



Report of the Executive Director

May 2025

Operational Activities for Development Segment - Economic and Social Council



United Nations
Sustainable Development Group
System-Wide Evaluation Office

System-wide evaluation policy

Independence

The Policy confirms the structural independence of the UNSDG System-Wide Evaluation Office

A stand-alone office within the UN Secretariat

The Executive Director reports directly to the Secretary General

Evaluation practice

Evaluation procedures

Quality assurance and assessment

Partnerships

Management response & follow up

Maximising use of evaluation evidence

Authorities and resources

Roles and responsibilities

Institutional architecture

Human and financial resource requirements

Policy implementation and review



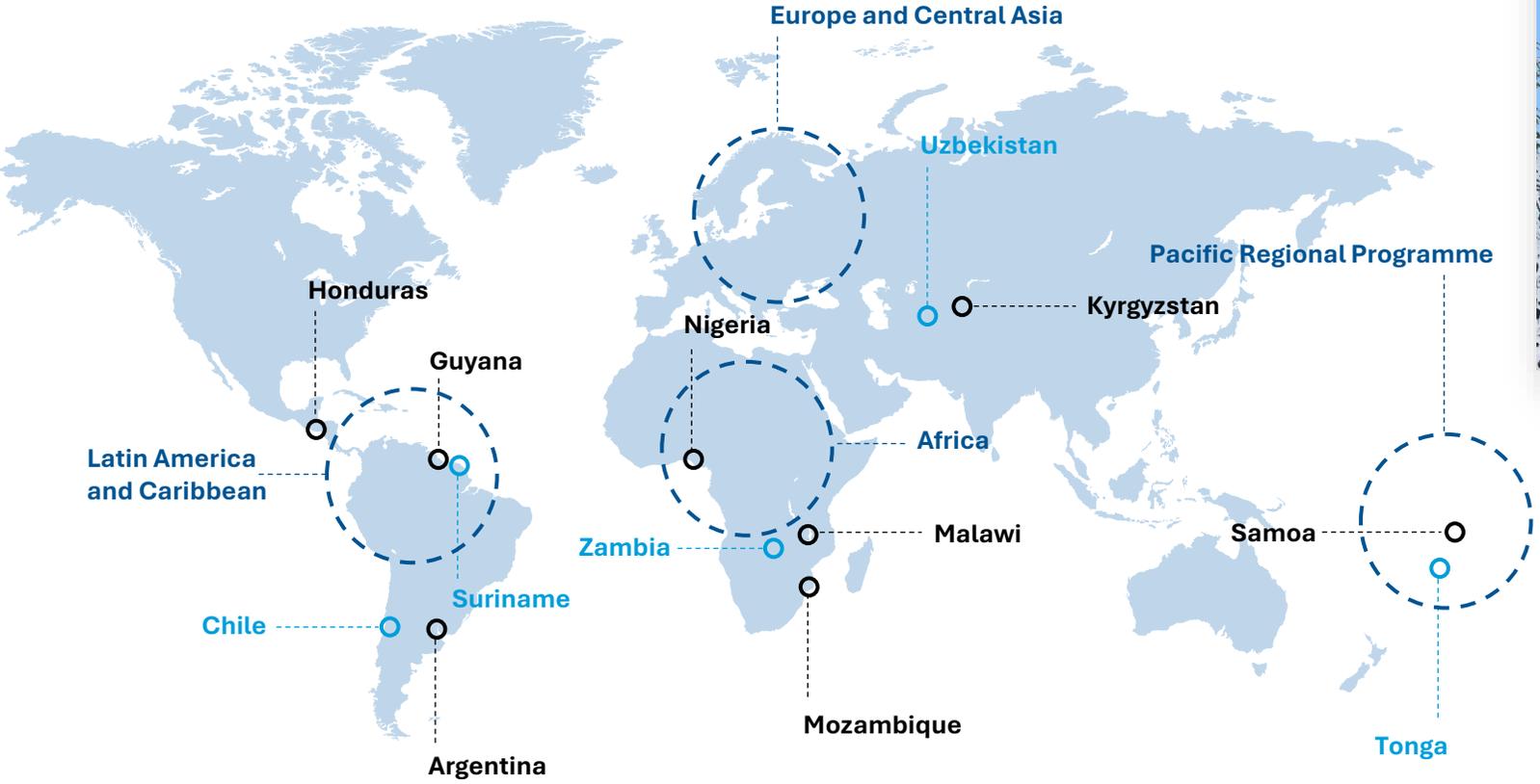
United Nations Sustainable Development Group
System-Wide Evaluation Policy





System-wide evaluation office programme of work - 2024

Spotlight Initiative





Enhancing use of United Nations evaluation evidence in support of the 2024 QCPR

		2020 QCPR priorities						
		Relevance to context	Cross-cutting issues	Thematic priorities	SDG financing & partnerships		Management & functioning	Funding
					SDG financing	UNDS partnerships		
Evaluation Type	Global	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Regional	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Country Programme	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Joint Programmes and Pooled Funding	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Emergency response	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Synthesis/Summary	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

Evaluation evidence summaries



UNSDG SYSTEM-WIDE EVALUATION OFFICE

A visible shift – the independent resident coordinator

Summary of United Nations evaluation evidence

The repositioning of the United Nations development system sought to reinvigorate the role of the resident coordinator system in supporting government efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This summary compiles evidence on elements of the United Nations development system reform to the resident coordinator system. It covers findings and recommendations related to the resident coordinator and the Resident Coordinator (RCO) in improving efficiency, effectiveness and coordination of operational activities for management. It also covers implementation and coordination of the Management and Accountability Framework for the United Nations development and resident system and strengthened joint programming and the use of joint programmes at the country level.



This summary draws on the extensive knowledge and evidence generated by independent evaluations conducted across the United Nations development system between 2021 and 2024. It presents key issues and learning from evaluations for consideration in the context of United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) to ensure predictable and



UNSDG SYSTEM-WIDE EVALUATION OFFICE

United Nations development system reform at the regional level – slow progress

Summary of United Nations evaluation evidence

The repositioning of the United Nations development system sought to revamp the regional level, to ensure that it is tailored to the individual needs of each region and supports the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including at the country level. This summary compiles evidence of the progress of the United Nations development system reforms at the regional level. It focuses on analysis, findings and recommendations related to the new regional architecture (including the regional collaborative platforms), the role of the regional economic commissions, and changes in the deployment of United Nations regional experts or assets to provide policy advice and technical assistance at the country level.



Photo (above): Deputy Secretary-General Visits Bangkok, Thailand © Suwat Chancharoenrak



UNSDG SYSTEM-WIDE EVALUATION OFFICE

Unlocking quality funding

Summary of United Nations evaluation evidence

In the context of repositioning the United Nations Development Group (UNSDG) to ensure predictable and



UNSDG SYSTEM-WIDE EVALUATION OFFICE

Building a whole of system response to complex settings

Summary of United Nations evaluation evidence

Conflict and violence cause immense human suffering and significantly hamper sustainable development. But addressing the complex interlinkages across humanitarian need, development goals and sustainable peace requires enhanced collaboration between humanitarian action, longer-term development interventions and peacebuilding and peace-sustaining activities. Such work demands flexibility, adaptation and constant innovation. The past four years have seen considerable effort by the United Nations development system to bridge humanitarian, development and peace approaches in countries experiencing complex crises. This summary highlights the successes seen so far and the major challenges faced.



Photo (above): UN Police Patrol in Timbuktu © UN Photo / Harandane Dicko



UNSDG SYSTEM-WIDE EVALUATION OFFICE

Towards Sustainable Food Systems How to feed, not deplete, the world

Summary of United Nations evaluation evidence

Food systems are fundamental for the future, not only of each individual community and nation but also, of our future generations is not encompass environmental, that are shaped by the produced, processed, ed. When food systems do hunger, malnutrition and, natural resources. When hly, families have sufficient, businesses prosper, healthier and environmental ductive and protected.

This summary draws on the extensive knowledge and evidence generated by independent evaluations conducted across the United Nations development system between 2021 and 2024. It presents key issues and learning from evaluations for consideration in the context of United Nations system-wide and intergovernmental policy discussions. Its publication is timed to provide information to stakeholders involved in the 2024 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (Q CPR), in line with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 78/166 (2023).

This summary is part of a series produced by the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) System-Wide Evaluation Office (SWE) which includes summaries of United Nations evaluation evidence on:

Photo (above): Nepal. Hemsriti picks vegetables in her field, to supply them to a school with a WFP-funded school meals programme © WFP/Samekha Reinders

System-wide evaluation on progress towards a new generation of UNCTs

Purpose: assessment on progress of two key elements of the repositioning of the UN development system (A/RES/72/279):

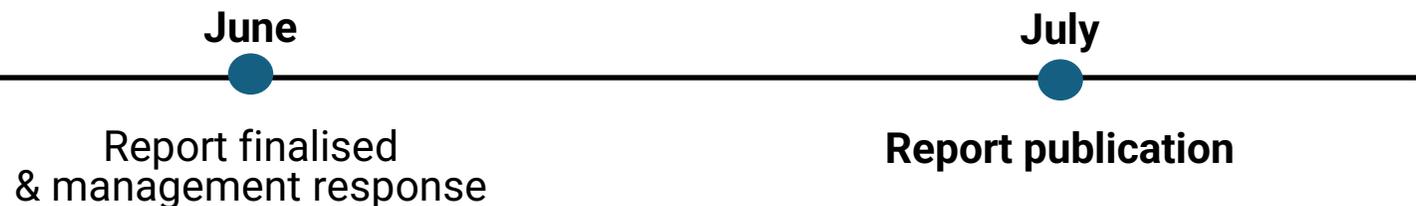
- **Alignment & derivation** from the Cooperation Framework
- **UNCT configuration**

Data sources:

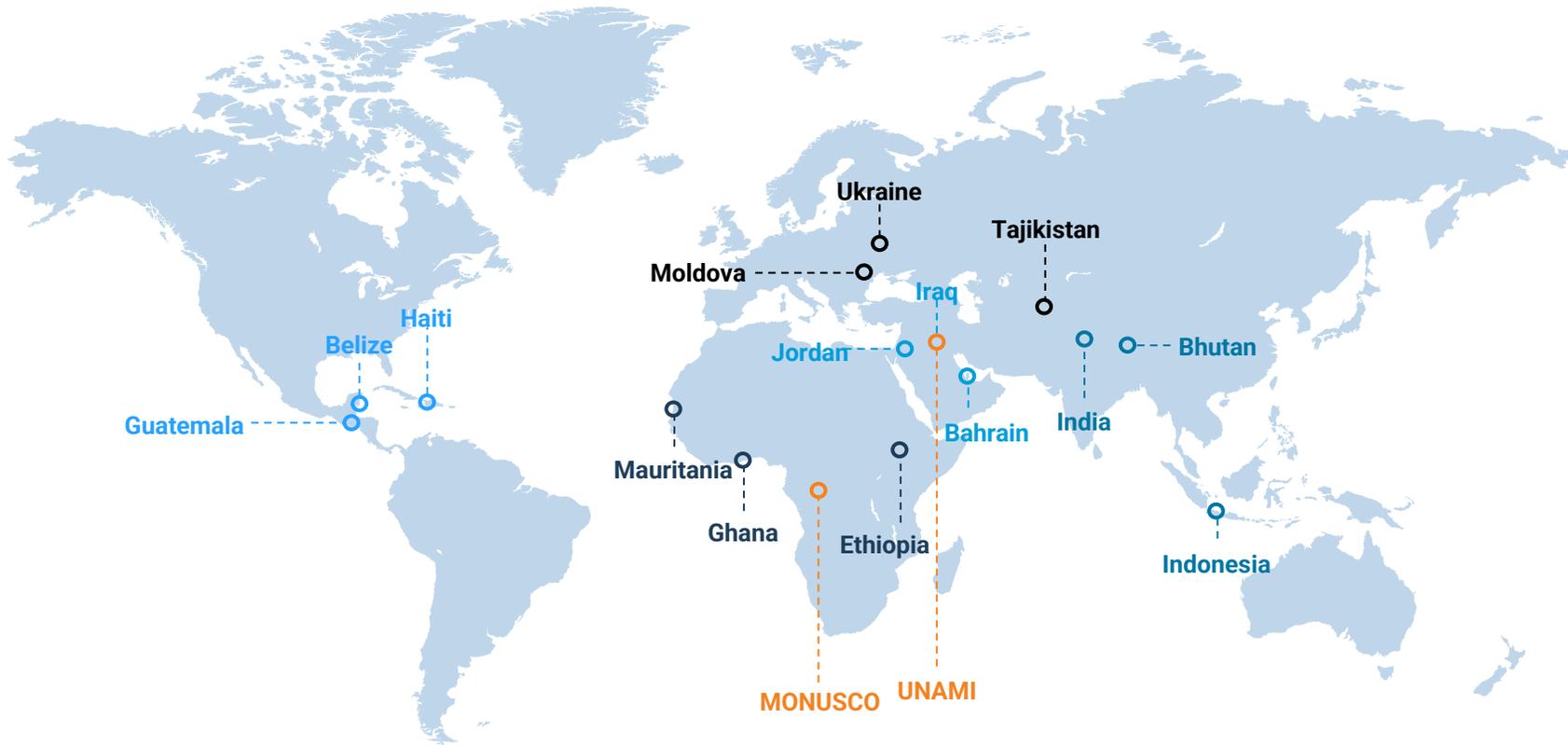
- 21 “focus countries”
- Interviews and focus groups with 500+ stakeholders
- Extensive document review
- Re-analysis of existing survey data (2021 – 2024)



Next Steps:



System-wide evaluation of the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy



Purpose: Assessment of the UNDIS and identify good practices, to inform possible revision of UNDIS

Data sources:

- 15 focus countries
- Key informant interviews and focus group discussions with approx. 500 stakeholders
- Extensive document review
- Re-analysis of existing data
- Comparative studies
- Online survey of UN staff with disabilities and members of OPDs (781 respondents)

Next Steps:



Use of system-wide evaluation evidence



Partnerships



OIOS

Office of Internal Oversight Services



UNITED NATIONS
SYSTEM
STAFF COLLEGE



UNEG

United Nations Evaluation Group



**The Global
SDG Synthesis
Coalition**



MOPAN

Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network

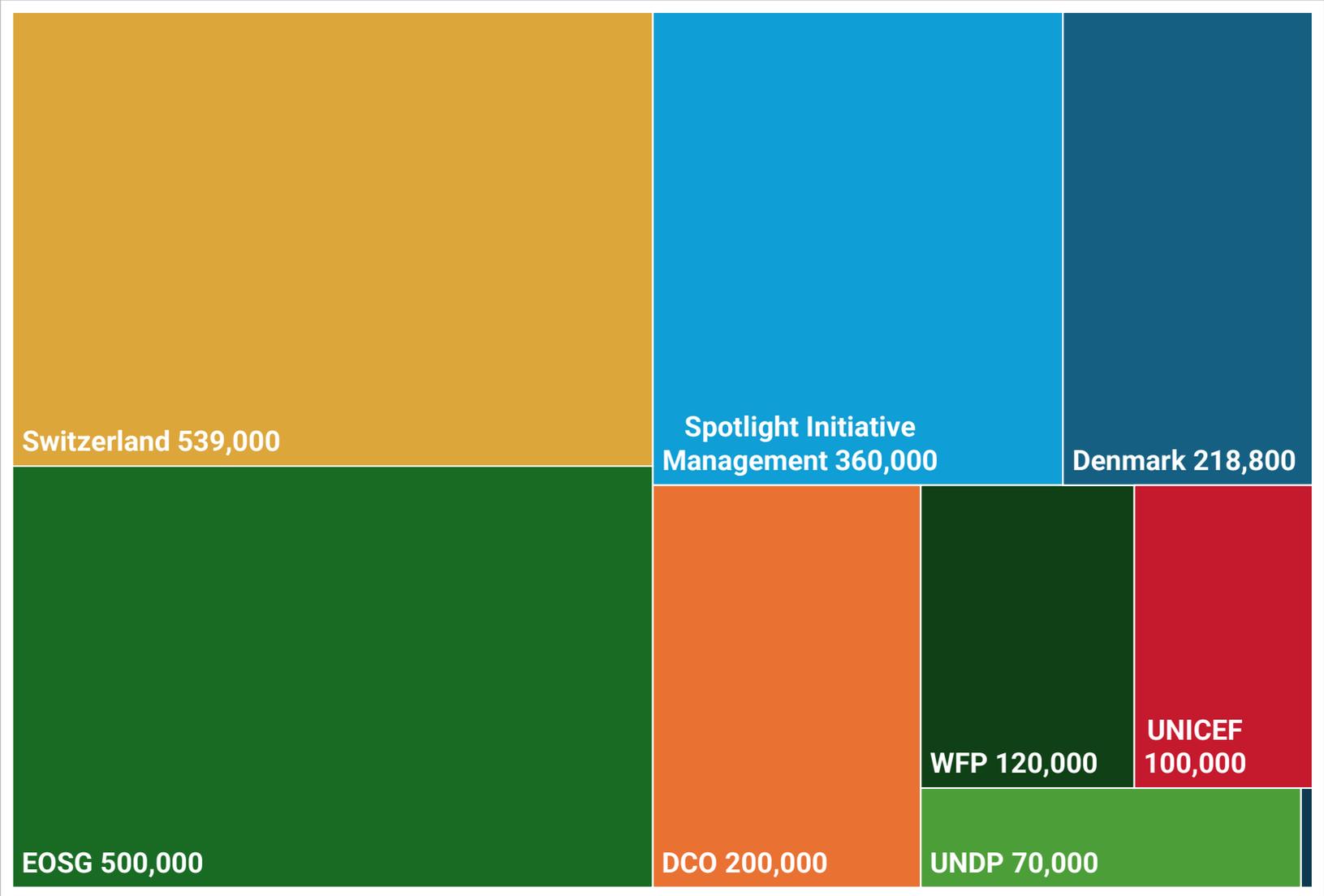


OECD



2024 resourcing

Contributions received 2023-2024



Total XB Resources 2024: \$ 1.54 million

Total XB Resources 2023: \$ 571,800

Other contributions

- 1 IFAD \$60,600 (in-kind)
- 2 UNHCR \$20,000 (in-kind)
- 3 Spotlight Initiative (Evaluation) \$739,119



**2025 programme
of work and
budget**

Evaluation activities 2025

Title	Status	Planned completion
System-wide evaluation on progress towards a new generation of United Nations country teams	On-going	2025
System-wide evaluation of the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy	On-going	2025
System-wide evaluation – UN work on Youth	Planned	2026
Evaluation of UN Sustainable Development Group support to transformative pathways to maximise impact across the SDGs	Planned	2026
Evidence map and summaries	Planned	2026
Follow up review of the evaluation of UNDS socio-economic response to Covid-19	Planned	2026
Follow up review of the evaluation of the Joint SDG Fund	Planned	2026

Policy implementation priorities 2025



Global System-Wide Evaluation Plan

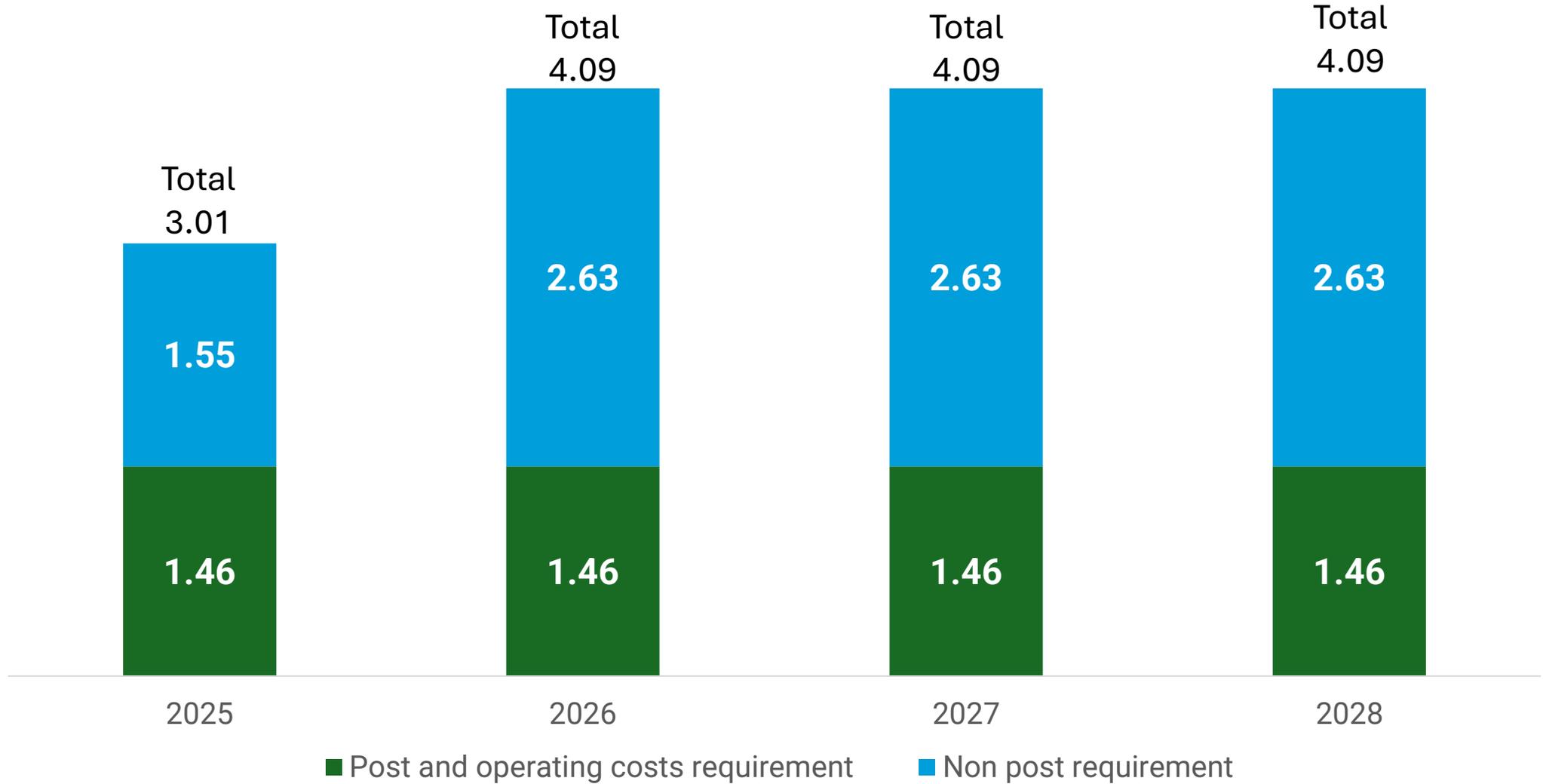


Quality assurance and assessment



Management response and follow up

Proposed budget 2025



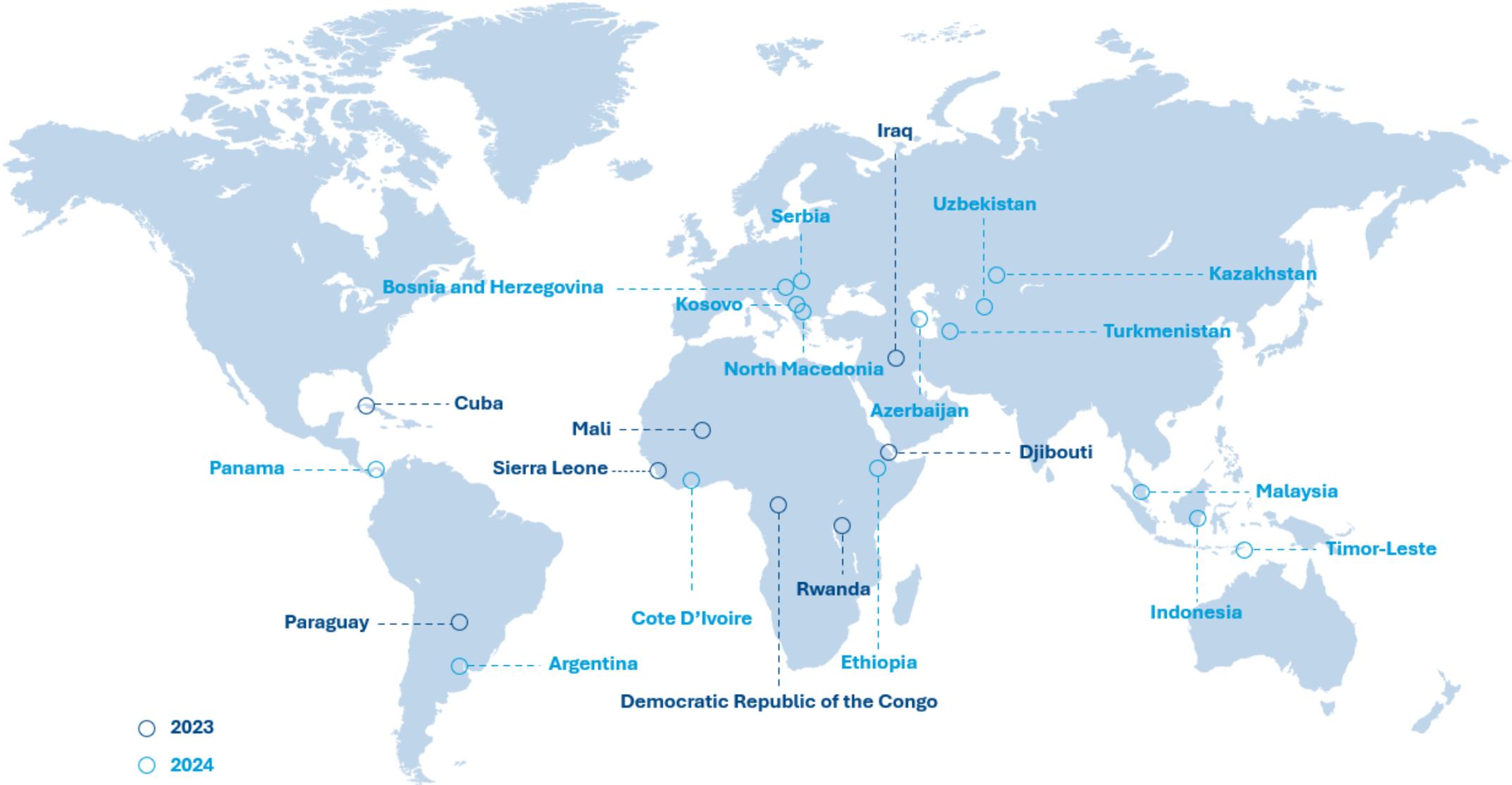
System-Wide Evaluation Office annual budget requirement 2025 – 2028

(Millions of United States Dollars)



Cooperation Framework evaluations

Cooperation Framework evaluations 2023 & 2024



Conclusion

The Office in 2024



A successful first full year of operations



Work of value and strategic importance in assessing the contributions of the entire UN development system to implementation of the 2030 Agenda

Critical need for stable and predictable resources



Scarcity of financial resources has hindered the ability of the Office to provide evaluations at the pace intended



Longer-term concerns about the viability of the Office due to limited availability of voluntary resources in current context



United Nations
Sustainable Development Group
System-Wide Evaluation Office

Further information:

www.un.org/system-wide-evaluation-office

