to reflect on lessons learned and good practices from current and past programmes validated by evaluations. This is why UN Women, as a knowledge-led and learning organization, is striving to conduct evaluations not only to comply with its policies, but also, and more importantly, to

Reflect on lessons and good practices from past evaluations to improve programming

ment; socioeconomic context for UN Women's work and latest political trends; expected results; contribution of results to international norms and standards; national promote organizational accountability and learning to support efforts geared towards the accelerated achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women.



ACCOUNTABILITY S LEARNING

GATE System:

The Global Accountability and Tracking of Evaluation Use

An on-line based Public Information Management System, which facilitates UN Women's effort to strategically plan and effectively use evaluations for accountability, management for results, and knowledge management.

>>>> http://gate.unwomen.org/





Although the term "meta-evaluation" has been traditionally used for both the evaluation of evaluations and the synthesis of the results of various evaluations, the UN Women Global Evaluation Reports Assessment and Analysis System considers meta-evaluation to be a systematic and formal assessment of the quality of evaluations report against UN Evaluation Group evaluation standards, and 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 synthetized and inform corporate-level policies and strategies. There are two main purposes to evaluation in UN Women: learning and accountability. To enhance utilization, annual meta-analyses alternate between a focus on accountability and a focus

on learning. The focus of this year's meta-analysis was learning.

The purpose of this meta-analysis is to share the key insights from evaluation reports in order to develop constructive lessons for future systemic strengthening of programming, organizational effectiveness and the evaluation function. This meta-analysis mainly assessed evaluation reports from 2014 that were submitted to UN Women's Global Evaluation Reports Assessment and Analysis System.

META-EVALUATION:

An assessment of the quality of evaluations

META-ANALYSIS:

A synthesis of findings, conclusions and recommendations from various evaluations

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 EQUALITY
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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