

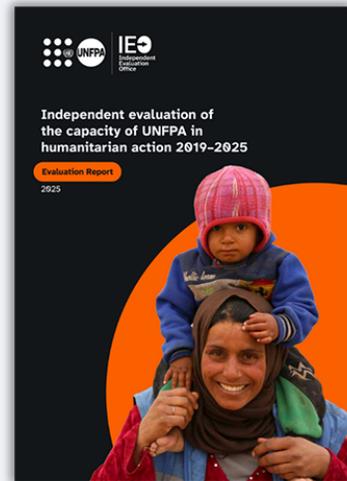
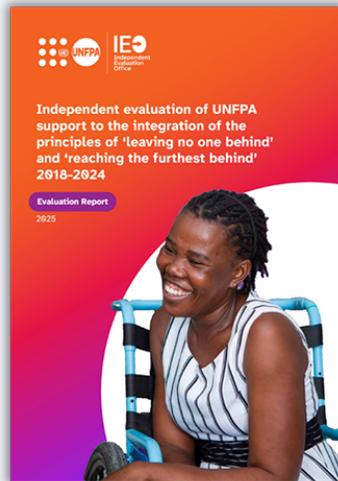


Access all UNFPA evaluations at unfpa.org/evaluation



In focus

- [Multi-Year Costed Evaluation Plan 2026-2029](#)
- [Independent evaluation of UNFPA support to the integration of the principles of 'leaving no one behind' and 'reaching the furthest behind'](#)
- [Independent evaluation of the capacity of UNFPA in humanitarian action](#)



During the Executive Board's First Regular Session on 4 February 2026, Joel Rehnstrom, Director a.i., UNFPA Independent Evaluation Office presented the **Multi-Year Costed Evaluation Plan 2026–2029**. The session also included the presentation of **two new centralized evaluations**—focused on UNFPA's 'leaving no one behind' mandate and its humanitarian action.



Pio Smith, UNFPA Deputy Executive Director, Programme, a.i., presented the management responses to the evaluations at the Executive Board. Statements from Member States, notably [Tunisia on behalf of the African Group](#), Norway and Australia welcomed the Multi-Year Costed Evaluation Plan and the two evaluations. The enhanced focus on humanitarian action was noted and appreciated.

The African Group highlighted **evaluation as a key tool to enhance transparency, strengthen results-based management** and ensure development cooperation delivers meaningful impact for communities, particularly the most vulnerable. The statement emphasised that evaluation must not be seen solely as a compliance or accountability tool, but rather leveraged as a **strategic driver for adaptive programming, real-time learning and policy course correction**, particularly in **fragile and humanitarian contexts** where needs evolve rapidly.

Furthermore, the African Group underscored that evaluation findings should translate into **operational adjustments, strengthened national systems and capacities**, and **targeted investments** that directly improve service delivery for women, girls and vulnerable populations. Finally, they highlighted that evaluation recommendations must be accompanied by the necessary means of implementation.



Australia stressed the importance of interagency evaluations to **bolster system-wide coordination and learning**. They also encouraged continuous monitoring of the evaluation plan to ensure that the demand for evaluations remains aligned with available resources and the workforce's capacity to absorb the lessons from evaluations.

Watch the [full video](#) of the UNFPA evaluation session at the Executive Board.



From the Director's desk

Joel Rehnstrom, Director a.i.

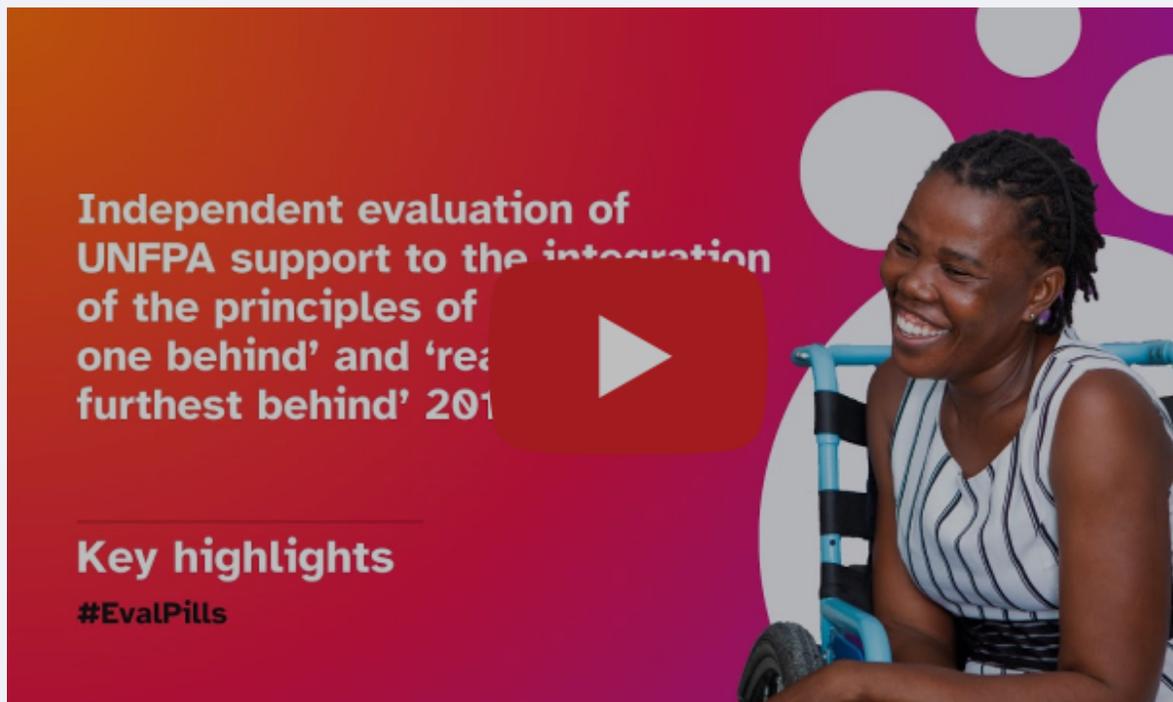
UNFPA Independent Evaluation Office

In a landscape shaped by protracted crises and organizational reforms, **high-quality evidence is indispensable for effective decision-making**. I am therefore pleased to present two major evaluations alongside the UNFPA Multi-Year Costed Evaluation Plan 2026–2029, recently endorsed by the Executive Board. Together, these initiatives establish the robust evidence base required to navigate global complexities and inform the implementation of the UNFPA Strategic Plan 2026–2029.

New evaluations to support adaptation amidst complexity

The [independent evaluation of UNFPA support to the integration of the principles of ‘leaving no one behind’ and ‘reaching the furthest behind’ 2018-2024](#), is the first evaluation on this theme for the organization. Guided by a steering committee including indigenous peoples, refugees and persons with disabilities, the evaluation examines how these principles are integrated across all levels, in development and humanitarian contexts. Its recommendations focus on strengthening institutional accountability, context-responsive implementation and aligning internal systems with UNFPA’s core commitment to leaving no one behind.

Watch key highlights of the evaluation



The [independent evaluation of the capacity of UNFPA in humanitarian action 2019–2025](#) assesses the organization’s evolving ability to prepare for and respond to emergencies, and the integration of its humanitarian work with development efforts. The evaluation’s findings and lessons learned will inform future humanitarian action at UNFPA at the country, regional and global levels.

Watch key highlights of the evaluation



The road ahead

As UNFPA begins implementing its Strategic Plan 2026–2029, the [new Multi-Year Costed Evaluation Plan](#) establishes a robust framework for **accountability**, **adaptation** and **learning**. With a projected investment of US\$22.75 million, the plan proposes 42 centralized evaluation exercises, 71 country programme evaluations, and six regional programme evaluations over a four-year period. Notably, nearly half of this portfolio (45%) will be conducted as joint or inter-agency evaluative exercises.

These evaluations were selected through extensive stakeholder consultations and evidence gap analysis to ensure comprehensive coverage of the Strategic Plan. Recognizing the organization's dynamic operating environment, the plan is designed to remain **agile** and **responsive to emerging shifts**.

To enhance both rigour and efficiency, the plan introduces several innovations. Notably, a **recalibrated evaluation management approach** places the IEO in an active leadership and

co-authorship role for centralized evaluations alongside external thematic experts. Furthermore, the IEO will **scale up the responsible integration of AI** in evaluation processes, and will undertake internal and joint evidence syntheses to maximize learning. IEO will also sharpen its **humanitarian focus**, including by systematically embedding humanitarian-development-peace considerations across the entire evaluation portfolio.

I am confident that the evidence generated from the two evaluations, and from forthcoming planned evaluations, will help UNFPA remain adaptable in a complex global environment, and support the achievement of transformative results for women and girls everywhere.

Quick links

Multi-Year Costed Evaluation Plan, 2026-2029

[Executive Board document](#)

[Executive Board statement by the Director a.i., UNFPA IEO](#)

Independent evaluation of UNFPA support to the integration of the principles of 'leaving no one behind' and 'reaching the furthest behind' 2018-2024

[Evaluation report](#)

[#EvalPills video](#)

Brief ([English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#))

[Presentation](#)

[Executive Board Paper](#)

[Management Response](#)

[Executive Board statement](#) by the Director a.i., UNFPA IEO

[Executive Board statement](#) by the UNFPA Deputy Executive Director (Programme) a.i.

Additional resources: [Volume II](#) (Annexes), [Evaluation Quality Assessment](#), Latin America and the Caribbean case study ([English](#), [Spanish](#))

Independent evaluation of the capacity of UNFPA in humanitarian action 2019–2025

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Additional resources: [Volume II](#) (Annexes), [Evaluation Quality Assessment](#), Case studies
([Bangladesh](#), [Chad](#), [Colombia](#), [Egypt](#), [Moldova](#), [Uganda](#))

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