Report of the Global Evaluation Advisory Committee (GEAC)

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Chair, GEAC

Overview

- Three Separate Assessments
- Global Evaluation Advisory Committee and Its Report
- Key Conclusions and Recommendations
Three Separate Assessments

- UNEG Professional Peer Review
- JIU Analysis of Evaluation Function in UN System
- MOPAN Assessment of UN Women
- UN Women Evaluation Function

Key Findings

- UN Women evaluation function is sound overall.
- The current structural and institutional independence of the evaluation function is adequate but could be further strengthened.
- UN Women evaluation function is credible. However, enhancing the quality of evaluations should be prioritized.
- UN Women has established systems aimed at facilitating use of evaluation. However, more could be done to facilitate lessons learning and to enhance utility of evaluations.
- UN Women has demonstrated leadership in coordination within the UN System and national evaluation capacity development. It should prioritize its UN system coordination work, and work with national institutions to move the gender-responsive evaluation agenda forward.
Global Evaluation Advisory Committee and Its Report

- Maria Bustelo, Associate Professor, Complutense University, Spain
- Aristide Di Qioho, Director, Evaluation of Public Policies at the Prime Minister Office of Benin
- Moaz Borsaid, Director, Coordination Division, UN Women HQ
- Thalía de la Garza Navarrete, Director General Evaluation, CONEVAL, Mexico
- Katherine Hay, Deputy Director Measurement, Learning & Evaluation, Gates Foundation, India
- Caroline Héder, World Bank Senior Vice President and Director General of IEG – WIBO Club
- Colin Khoo, Director, UNICEF Evaluation Office
- Christine Musio, East and Southern Africa Regional Director, UN Women Kenya
- Jean Sarge Questel, Founding member of the IDEAS, Canada

Global Evaluation Advisory Committee

- Executive Board approved Evaluation Policy (Decision 2012/9)
- Mandate for Global Evaluation Advisory Committee
- Purpose: Further ensure independence, credibility and utility of evaluation at UN Women
- Function: Advise the Executive Director and the Independent Evaluation Office
- Focus: Strategic issues
GEAC Report to the Executive Board

- Consolidates findings of three external assessments
- Global Advisory Evaluation Committee
  - Reviewed and deliberated findings of these three assessments
  - Placed them in the larger context of UN Women
  - Identified opportunities where UN Women and its evaluation function can make a difference
  - Not a one-on-one endorsement of each finding and recommendation

Key Conclusions and Recommendations

Evaluation is central to the achievement of UN Women’s mission and transformational role. It brings evidence and knowledge to its normative, operational and coordination work, and complements its advocacy and research activities.
Key Conclusions

UN Systemic Role

- Transformational Character of UN Women
- Strong Central Evaluation
- Innovative and Gender-focused Evidence
- Predictable Budget
- Local Evaluation Capacity
- Decentralized Evaluations
- Partnerships

Evaluation as Integral Part of UN Women's Mission

- Capitalize on Evaluation

Recommendations

#1 Recognize Evaluation as Integral to UN Women’s Mission

- UN Women and its IEO should seize the opportunity to recognize evaluation as an integral part of the organization’s mission. Strengthening the evidence base for its normative, operational and coordination roles will enhance its effectiveness.

#2 Protect and Strengthen IEO

- UN Women should protect the strong performance of IEO and continue to strengthen the utility, credibility, and independence of evaluation, with particular focus on utility, innovation and country-based partnerships for decentralized evaluations.

#3 Incentivize Evidence-based Work

- Each member of the senior management team should signal the importance of evaluation, through the demonstrated use of evaluation findings, to incentivize evidence-based normative, operational and coordination work.
#4 Strengthen Independence
- Budget provisions be approved as a separate budget line in the organizational budget framework to be approved by the Executive Board, with the aim of achieving the target of 3% of programme budget; and
- A solution be found to protect the tenure of evaluation staff

#5 Review Evaluation Policy
- An internal review, building on the results of the external reviews, should be undertaken to inform any revision of the Evaluation Policy. The best time to initiate the review of the Evaluation Policy will be 2016, with a view to submitting a revised Evaluation Policy to the Executive Board in early 2017.

#6 Delay Further Peer Reviews
- The Committee does not recommend to repeat another peer review at that time in light of the numerous and thorough reviews undertaken in 2014.