

# 2023 Evaluation Excellence Awards



**IEO** Independent  
Evaluation  
Office  
United Nations Development Programme



## Background

The Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) established the **Evaluation Excellence Awards** in 2021, to recognize good quality decentralized evaluations across three categories: outstanding, innovative, and gender-responsive evaluations. This year's selection process was highly competitive, comprising over 280 decentralized evaluations completed during 2022. Winners were chosen from shortlists across the three categories by a final review by members of the IEO **Evaluation Advisory Panel members**.

Evaluations are a vital component of programme and project management and decision-making. High quality evaluations are key tools for making important choices about priorities and directions. They provide evidence of what works and what doesn't, identify factors contributing to or hindering the achievement of objectives, and providing lessons for future programming.

For more information about the award-winning evaluations can be found on our **website**. The winning evaluations are also accessible on the Evaluation Resource Centre.



## 2023 Evaluation Excellence Award Winners

### Outstanding Evaluations



- ♦ **Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean:** Monitoring and assessment of MEA implementation and environmental trends in Antigua and Barbuda
- ♦ **Libya:** Final evaluation of the "Strengthening Local Capacities for Resilience and Recovery" project

### Innovative Evaluations



- ♦ **Bangladesh Country Office**  
**Leading examples:** Final evaluation of the "Agriculture and Food Security (AFSP III)" project; Final evaluation of the "CHT climate resilience (CCRP)" project; Final evaluation of the "Community Cohesion in Cox's Bazar" project

### Gender- Responsive Evaluations



- ♦ **Namibia:** Mid-term review of the Country Programme Document 2019-2023
- ♦ **Yemen:** Rebuilding livelihoods and capacities of conflict-affected small-scale fisheries households in Aden and Hadhramout – Final evaluation

# Evaluation Advisory Panel Award Comments

## OUTSTANDING EVALUATIONS

**Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean:** Monitoring and assessment of MEA implementation and environmental trends in Antigua and Barbuda

“ This evaluation shows the valuable contribution evaluations can make, even when conducted remotely, and makes notable use of data triangulation. It highlights some important roles UNDP can play in supporting development objectives in small state islands.

**Libya:** Final evaluation of the "Strengthening Local Capacities for Resilience and Recovery" project

“ This remotely conducted evaluation shows exceptional awareness of contextual limitations and takes useful steps to mitigate them. It clearly links the findings and recommendations, and shows the positive role UNDP can play in fragile contexts, to help bridge the gap between crisis and recovery.

## GENDER-RESPONSIVE EVALUATIONS



**Namibia:** Mid-term review of the Country Programme Document 2019 -2023

“ From a gender perspective, the greatest strengths of this evaluation are in its judgement and methodology, which provide gender responsive evidence to support questions addressing human rights, gender equality and social inclusion. Participant selection took into consideration the cross-cutting themes of gender, age and ability to ensure the voices of women, men, youth and people with disabilities were represented.

**Yemen:** Rebuilding livelihoods and capacities of conflict-affected small-scale fisheries households in Aden and Hadhramout - Final Evaluation

“ A gender-transformative lens is clearly visible in every aspect of this evaluation. The interview questions and process respect gender protocols, and the methods and analysis utilize gender-responsive success standards. Notably, the lessons and recommendations highlight implementable actions that promote gender empowerment.

## INNOVATIVE EVALUATIONS

**Bangladesh Country Office:** The Bangladesh Country Office produced some exceptional quality evaluations across the board this year, especially when it comes to innovative methods and approaches. The two listed evaluations were chosen as prime examples.

Final evaluation of the "Agriculture and Food Security (AFSP III)" project

“ This evaluation shows an excellent application of innovative methods to evaluate grassroots-level projects in hard-to-reach areas. The balanced use of quantitative and qualitative methods highlights the results achieved in a complex context. It contains solid learning points for evaluation practitioners.

Final evaluation of the "Community Cohesion in Cox's Bazar" project

“ A complex social setting necessitates innovative data collection methods for social groups, to enhance the robustness of the findings and mitigate sensitivities. This evaluation successfully utilized a careful articulation of evaluation questions, data collection and content analysis. It is recommended reading for evaluators of development projects and programmes.

