

UN Women GERAAS Executive Review Template

Title of the Evaluation Report	<i>Final Evaluation of the UN Women Sudan Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) Programme: "Consolidating Efforts that Contribute to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Sudan"</i>		
Region	East and Southern Africa	Country(ies)	Sudan
Overall Rating			Very Good
<p>Overall Feedback: Overall, the report rated as: Very Good. The reviewers made the following specific comments: <i>"This evaluation is an excellent demonstration of what can be achieved at the country level with a small team of two evaluators. It draws on an appropriate mix of contemporary methods and ideas to enhance the gender responsiveness of the analysis; whilst being transparent about the sample and evidence that it draws on. Whilst there could be much greater clarity about how the development of conclusions and recommendations contributed to empowerment (as claimed), nearly all of the report standards required by UNEG are addressed systematically, clearly and robustly. Combined with the innovations that this evaluation attempts to introduce, this report is an important benchmark."</i></p> <p>The reviewers also noted some positive evaluation practices in the report. These included <i>"Clear use of mixed methods, reconstructing the theory of change."</i></p>			
Terms of Reference included?	Yes	Executive Summary	Very Good
PARAMETER 1: OBJECT AND CONTEXT OF THE EVALUATION			Good
<i>The evaluation report provides a good institutional and political overview of the context in which the GEEW programme was developed and implemented. It would have been interesting to enhance this with data on the situation of women in more detail. The report also refers to gender responsive stakeholder mapping techniques and lists key stakeholders. Finally, the evaluation reconstructs the programme theory of change and analyses this – considered good practice.</i>			
PARAMETER 2: PURPOSE, OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE			Good
<i>The outstanding aspect of this report is the mainstreaming of gender equality across all of the evaluation criteria and questions (as demonstrated by the evaluation matrix in the annexes). In addition, the evaluation is informed by role analysis of human rights and clearly states the purpose and objectives. The main area for strengthening relates to scope – a particularly important discussion considering that the report cites the use of systems approaches, in which case a description of the evaluation's boundaries is doubly important.</i>			
PARAMETER 3: METHODOLOGY			Very Good
<i>The evaluation describes a sophisticated method that is appropriate given the context. The combination of qualitative and quantitative data is useful – although the evaluation undertakes primarily qualitative analysis (triangulated by some frequency analysis). The methods chosen are participatory (although may not fully constitute empowerment evaluation as suggested in the report). Nevertheless, there is a genuine use of mixed methods combined with gender/human rights analysis and a clear (and appropriate) statement on ethics. Furthermore, the purposive sampling is transparent and justified in some detail, which is excellent.</i>			
PARAMETER 4: FINDINGS			Very Good

The findings systematically respond to the evaluation framework, and provide a strong combination of detail and analysis. The report consistently uses gender analysis. Although quantitative data is present in some discussions (e.g. efficiency), perhaps more of the frequency analysis referred to in the methods section could have been present across the findings. Nevertheless, this is an excellent section overall.

PARAMETER 5: CONCLUSIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

Good

The conclusions systematically address the evaluation criteria and questions – drawing together the key messages of the evaluation. There is an important and valuable discussion of the implications of the conclusions. Perhaps the main area for strengthening could be the more detailed insights into the causes of some of the operational/organisational challenges (for example, what are the key barriers to be overcome in improving programme performance measurement).

PARAMETER 6: RECOMMENDATIONS

Good

The recommendations are logically derived from the conclusions and findings - and respond to the evaluation questions. In this regard they are robust. However, the methods section specifically refers to the gender responsive and empowerment aspects of this evaluation, and it is not clear at all how the process of developing the recommendations reflected this.

PARAMETER 7: GENDER AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Exceeds Requirements

SWAP Score: 11/12

The report is meticulous in mainstreaming GE/HR into the evaluation framework, specifying gender responsive methods, discussing gender aspects of each finding, and highlighting gender gaps in the programme data. Whilst the analysis is clearly grounded in a strong understanding of gender, it does appear to be an 'expert analysis' rather than resulting from a process of participation by different groups – which is something that a future evaluation might aspire to.

PARAMETER 8: THE REPORT STRUCTURE

Very Good

The report is very clearly structured according to UNEG standards. It is concise, specific, and easy to read.

In order to help strengthen future evaluation reports, the reviewers offered the following constructive suggestions:

- The inclusion of a table with the different groups of stakeholders and their principle contributions would have helped to better understand the 'system' that the report refers to. One approach to doing this that is complementary to the methods specified in this report is Critical Systems Heuristics: http://betterevaluation.org/plan/approach/critical_system_heuristics
- Including a specific discussion of the scope of the evaluation - including a justification of what was excluded - would add substantial value to this parameter.
- Considering that many readers will not be fully familiar with all of the methods used, it may have been useful to have included a description of each, with an explanation of how they were applied in this case.
- The discussion of underlying issues (both within the findings and at the end) takes the analysis deeper in an important and useful way. This is a useful example for future evaluations.
- These conclusions are a strong section because they are specifically organised in accordance with the evaluation framework, and add analysis that goes beyond just synthesising the findings. As such, they could be shared with future evaluations as a good example of the UNEG standards in practice.
- Some evaluations undertaken by UN Women have found that the process of developing the recommendations through a participatory process is as important as the recommendations themselves. Considering the thought given to the methods used in this evaluation, there was an important opportunity to consider how the process of agreeing conclusions and recommendations might be used to enhance empowerment of stakeholding groups.

- Whilst the analysis of the programme itself is excellent, a future evaluation might give greater consideration to all aspects of the evaluation process as an intervention within a context.
- This report is a great example to share with future evaluators.