

UN-Habitat Evaluation Work Plan for 2020

Introduction

The Independent Evaluation Unit is the custodian of the evaluation function of UN-Habitat. Its focus is on improving UN-Habitat organizational effectiveness through three main complementary objectives: (i) Evaluations to provide a basis for accountability to stakeholders, including governing bodies, donors and UN-Habitat partners; (ii) evaluations to contribute to enhanced learning and feed into decision-making for UN-Habitat operations in order to improve current and future policies, programmes and projects as well as processes; and (iii) evaluations to encourage managing for results and leading to improved performance of the organization.

The Evaluation Work programme for 2020, provides the framework within which the evaluation activities will be planned, resourced and implemented. Given resource constraints, the Unit's work will be prioritized, assuring that what is evaluated represents organization's work. Feedback from annual evaluation survey and evaluation recommendations indicate increased demand for evaluation products that support learning and look at high-level themes than evaluating single projects. However, prioritization of evaluation topics is difficult, in the current funding mechanisms evaluation, where funding for evaluations comes from projects and programmes.

Therefore, 2020 evaluation work plan includes project and programme evaluations, country evaluations, thematic evaluations cluster project evaluations and Joint evaluations. The plan also includes other core evaluation activities that will promote and strengthen the culture of evaluation in UN-Habitat, including capacity building and production of annual evaluation report. The plan does not include internal self-evaluations that will be initiated by those that plan and implement the projects and programmes (decentralized evaluations). The plan will be updated through consultations all divisions and regional offices of UN-Habitat as mandatory demand comes.

Appropriate methods and tools will be identified for each evaluation on a case-by-case basis. While reporting on results achieved, relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability, coherence and impact will remain the evaluation criteria of UN-Habitat evaluations, efforts on learning from evaluation will help feed lessons from evaluations into new operations, projects and programmes and improve future outcomes. Follow-up of the implementation of evaluation recommendations will ensure that decision-making and programming draw on lessons and recommendations from evaluations.

The Independent Evaluation Unit will also apply evaluation quality standards to all its evaluations, taking into account United Nations Evaluation Group Norms and Standards. The quality standards will relate to methods, scope, content, analysis, engagement, presentation of evaluation reports, and usefulness of the evaluation lessons learned and recommendations. The evaluation reports will be supplemented by evaluation briefs, newsletters, videos to increase uptake of evaluations and all completed evaluation reports will be posted and accessible on UN-Habitat evaluation website: www.unhabitat.org/evaluation

OIOS assessment of the UN-Habitat Evaluation function performance for 2018-2019 biennium found that the organization has in place very good evaluation policy, evaluation frameworks, reporting lines and its produced evaluation reports were rated 83% very good or good reports. Areas of improvement included a need for adequate resources, increase of internal evaluation capacity, and evaluations to coverage of the UN-Habitat work.

Programme of Work for the Independent Evaluation Unit in 2020

List of evaluations to be conducted and managed by the Independent Evaluation Unit (IEU)

Topic of Evaluation	Type	Requested by	Source Eval. Budget	Lead Implementing Office	Year	Timeline for 2021												
						January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
Final Evaluation of the end of phase II of Accelerating climate action through the promotion of Urban Low Emission Development Strategies (Urban-LEDS) Phase 2	Project evaluation	Management /Donor	Project Funds	Urban Practices Branch	2020													
Terminal programme evaluation of the Kabul Strengthening Municipal nahias programme (ksmnp) 2016-2020	Programme Evaluation	Management /Donor	Programme budget	Afghanistan Country Office	2020													
Terminal evaluation of the Programme Support to Land Governance for Peace, Stability and Reconstruction (PSLGPSR)	Programme evaluation	Donor/ Management	Project /programme funds	ROAS	2020													
Evaluation of the SIDA cooperation Agreement 2016-2019	Cooperation Agreements	UN-Habitat Management	Cooperation agreement funds	All sections benefiting from SIDA funding	2020													
World Urban Forum (WUF 10) Evaluation	Advocacy	Governing Body Decision	WUF funds	UN-Habitat	2020													
Final Evaluation of Project "Support for Improving Living Environment and Prevention Capacity in Cambodia"	Project	Management	Project	ROAP	2020													
Final Evaluation of Implementation of United Nations Human Settlements Programme Strategic Plan 2014-2019	Strategy	Governing Bodies	Core funds	Organizational	2020													

Impact of UN-Habitat Housing Approach to Adequate, Affordable Housing and Poverty Reduction 2008-2019	Programme	Donor	Donor Funds	Land Section															
End-term Programme Evaluation of the Kabul Strengthening Municipal Nahias Programme	Programme	Donor	Programme	Country Office															
Mid-Term Evaluation Accelerating Climate Action through the Promotion of Urban Low Emission Development Strategies	Programme	Donor	Programme																
Mid-Term Evaluation of the Municipal Governance Support Programme (MGSP) 2015-2020	Programme	Donor	Programme Funds	Country office															
End of Project Evaluation: Making Cities Sustainable and Resilient, 2016-2020	Project	Donor/Management	Project Funds																
End-term Project Evaluation of 'Fostering Tenure Security and Resilience of Palestinian Communities through Spatial-Economic Planning Interventions in Area C' West Bank, Palestine	Project	Donor/Management	Project funds	Country office															

Other Evaluation Priority Activities to be Implemented by the Independent Evaluation Unit in 2021																			
Continuous	Technical support to Self-evaluations reports for closing projects	Self-Evaluations	Management	Evaluation Unit	The Evaluation Unit	All Divisions	2020												
Continuous	Evaluability Assessments of Project/ Programme proposals to ensure projects are designed to enable robust evaluations in future. This will be done through Program Review Committee (PRC), where the	Projects/Programme	Management	Regular Budget	The Evaluation Unit	All Divisions	2020												

	Evaluation Unit is a member in advisory capacity																		
Continuous	Preparation of evaluation brief, newsletters and videos to promote Uptake of Evaluations by various stakeholders	Institutional	Evaluation Unit /Management/	Regular Budget /Programme support	The Evaluation Unit	All Divisions	2020												
Continuous	Management Responses, action plans, and follow-up to the implementation of through Evaluation Recommendation Tracking System	Institutional	Donors/ Management	Regular Budget /Programme support	The Evaluation Unit	All Divisions	2020												
Not Started	Survey on the use of UN-Habitat evaluations	Institutional	Management	Regular Budget /Programme support	The Evaluation Unit	All Divisions	2020												
Not Started	Preparation of the Annual Evaluation Report	Independent Evaluation Unit		Regular Budget	The Evaluation Unit	IEU													