



Advancing Impact Evaluations in the UN system

Proposal to establish a UNEG Working Group

UNEG AGM 2025: Work Planning Session

This proposal has been prepared by:

- Anne-Claire Luzot, Director of Evaluation, WFP
- Robert McCouch, Director of Evaluation, UNICEF
- Zlata Bruckauf, Senior Evaluation Officer, Office of Evaluation, UNICEF
- Niamh O'Grady, Evaluation Officer, Office of Evaluation, WFP

It is being submitted for **discussion and approval** during the Work Planning session Friday 14th February (14:00-15:30 Tokyo time).

Advancing Impact Evaluation in the UN: A Call to Action

As the 2030 endpoint for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) quickly approaches, resources are shrinking, just as the challenges of intensifying conflicts, population displacements and a warming climate escalate needs in fragile contexts. It is a critical moment for the international community to ramp up the interventions that improve the lives of the world's most vulnerable people and make evidence-informed decisions about finite resources.

Impact evaluations help show the difference interventions make to people's lives and demonstrate which interventions do – and do not – work. The rigorous evidence that impact evaluations deliver is both globally significant and operationally relevant to better design both humanitarian and development programmes and policies, maximise cost efficiency, improve performance and support better decision-making.

UN organizations, often engaged in the policymaking process, can leverage their unique role to support governments in answering policy questions through rigorous impact evaluations and to ensure that the rigorous evidence derived from impact evaluations effectively informs policy action.

A Proposal for Collaboration

Building on the momentum created by the UNICEF and WFP Global Impact Evaluation Forum in New York in 2024 and the first Impact Evaluation Forum hosted by WFP in 2023, and crucially the strong interest from many UN agencies to establish community of practice in impact evaluation (UNEG Annual meeting 2023 decision on the creation of an interest group), we now propose the establishment of a **Working Group on Impact Evaluation, aligned with UNEG's Strategic Objective 3: to influence policy-making and operational work through evaluations.**¹

The group would:

- Promote collaboration among UN agencies on impact evaluations, for example, data-sharing, resource-pooling, and developing a shared agenda on impact evaluations
- Provide a Platform for sharing knowledge, experiences, and lessons learned in implementing impact evaluations.
- Develop strategies for promoting the generation and better utilization of rigorous evidence across UN agencies and ensure that this rigorous evidence effectively informs decision-making processes.

¹ United Nations Evaluation Group (2020). UNEG Strategy 2020-2024.

Draft UNEG Work Plan for Working Group on Impact Evaluations (TBD with the IE interest group for further prioritization)

Group name: Working Group on Impact Evaluations

Co-Conveners: Zlata Bruckauf (UNICEF), Niamh O'Grady (WFP)

Outcomes ²	Outputs	Activities	External partners	Timeframe	UNEG funds required	Mid-year status ³	End year status	Comments
Promotion of rigorous impact evaluations in the UN	• Common definition for impact evaluations	• Agree on a common definition amongst UNEG agencies		Q1	No			
	• Business case for Impact Evaluations in UN	• Develop Business case for IE, benefits, and costs of IE as a tool for agencies to use for internal advocacy		Q2	No			
	• Extended Outline for a revised Impact Evaluation Guidance	• Review 2013 UNEG Guidance on Impact Evaluations to identify gaps and areas of required improvement to facilitate the operationalisation of rigorous impact evaluations within evaluation functions of UN agencies		Q4	No			
Strengthening coordination for increased coherence across UNEG members	• Mapping of ongoing Impact Evaluations in UN agencies	• Compile a dataset of ongoing impact evaluations their key characteristics.		Q3-Q4				
	• Sharing of good practices (e.g. webinars or regular group meetings)	• Identify and document good practices relating to impact evaluations in UN agencies		Q1-Q4				

² Including if contributing to other SOs.

³ Options for mid-year and end year status: Achieved, Partly Achieved, Not Achieved, On-going

