UNDSG System-Wide Evaluation Office

Economic and Social Council
Operational Activities for Development Segment
15th May 2024
System-Wide Evaluation Office: Purpose

To strengthen **oversight, transparency, and accountability**, with the objective to incentivize **joint work and collective learning** among the United Nations development system entities, and to conduct and advance **system-wide evaluative evidence** on the United Nations Development System contribution towards implementing the 2030 Agenda.

**Conducting** system-wide evaluations designed to complement the evaluation work of United Nations entities, focused on activities that cannot be adequately addressed through existing accountability mechanisms.

**Managing** the evaluation of pooled funds and joint initiatives (in which a number of United Nations entities are working towards a common objective).

**Promoting** increased collaboration on United Nations system-wide evaluation, to improve the quality and availability of evaluation evidence on progress achieved to implement the Sustainable Development Goals.
Secretary-General’s report on the repositioning of the development system noted the importance of establishing an independent, system-wide evaluation office.

A/Res/72/279 "stresses the need to improve monitoring and reporting on system-wide results, and in this regard welcomes the strengthening of independent system-wide evaluation measures by the Secretary-General, including improving existing capacities".

Transition arrangement established.

A/Res/75/233 emphasises the need to ensure the independence, credibility and effectiveness of the evaluation office.

System-Wide Evaluation of the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund completed.


System-Wide Evaluation of the Spotlight Initiative launched.

Executive Director appointed.

Full establishment of SWEO.

System-Wide Evaluation Timeline 2017 - 2024
System-Wide Evaluation Policy: Roadmap

- **MS Briefing #1**
  - Jan 24

- **UNEG AGM**
  - Feb 24

- **ECOSOC OAS**
  - May 24

- **MS Briefing #2**
  - June 24

- **UNSDG consultation**
  - June 24

- **MS Briefing #3**
  - July 24

- **Final policy**
  - Aug/Sept 24
UN system evaluations by SDG focus (2021-24)*

*Sample of 498 regional/country-level, thematic, strategic, policy, joint/pooled funding, and global programme evaluations tagged by entities when uploaded to the UN Evaluation Group database (January 2021 - April 2024)
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<th>UNDP</th>
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Others: OIOS, PBSO, WHO, ILO, OHCHR, UNIDO
Evaluations extracted from UNEG database and/or shared with SWEO by individual entities. Categorised by lead agency, although some exercises may be joint/inter-agency collaborations. Total of 51 syntheses identified, 34 syntheses tagged to SDGs by lead agency (Jan 2021 to Apr 2024).
Preliminary mapping of UN system evaluations against QCPR priorities (2021-24)

*980 evaluation reports mapped against QCPR Monitoring Framework areas – based on type of evaluation and keyword searching of titles and short descriptions (May 2024)

Categories without labels (from largest to smallest) are: (i) Science/Tech/Innovation, (ii) Funding Quality/Quantity/Sources, (iii) Disability (iv) Business Operations, (v) Data/Statistics, (vi) Volunteerism