

Working  
Paper



**UNEG**  
United Nations Evaluation Group

**UN-SWAP Evaluation Performance Indicator**

**2023 Reporting Cycle Results**

This report is issued by the UNEG Working Group on Gender Equality, Disability and Human Rights and was drafted by Tara Kaul, UN Women Evaluation Specialist and UN-SWAP Evaluation Performance Indicator Focal Point.

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## FOREWORD

In the dynamic landscape of gender responsive evaluation practices, it is important to periodically reflect on progress, challenges, and areas for improvement. This report offers insights from the UN-SWAP Evaluation Performance Indicator reporting for 2023, highlighting trends in the efforts towards gender mainstreaming within evaluations.

This year's report reveals a consistency in performance compared to the previous year, indicating a potential plateau in advancing gender equality within evaluation frameworks. While commendable efforts persist, there remain critical areas warranting attention, particularly in enhancing scorecard utilization and exploring external and peer assessment modalities.

There was a notable decline in COVID-19 related disruptions to evaluation activities and entities have fostered gender mainstreaming in evaluations through capacity building endeavors and knowledge dissemination. The report also highlights the evolution of evaluation guidelines across UN entities, including the substantive revision of the UNEG Guidance on Integrating Gender Equality and Human Rights in Evaluation in 2024.

As we navigate the transition from UN-SWAP 2.0 to 3.0, we hope this report serves as a useful guide in taking forward our collective endeavors towards more impactful evaluation practices.

This report benefitted from comments and reviews provided by members of the UNEG Working Group on Gender Equality, Disability and Human Rights. The report was drafted by UN Women Independent Evaluation Service (IES), and we would like to thank colleagues for their support.



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## Acronyms

COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
DCO	Development Coordination Office
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DGACM	Department for General Assembly and Conference Management
DGC	Department of Global Communications
DPPA	Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
DSS	Department for Safety and Security
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EPI	Evaluation Performance Indicator
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
HR&GE	Human Rights and Gender Equality
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
IEAS	UN Women Independent Evaluation and Audit Services
IES	Independent Evaluation Service
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ITC	International Trade Centre
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OECD -DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development - Development Assistance Committee
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

OHRLLS	Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
OIOS	Office of Internal Oversight Services
OLA	Office of Legal Affairs
OSRSG-SVC	Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlement Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNOCT	United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOV	United Nations Office in Vienna
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
UN-SWAP	United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
UN-Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UPU	Universal Postal Union
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

## Executive Summary

The UN-SWAP Evaluation Performance Indicator (EPI) technical note and scorecard establish guidance and a minimum set of criteria to capture overall elements related to mainstreaming gender equality in evaluation. The indicator aims to assess the extent to which evaluation reports meet the gender-related United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Norms and Standards and demonstrate effective use of the UNEG Guidance on integrating human rights and gender equality during all phases of the evaluation.

This report summarizes data and insights from the EPI reporting for 2023. Key insights include:

- Insight 1: The proportion of entities meeting or exceeding requirements for the UN-SWAP EPI in 2023 was similar to 2022, and a majority of reporting entities continued to exceed requirements.
- Insight 2: The adoption of the UNEG-endorsed scorecard for EPI assessment was stagnant in 2023, with 70 per cent of reporting entities continuing to employ the scorecard. While this is an improvement compared to 2021, there is scope for increased implementation.
- Insight 3: 60 per cent of entities continued to employ self assessment, while 40 per cent engaged external reviewers to assess the EPI. The peer review modality remained unutilized in 2023, and a majority of entities included five or fewer evaluations in the assessment sample.

The EPI reporting trends for 2023 in UN-SWAP mirrored those of 2022, suggesting a lack of progress in improving gender mainstreaming within evaluations. The percentage of entities meeting or exceeding requirements remained steady at 89 percent, indicating no notable change in overall ratings. Areas for potential improvement include increasing scorecard usage and exploring external or peer review modalities for assessment. While COVID-19 related disruptions were reported by 38 percent of entities in 2022, this figure decreased to 14 percent (8 entities) in 2023.

Entities continued to promote gender mainstreaming in evaluations through capacity building initiatives, sharing evaluation best practices, and identifying key areas to strengthen. Additionally, in 2023, the UNEG working group on Gender Equality, Disability, and Human Rights finalized the revision of the UNEG Guidance on integrating human rights and gender equality in evaluations. The updated guidance features an expanded definition of vulnerable groups and reemphasizes the importance of considering human rights and gender equality in UN evaluations to avoid perpetuating discrimination and exclusion. It also advocates for an intersectional approach to understanding vulnerabilities and incorporates the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy and updated OECD-DAC evaluation criterion. This revised guidance document will inform updates to the technical note and guidance for the EPI and support the transition from UN-SWAP 2.0 to 3.0.

## 1. Background

### United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP)

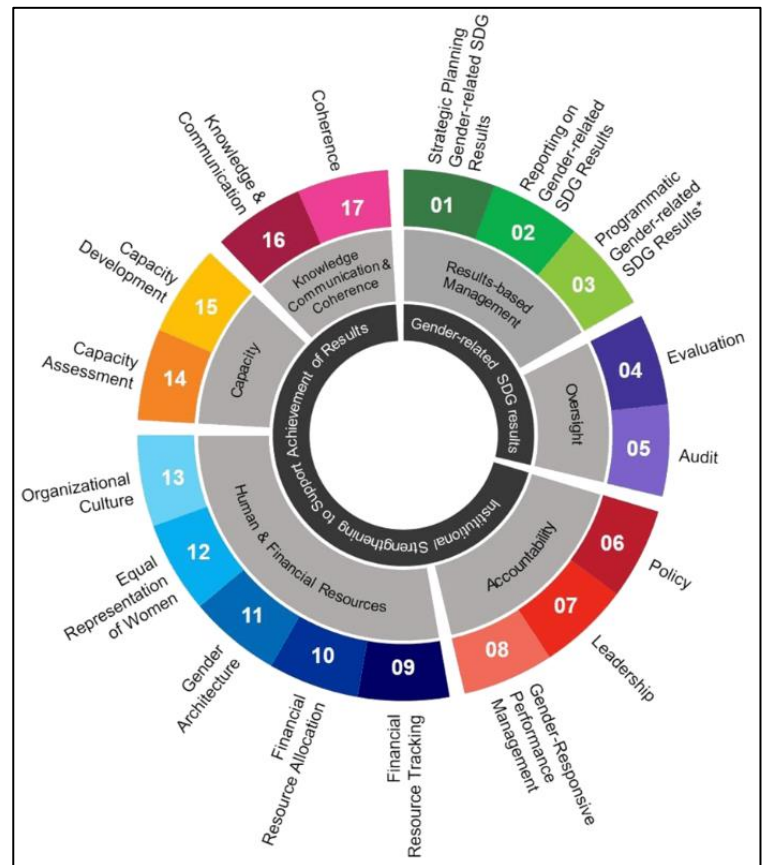
In 2012, the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) endorsed the UN-SWAP accountability framework, aimed at advancing gender equality and women's empowerment. The framework offered a set of indicators to assess performance and track progress across all organizational domains, particularly focusing on gender-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) <sup>1</sup>. Following the initial UN-SWAP, a second generation was developed through extensive consultation across UN entities and launched in 2018. The enhanced UN-SWAP 2.0 included revised guidance documents for each of the 17 performance indicators (see Figure 1).

**Figure 1 Overview of UN-SWAP 2.0 Performance Indicators**

The technical note for the Evaluation Performance Indicator (EPI) <sup>2</sup> also underwent revisions to enhance reporting coherence, provide illustrative examples, and reduce subjectivity in applying scoring criteria.

2023 marks the sixth year of UN-SWAP 2.0 implementation. This iteration, UN-SWAP 2.0, builds upon and expands the original framework, incorporating refinements, lessons learned, and alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which prioritizes tangible results.

While the initial phase of UN-SWAP focused on gender mainstreaming and planning, the subsequent phase emphasizes results-oriented approaches, including robust monitoring of activities and outcomes related to gender-related Sustainable Development Goals targets.



Source: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/un-system-coordination/promoting-un-accountability>

<sup>1</sup> <https://gendercoordinationandmainstreaming.unwomen.org/un-swap>

<sup>2</sup> To view the revised technical note, please download at: <http://www.uneval.org/document/download/2148>

## UN-SWAP Evaluation Performance Indicator (EPI)

The UN-SWAP EPI assesses the extent to which evaluation reports of an entity meet the gender-related United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Norms and Standards<sup>3</sup> and demonstrate effective use of the UNEG Guidance on integrating human rights and gender equality during all phases of the evaluation.

The UN-SWAP EPI technical note and scorecard establish guidance and a minimum set of criteria to capture the overall elements related to mainstreaming gender equality in evaluation. The requirements are aligned with UNEG norms, standards, and guidance on how to integrate gender and human rights into evaluations. The technical note also encourages all reporting UN system entities to conduct at least one evaluation to assess corporate performance on gender mainstreaming every 5-8 years. This might constitute, but is not limited to, corporate evaluations of gender policy, mainstreaming, and strategy<sup>4</sup>.

### UNEG GENDER-RELATED NORMS, STANDARDS AND GUIDANCE

The UNEG norms and standards for evaluation were updated in 2016 and for the first time, included a stand-alone norm on human rights and gender equality. The new norm on human rights and gender equality calls on evaluators and evaluation managers to ensure that these values are respected, addressed, and promoted, underpinning the commitment to the principle of 'no-one left behind'.

## Evaluation Performance Indicator Methodology

In line with other UN-SWAP indicators, the EPI is linked to a five-level rating system, with the following categories: “not applicable,” “misses requirements”, “approaches requirements”, “meets requirements”, and “exceeds requirements”. The three reporting criteria for the EPI are as follows:

- **Approaches requirements**
  - 4a. Meets some of the UNEG gender-related norms and standards in the UNEG guidance on Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluation
  
- **Meets requirements**
  - 4bi. Meets the UNEG gender-related norms and standards
  - and**
  - 4bii. Applies the UNEG guidance on Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in evaluation during all phases of the evaluation
  
- **Exceeds requirements**
  - 4ci. Meets the UNEG gender-related norms and standards

<sup>3</sup> To view a full list of UNEG Norms and Standards, please download at: <http://www.uneval.org/document/detail/1914>

<sup>4</sup> UN Women IES provides help desk services and support to the UN system for reporting on the UN-SWAP EPI.



**and**

4cii. Applies the UNEG guidance on Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in evaluation during all phases of the evaluation

**and**

4ciii. Conducts at least one evaluation to assess corporate performance on gender mainstreaming or evaluation of its gender equality policy/strategy every 5-8 years

An entity is expected to report “not-applicable” if there is no evaluation unit and no evaluations are conducted by the entity. In case an entity has conducted evaluations previously, but not in the reporting year, the last rating completed should be used with a clear note indicating the year upon which the rating is based. This approach avoids confusion with those entities that do not have an evaluation unit.

To assess overall progress against the criteria, entities undertake an assessment of individual evaluations. Entities are advised to employ the accompanying scorecard<sup>5</sup> and guiding questions mentioned below in Table 1. The use of the scorecard ensures harmonized reporting across entities and a more rigorous EPI assessment. Thus, the EPI is primarily based on an assessment of evaluation reports completed in the reporting year.

**Table 1. UN-SWAP EPI criteria for assessing evaluation reports (scorecard)<sup>6</sup>**

Scoring Criteria		Guiding questions for assessing integration
Criterion 1	GEWE is integrated in the evaluation scope of analysis and evaluation criteria and questions are designed in a way that ensures GEWE-related data will be collected.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Do the evaluation objectives and/or scope include analysis of the extent to which HR&amp;GE were taken into consideration in the design of the programme/project/policy being evaluated and the achievement of HR&amp;GE-related results?</li><li>Does the evaluation assess whether sufficient information was collected during the implementation period on specific indicators to measure progress on HR&amp;GE?</li><li>Was a stand-alone criterion on gender and/or human rights included in the evaluation framework or mainstreamed into other evaluation criteria by being gender-disaggregated, gender-specific (relevant to a specific social group), or gender-focused (concerning relations between social groups)?</li><li>Is there a dedicated evaluation question regarding how GEWE has been integrated into the design, planning and</li></ol>

<sup>5</sup> To view the scorecard, please download at: <http://www.unevaluation.org/document/download/2149>

<sup>6</sup> The first three criteria are based on an assessment of evaluation reports.

		implementation of the intervention and the results achieved or integrated throughout other questions?
Criterion 2	Gender-responsive methodology, methods, tools, and data analysis techniques are selected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Does the evaluation methodology employ a mixed-methods approach, appropriate to evaluating HR&amp;GE considerations? Are a diverse range of data sources and processes employed (i.e., triangulation, validation)? Was data disaggregated by sex?</li> <li>b. Were methods used for ensuring meaningful participation and the inclusion of women’s voices as well as underrepresented groups, including the most vulnerable where appropriate, throughout the evaluation process (inception, data collection and reporting phases)?</li> <li>c. Does the sampling frame address the diversity of stakeholders affected by the intervention, particularly the most vulnerable?</li> <li>d. Were ethical standards considered throughout the evaluation and were all stakeholder groups treated with integrity and respect for confidentiality?</li> </ul>
Criterion 3	Evaluation findings, conclusions and recommendations reflect a gender analysis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Does the evaluation have a background section that includes an intersectional analysis of the specific social groups affected by the issue that is being addressed by the evaluation?</li> <li>b. Do the findings include data analysis that explicitly and transparently triangulates the voices of different groups, and/or disaggregates quantitative data?</li> <li>c. Are unanticipated effects of the intervention on HR&amp;GE described?</li> <li>d. Do the findings, conclusions and recommendations explicitly address the gender and human rights dimensions assessed by the evaluation?</li> <li>e. Does the evaluation report provide specific recommendations addressing GEWE issues and priorities for action to improve GEWE of the intervention or future initiatives in this area?</li> </ul>
Criterion 4	At least one evaluation to assess corporate performance on	In order to “exceed requirements”, an evaluation report’s average score must “meet requirements” and the entity must also conduct an evaluation of its corporate gender policy or equivalent.

	gender mainstreaming is conducted every five to eight years.	
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The UN-SWAP EPI recommends three modes of assessment, namely self-assessment, peer-review, and external review conducted by an independent reviewer. In 2023, 20 out of the 50 reporting entities undertook external or independent assessments, while the majority (60 percent) opted for self-assessment. Notably, no entity utilized the peer review modality. Entities were advised to incorporate a representative sample of evaluation reports for assessment purposes, with some including all evaluations completed in the reporting year, and others selecting samples from corporate and decentralized evaluations<sup>7</sup>. These samples were diversified across various thematic and geographic areas to ensure comprehensive coverage.

## 2. Evaluation Performance Indicator Results

### Key Insights

**Insight 1:** The proportion of entities meeting or exceeding requirements for the UN-SWAP EPI in 2023 was similar to 2022, and a majority of reporting entities continued to exceed requirements.

In the 2023 reporting cycle, 50 out of 74 entities reported progress on the UN-SWAP EPI, while 24 entities submitted a rating of “not applicable”. Table 2 presents a disaggregation of ratings by entity type. The classification of entities is described below in Table 3.

**Table 2. Disaggregated results for UN-SWAP entities in 2023: by EPI rating and entity type (N=74)**

		Exceeds requirements	Meets requirements	Approaches requirements	Not Applicable
Entity Type	Secretariat	12	9	4	14
	Funds and Programmes	11	1	1	1
	Specialized	2	1	2	
	Technical Focus	3	2	1	4
	Training Institute		1		5
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>24</b>

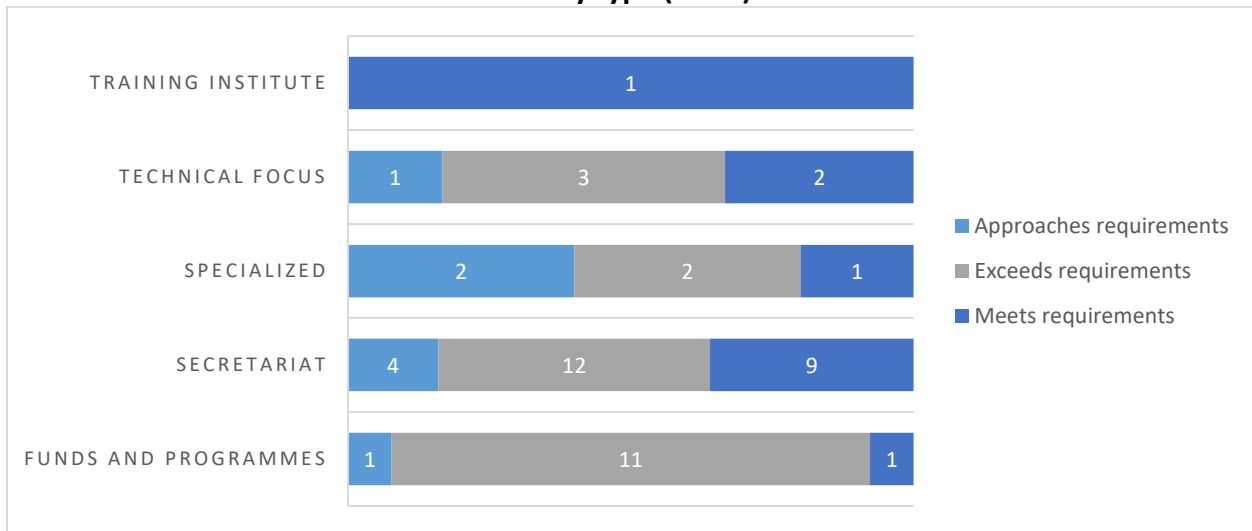
<sup>7</sup> The number of evaluations included in the reporting sample ranged from 0 to 176 in 2023.

**Table 3. Classification by type of UN-SWAP entities**

Entity Type	Entity Short Name
<b>Secretariat</b>	CAAC, DCO, DESA, DGACM, DGC, DMSPC, DOS, DPO, DPPA, DSS, ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA, IIIM, OAJ, OCHA, ODA, OHCHR, OHRLLS, OIOS, OLA, Ombudsman, OSAA, OSRSG-SVC, OSRSG-VAC, UNCCD, UNCTAD, UNDRR, UNEP, UNFCCC, UNGC, UN-HABITAT, UNOCT, UNODC, UNOG, UNON, UNOV
<b>Specialized</b>	FAO, ILO, UNESCO, WHO, WMO
<b>Funds and Programmes</b>	IFAD, IOM, ITC, UNAIDS, UNCDF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOPS, UNRWA, UNV, UN Women, WFP
<b>Technical Focus</b>	CTBTO, IAEA, ICAO, IMO, ITU, UNIDO, UNWTO, UPU, WIPO
<b>Training Institute</b>	UNICRI, UNIDIR, UNITAR, UNSSC, UNU, UNRISD

Out of the 50 reporting entities, 89 percent indicated meeting or exceeding requirements in 2023. This mirrors the proportion from 2022, indicating some stagnation in recent advancements in gender mainstreaming within evaluations. Among the entities that assessed the EPI, the percentage exceeding requirements remained steady compared to 2022, standing at 56 percent. Figure 2 presents the disaggregation of EPI reporting entities by entity type.

**Figure 2. Disaggregated results for UN-SWAP EPI reporting entities in 2023: by EPI rating and entity type (N=50)**

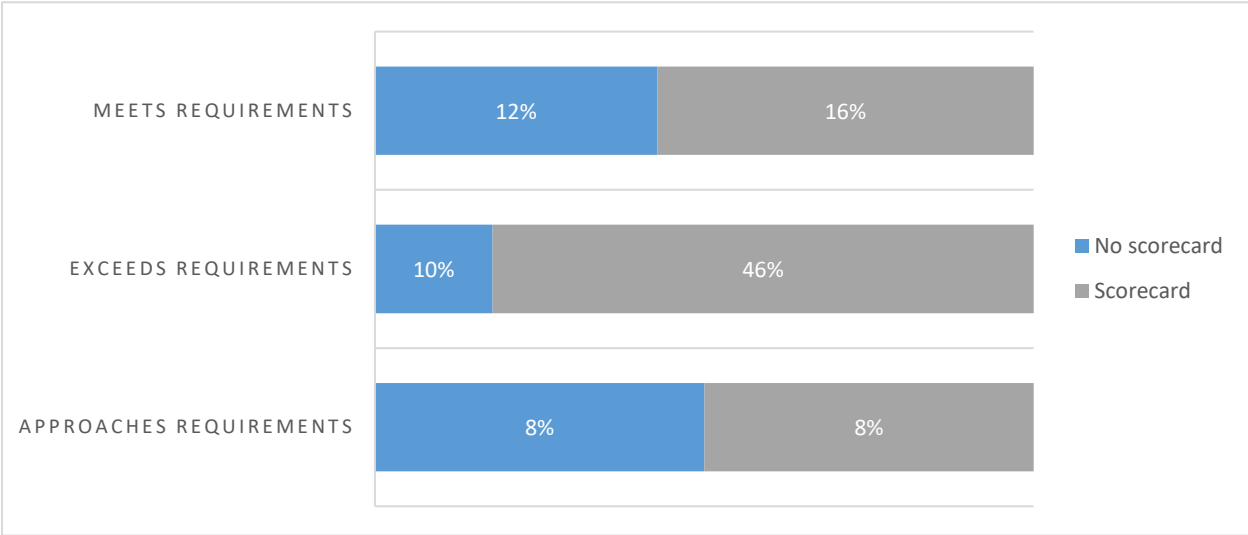


Insight 2: The adoption of the UNEG-endorsed scorecard for EPI assessment was stagnant in 2023, with 70 per cent of reporting entities continuing to employ the scorecard. While this is an improvement compared to 2021, there is scope for increased implementation.

In 2023, 70 percent of reporting entities (N=35) utilized the UNEG-endorsed scorecard to evaluate their performance on the EPI (Figure 3 below). This is a notable increase from 60 percent in 2021, but the number of entities remain unchanged compared to 2022. Thus, there was no increase in the adoption of the scorecard compared to last year, indicating an area for further attention.

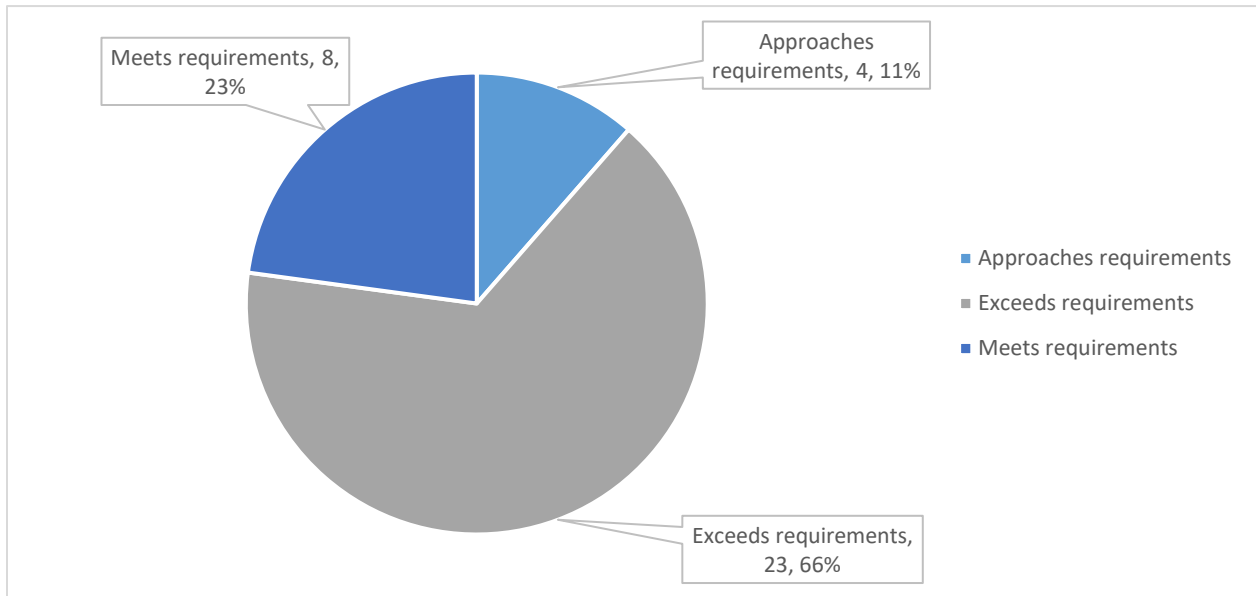
Several entities have integrated guidelines from the scorecard into their evaluation quality assurance systems. While most entities assessed all evaluations conducted in 2023, some entities included a representative sample. Among scorecard using entities, 89 percent met or exceeded requirements for the EPI (Figure 4 below). Entities not employing the scorecard based their assessments on individual evaluation reports, terms of reference, evaluation policies, and gender mainstreaming initiatives<sup>8</sup>.

**Figure 3. Disaggregated results for UN-SWAP reporting entities in 2023: by scorecard use and rating (N=50)**



<sup>8</sup> Entities that did not conduct any evaluations in 2023 (but did conduct evaluations in previous years), used their 2022 rating, if available, as advised in the EPI technical note.

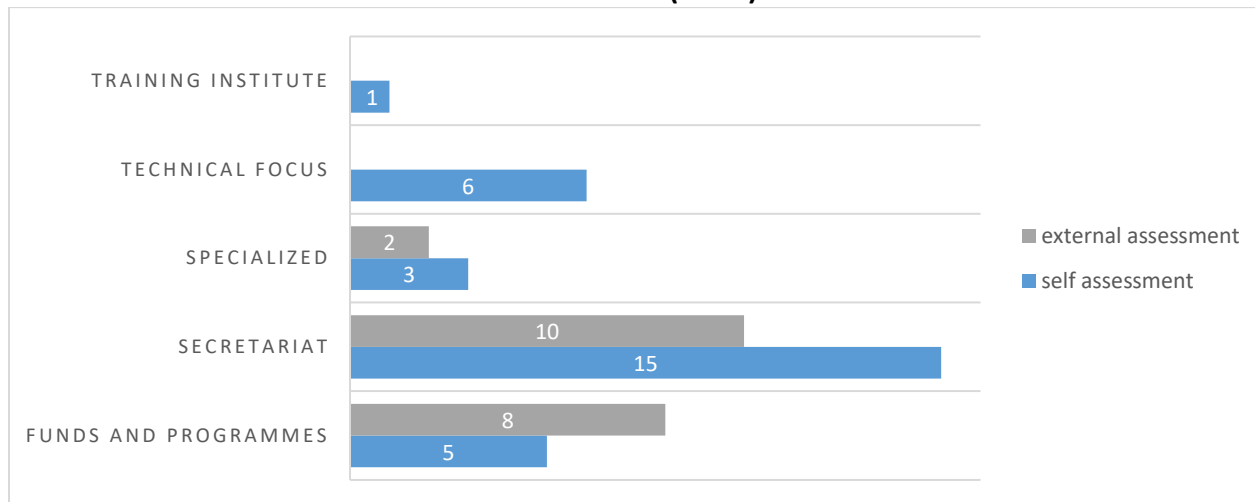
**Figure 4. Disaggregated results for UNEG Scorecard users 2023: by rating (N=35)**



Insight 3: 60 per cent of entities continued to employ self-assessment, while 40 per cent engaged external reviewers to assess the EPI. The peer review modality remained unutilized in 2023, and most entities included five or fewer evaluations in the assessment sample.

In 2023, 60 percent of entities conducted self-assessments, while 40 percent engaged external reviewers to evaluate the EPI (Table 5). This represents no change in the number of self-assessments, compared with 2022. Notably, peer review was not utilized in 2023. Within the entities that employed the self-assessment modality, 54 per cent reported exceeding requirements and 27 per cent reported meeting requirements. For entities that employed an external assessment, 60 per cent reported exceeding requirements and 30 per cent reported meeting requirements.

**Figure 5. Disaggregated results for UN-SWAP reporting entities in 2023: by modality of assessment (N=50)**



As shown in Table 4 below, the majority of entities (56 percent, N=28) included between one to five evaluations in the assessment sample.

**Table 4. Disaggregated results for UN-SWAP EPI reporting entities in 2023: by number of evaluations in reporting sample (N=50)**

EPI Rating	Number of evaluations				
	Less than 2	3-5	6-10	11-20	21 or more
<b>Exceeds</b>	DGC, DSS, ESCWA, IIIM*, ITC, UNAIDS*, UNV	ECLAC, UNCDF, UNESCO, UNRWA*, WIPO	ECE, ESCAP, IAEA, OIOS*, OHCHR, UNFPA, WHO	IFAD, UN-HABITAT*, UNODC, UNOV	IOM, UNDP, UNIDO, UN-Women, WFP
<b>Meets</b>	CTBO*, DCO*, DESA*, DPPA*, IMO, OCHA, OLA, OSRSG-SVC*, UNOCT	UNITAR	UNCCD, UNCTAD		ILO, UNICEF*
<b>Approaches</b>	DGACM, ECA*, ICAO*, UNCHR, UNON*	WMO*			FAO, UNEP
*Entities did not upload scorecards to the UN-SWAP portal					

## Good practices to advance integration of gender equality in evaluations

Several entities highlighted gender mainstreaming efforts as part of their reporting on the UN-SWAP EPI. Some examples include:

- **Issuing updated guidance and policy documents**

In 2023, UNCTAD issued a revised evaluation policy which, inter-alia, emphasizes Human Rights and Gender Equality considerations, integrating elements from UNEG guidance documents and the UNEG norms and standards. The new policy is in line with good practices from the UN System and underscores the importance of gender considerations in all aspects of evaluation.

Modifications made to the WMO Standing Instructions on project management in 2023 aligned operating procedures to the evaluation policy and made a requirement for relevant units with evaluation expertise to be consulted in the drafting of evaluation terms of reference.

In 2023, OHCHR also revised its evaluation policy to reflect updated UNEG Norms, Standards and Principles, including that of human rights and gender equality. The policy further emphasises the need for all evaluations to have gender and disability mainstreamed in their design, data collection and analysis, processes, as well as in learning and reporting.

- **Capacity building and knowledge sharing on gender responsive evaluations**

In 2023, UNDP Independent Evaluation Office conducted six in-person trainings for M&E focal points in collaboration with the five regional bureau. Gender equality and women's empowerment, disability inclusion and "Leave no one behind" were included in the training modules, which were well received according to after-training surveys. In 2024, IEO plans to update an online resource platform, including GEWE issues based on the training module developed. UNDP IEO will also continue the selection of Evaluation Awards for excellent decentralized evaluations to be announced in first quarter in 2024, where one award will be for gender-responsive evaluation.

In 2023, the UNFPA Evaluation Office, in collaboration with regional M&E advisors, conducted webinars and learning events to enhance the skills of M&E personnel in managing and utilizing country program evaluations. To further equip staff in decentralized units, the Evaluation Office hosted a cross-regional evaluation capacity building workshop in Antalya, Turkey, in 2023. This workshop provided participants with the knowledge on how to meaningfully integrate gender equality and women's empowerment dimensions throughout the evaluation processes.



Following up on the 2019 evaluation of gender mainstreaming in UNECE, the 2023 annual exchange of lessons among UNECE project managers on evaluations included a briefing by the Senior Gender Advisor and discussion on improving how gender is considered within project management practices.

- **Identifying areas to strengthen**

In assessing the EPI for 2023, UNICEF reported that the common issues facing evaluation reports with lower ratings included: lack of disaggregated data; insufficiently gender-responsive methodology, including sampling strategies which did not take gender into account; and the continued impact of COVID-19 in terms of challenges to in-person data collection. Good practices for those evaluation reports with the highest UN-SWAP EPI scores aimed to include other cross-cutting areas (such as disability); clearly describe the purpose and objectives of the evaluations; elaborate sound methodologies, and describe vulnerable groups, reinforcing the equity approach

UNEP highlighted the need to strengthen methodology around appropriate approaches for women beneficiaries or participants. The methods should outline ensuring parity, overcoming male dominance in group interviews, language issues, the options for women-only groups. Direct quotes, stratified sampling, and women-friendly methods would be an improvement for any evaluation with a presence on the ground.

UNFPA noted that continuous capacity development for country-level evaluation managers and consultants remains crucial. Other challenges included identifying consultants with expertise in applying a gender-responsive lens throughout the evaluation process, securing sustained commitment from evaluation managers at the country level to prioritize gender analysis, and establishing a common methodological framework for applying gender-responsive approaches with rigor.

UN Women's assessment of evaluations undertaken in 2023 highlighted the importance of thorough and systematic stakeholder mapping and sampling frames in evaluations to strengthen the credibility and utility of findings and recommendations. Key good practices included participatory approaches with extensive consultations at the community level; and adapting practices across contexts to accommodate diverse duty bearers and rights holders.

In the OIOS report on strengthening the role of evaluations, OHCHR was listed as part of the organizations that had good practices including thorough analysis of gender considerations, human rights issues and disability. For instance, one of the good practices highlighted was in the evaluation of the Cambodia country programme, where

an excellent description of the human rights context was provided and gender, human rights and disability inclusion were added as specific evaluation criteria and explored as specific questions under all core lines of enquiry with stakeholders.

### 3. Way forward

The EPI reporting trends for 2023 in UN-SWAP mirrored those of 2022, suggesting a lack of progress in improving gender mainstreaming within evaluations. The percentage of entities meeting or exceeding requirements remained steady at 89 percent, indicating no notable change in overall ratings. Areas for potential enhancement include increasing scorecard usage and exploring external or peer review modalities for assessment. While COVID-19 related disruptions were reported by 38 percent of entities in 2022, this figure decreased to 14 percent (8 entities) in 2023.

Entities continued to promote gender mainstreaming in evaluations through capacity building initiatives, sharing evaluation best practices, and identifying areas to strengthen.

Additionally, in 2023, the UNEG working group on Gender Equality, Disability, and Human Rights finalized the revision of the UNEG Guidance on integrating human rights and gender equality in evaluations. The updated guidance features an expanded definition of vulnerable groups and emphasizes the importance of considering human rights and gender equality in UN evaluations to avoid perpetuating discrimination and exclusion. It also advocates for an intersectional approach to understanding vulnerabilities and incorporates the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy and updated OECD-DAC evaluation criterion. This revised guidance document will inform updates to the technical note and guidance for the EPI and support the transition from UN-SWAP 2.0 to 3.0.