

UNDP EVALUATION GUIDELINES 2021 UPDATES AND REVISIONS

GENERAL

- Cross-cutting issues such as gender mainstreaming, human rights, disability issues are included across all sections
- Key issues and definitions are included
- References on new policies and guidance are included such as:
 - UNEG, 2018, Guidance on Evaluating Institutional Gender Mainstreaming
 - UNDP, 2018, Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2021
 - UNDP, 2018, Disability Inclusive Development in UNDP, Guidance Note
 - UNDP, 2019, Revised UNDP Evaluation Policy
 - UNDP, 2020, Social and Environmental Standards
 - United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), 2020, Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation

SECTION 1. EVALUATION FUNCTION

- References on policy and strategies are updated
- Distinction between monitoring and evaluation has been strengthened
- UNEG norms and standards are further explained
- Information on national evaluation capacity has been expanded, including the online self-assessment tool

SECTION 2. DECENTRALIZED EVALUATIONS IN UNDP

- Individual evaluation criteria are defined
- Different types of evaluations are defined and explained in detail
 - UNSDCF is referenced throughout
 - Requirements for a mid-term and final country programme evaluation are reflected
- Overview for mandatory evaluations is updated
- Evaluation questions for different evaluation types and methodological details were revised
- Gender aspects and other cross-cutting issues have been incorporated
- Evaluation examples are updated

SECTION 3. PLANNING

- Key tasks, activities and decisions in the evaluation planning process (eight steps) are outlined



SECTION 4. EVALUATION IMPLEMENTATION

- A number of definitions have been incorporated
- Minimum elements for TORs are updated
- Details on gender, disability and other cross-cutting issues are included
- Finding Evaluators section has been enhanced
- Inception report aspects are outlined
- Evaluation reports steps are updated
- Management responses includes a definition



SECTION 5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN DECENTRALISED EVALUATIONS

- Activities for all roles and responsibilities in the evaluation process are specified
- Task sheets have been included for the UNDP Evaluation Manager and the UNDP Monitoring and Evaluation Focal Point



SECTION 6. QUALITY ASSESSMENT

- Quality assessment questions have been revised in line with adjustments for 2020 evaluations including the:
 - TOR/evaluation design
 - evaluation report structure, methodology, data sources and content
 - cross-cutting issues (GEWE SWAP and Disabilities)
 - evaluation findings, conclusions and recommendations
- General findings and lessons learned have been reworked



SECTION 7. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

- FAQs have been integrated based on questions and comments raised by UNDP staff during webinars, emails, and other queries

ABOUT THE INDEPENDENT EVALUATION OFFICE

By generating evaluative evidence, the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) supports UNDP to achieve greater accountability and facilitates improved learning from experience. The IEO enhances UNDP's development effectiveness through its programmatic and thematic evaluations and contributes to organizational transparency.

ABOUT THE UNDP EVALUATION GUIDELINES

The Evaluation Guidelines are an important tool at UNDP and its associated funds and programmes for the planning of evaluations and ensuring appropriate evaluative coverage of UNDP's work across its programmes. The guidelines provide information on expected roles and responsibilities for evaluation and include links to examples of good quality evaluations, with a view to strengthening the decentralized evaluation function. Access the guidelines [here](#).

