

Plan for global evaluations, 2022–2025

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UNICEF Executive Board – 2022 first regular session (8–11 February 2022) Item 8: Plan for global evaluations, 2022–2025 Reference document: E/ICEF/2022/3

OBJECTIVES, PURPOSE AND KEY FEATURES

The plan for global evaluations, 2022–2025, aims to ensure optimal learning and accountability across the full breadth of UNICEF work by pre-identifying global evaluations foreseen as being most crucial this quadrennium.

Anchored in foundational sources of normative guidance

 Bases evaluation selection on balanced approach: independent identification of learning and accountability needs and internal and external consultation

 Emphasizes impact-level results and the role of evaluation in advancing results at this higher level

Organized into 4 evaluation portfolios and 2 cross-cutting portfolios

Includes joint, inter-agency and system-wide evaluations

Identifies other key priorities

Articulates guiding principles and strategies for the quadrennium

• Describes overall resource requirements to implement the plan

Identifies risks potentially affecting the function



GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND STRATEGIES

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Quality, credibility, timeliness, utility and use
- Broad internal and external consultation
- Urgency of the Decade of Action
- Integration
- Managed coordination and collaboration with complementary knowledge functions
- Creativity and innovation

STRATEGIES

Overall strategy:

Leverage evaluative evidence where, when and how it will matter most to help UNICEF and its partners make the greatest difference in the Decade of Action:

- Identify evaluation topics with greatest value-add to organizational learning and accountability, including through impact measurement, where appropriate and feasible
- Pursue a genuinely whole-of-evaluation-function
- Strengthen partnerships
- Place greater emphasis on national evaluation capacity development
- Scale up creative, innovative and agile approaches

PLANNED EVALUATIONS

Distribution of evaluation topics (excluding evaluations rolled over from 2021)

UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 component	Number of evaluation products
Goal Area 1	4
Goal Area 2	4
Goal Area 3	5
Goal Area 4	3
Goal Area 5	5
Humanitarian action	3
Institutional effectiveness	7
Total	31

- Plan includes both formative and summative evaluations.
- Plan contains other evaluative exercises (e.g., 7 evaluability assessments, 3 evaluation reviews and syntheses).
- Plan identifies 5 new joint and inter-agency evaluations and many other joint evaluative exercises; this number will increase.
- Resource framework is provided as a general guide, with flexibility required to meet ad hoc demands and to allow for participation in joint evaluations.
- Currently excluded from the humanitarian action portfolio are Level 3 and inter-agency/joint humanitarian evaluations.
- Humanitarian action and equity will be mainstreamed, mirroring the Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 (and UNEG normative guidance).

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OTHER KEY PRIORITIES

- Strengthening evaluation of country programme results: grounding evaluations in United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, jointly enhancing support to country-focused evaluation with partners
- Joint and inter-agency evaluations: in keeping with the interconnectedness of the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations system reform
- Enhancing strategic evaluation partnerships: focusing on partnerships maximizing the contribution of evaluation to the Sustainable Development Goals and children's rights
- Supporting national evaluation capacity: to establish/improve national systems for evaluating progress on the Sustainable Development Goals and for being well-equipped consumers of evaluative evidence
- Expanding innovations, new methods and impact evaluations: adapting methods to diverse programme contexts
- Learning and knowledge exchange: on emerging evaluative evidence, partnering with academic institutions to promote learning for the humanitarian-development sector as a whole
- Enhancing evaluation quality and oversight: through facilitation, guidance, tools, training and improved systems, enhancing evaluation skills and competencies among staff and national partners.

RISKS

- Shortfalls in reaching resource mobilization targets for evaluation, not least of all in relation to resourcing of the Evaluation Pooled Fund, which is vital to complement the effort made by UNICEF to fund capacities at decentralized level
- Inability to fulfil Executive Board decision to set aside 1 per cent of the programme budget for evaluation
- Delays in the execution of evaluations, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic or to other external constraints
- Low implementation and/or delays in management responses that are consistently timely, well targeted and meaningful

These and other emerging risks and challenges will be **regularly monitored and addressed** through active, adaptive management.

