



# Evaluation planning and implementation during Covid-19

(31<sup>st</sup> March 2020)

## Evaluation Planning and implementation during Covid-19

Given the current Covid-19 pandemic and delays in programme and project implementation there is an expectation that this will also impact decentralized evaluation planning, implementation and finalization.

Below is guidance and considerations for evaluation rescheduling and implementation due to the pandemic.

These will be updated further in the coming/ weeks months as the situation develops. Regions can adapt these to their own regional situations.

### Evaluation planning

- As we enter the first phases of the global covid-19 pandemic, without clarity on when the crisis is going to end, it is expected that evaluations **may need to be delayed** (rather than cancelled).
- Based on the situation analysis of your individual country, planned evaluations **can be rescheduled** until there is clarity on the way forward in the implementation of your CPD.
- **We suggest that those evaluations due to be started in April and May be rescheduled by two months.**
- Normal procedures remain and all evaluation plan changes **should be approved by the programme/steering committee/ project board or CO Management** (virtually if necessary) with a copy of the correspondence shared with regional M&E focal points before a request is made in the ERC. Changes will be made based on this and verified and approved on a case by case basis by M&E regional focal point.
- Programme units may consider **combining forthcoming evaluations where possible** into outcome, thematic or portfolio evaluations to more efficiently implement evaluations. (This is not possible for GEF TE or MTR evaluations. Guidance for GEF TE and MTR below)





## Mid-term Reviews/Evaluations (MTRs/MTEs) and Terminal Evaluations (TEs) for projects financed by environmental Vertical Funds (GEF, GCF, AF)<sup>1</sup>

- Ongoing MTRs/MTEs/TEs of Vertical Fund financed projects should be completed virtually where possible.
- Planned MTRs/MTEs/TEs of Vertical Fund financed projects should proceed as scheduled using virtual means where possible. If not possible or desirable, these evaluations can be delayed with the agreement of the Regional Technical Advisor (RTA).
- Please note that Vertical Fund project evaluation budgets cannot be reprogrammed for other activities without the approval of the Governing Board of the Vertical Fund.

### Ongoing Evaluations

- For COs who are currently undertaking evaluations, especially where borders are closed and access restricted, highly qualified national evaluators can be contracted, and alternative means of interviewing stakeholders and data collection should be used (emphasis on desk reviews, virtual stakeholder meetings). National consultants with experience of evaluating in crisis setting would be an advantage.
- However, **care should be taken to not place any consultant or stakeholders (national or international) in harm's way** and evaluation **methodologies proposed should limit the exposure of stakeholders to the pandemic**. Approaches to ensure this should be thoroughly detailed in evaluation inception reports.
- Some further initial guidance is available for implementing evaluations during this period and can be found [here](#).

### Looking ahead: evaluating UNDP's response to the COVID19 crisis

- There will be a need, in the future, to evaluate UNDP's capacity to respond to the COVID19 crisis. Country Offices and Regional Bureaus are strongly encouraged to start systematically recording the initiatives undertaken in support of the response to and recovery from the crisis.

31 March 2020

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<sup>1</sup> Guidance from UNDP GEF RBM team, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020

