



**Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS
Annual Session 2021 – agenda item #13**

**UNFPA Management Commentaries
on the
Evaluation of the UNFPA support to gender equality and women’s
empowerment in development and humanitarian settings.**

Statement by Ms. Diene Keita, Deputy Director (Programme)

10 June 2021

Madam Chair,

Distinguished members of the Executive Board,

Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to briefly provide the management commentaries to the Evaluation of the UNFPA support to gender equality and women’s empowerment.

The evaluation of the UNFPA support to gender equality and women’s empowerment during the period January 2012 to July 2020 was conducted to assess UNFPA support to gender equality and women’s empowerment across development, humanitarian, and peace contexts.

The evaluation was also conducted to inform the new strategic plan 2022-2025 and provide learning for strategic positioning of UNFPA in the area of gender equality and women empowerment.

The empowerment of women and girls to exercise their rights, including their reproductive rights, free from violence and discrimination is centrally positioned within the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the 2030 Agenda.

The evaluation concluded that UNFPA has made important contributions to gender equality since 2012 through its steadfast work at global, regional and national levels, with measurable changes in countries in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment.

UNFPA addresses gender equality and women empowerment through the focus on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and focuses on strongly integrated interventions of gender-based violence, harmful practices, and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

For UNFPA, partnerships, including local partnerships, are key to tackling the underlying structural barriers and sustaining the momentum on the more challenging gender-related aspects of our agenda.

This highlights UNFPA's unique niche and comparative strength and ability to support work in countries from an understanding of the interlinkages and intersectional inequities and in different contexts.

Over the last decade, UNFPA has taken leadership for gender-based violence prevention and response in both humanitarian and development settings.

UNFPA has made notable contributions to capacity development, service provision, and systems strengthening with evidence of a gender transformative approach in response and prevention.

Moreover, UNFPA work on harmful practices has brought needed attention to the complexity and multi-faceted aspects of these practices such as child marriage, female genital mutilation, and gender-biased sex selection.

Much progress has been made to establish a firm foundation upon which to build further. And now is the time to reflect on what the good models are and to develop a robust research agenda, in order to scale the good practices informed by the latest evidence and data.

UNFPA's high performance and implementation of the UN Gender System-Wide Action Plan framework has helped to make the organization 'fit for purpose'.

To accelerate the progress on gender equality and women empowerment agenda in both development and humanitarian settings, UNFPA will continue to strengthen its capacity for gender-transformative approaches and the intersectionality across gender mainstreamed areas.

UNFPA will further strengthen its work on gender equality and women empowerment, guided by the six evaluation recommendations all of which UNFPA has accepted.

In particular, UNFPA will leverage all areas of expertise towards a more integrated, coherent approach to UNFPA's work on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, which requires a transformation of social norms and gender power relations.

To achieve the ambitions of UNFPA's Strategic Plan 2022-2025, in particular, the Transformative Result on ending gender-based violence and harmful practices, UNFPA will continue investing its institutional resources, while identifying non-traditional donors and partners to invest for longer-term gains and scale our collective efforts in this critical area.

UNFPA will continue investing in disaggregated data and evidence generation and high-quality research, through partnerships with research think tanks, and leverage UNFPA's population data expertise as pertains to violence against women prevalence surveys, and the Spotlight Initiative, among others.

UNFPA will amplify our leadership and positioning in gender-based violence prevention and response in development and humanitarian contexts. UNFPA will also scale its role as a lead on gender-based violence area of responsibility to strengthen the response through coordinated, inclusive partnerships, in contexts of emergency and fragility.

Furthermore, UNFPA will expand our partnerships in order to advance collective work towards resolving the more complex and deeply rooted drivers of inequalities, with a goal to achieving sustainable change in gender equality and women's empowerment.

Finally, learning from the COVID-19 pandemic, UNFPA will work together with countries and partners to build stronger institutional capacities in particular from an intersectional gender perspective.

We will further invest in promoting women's and girls' participation in disaster preparedness, climate change risk reduction, systems-based and community-based resilience building.

I thank you for your attention.