IN BRIEF

EVALUATION OF THE UN WOMEN KNOWLEDGE AND PARTNERSHIPS CENTRE – REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Introduction

This report presents the main findings, conclusions and recommendations arising from the evaluation of the UN Women Knowledge and Partnerships Centre in the Republic of Korea ("the Centre"). The evaluation assesses the Centre's contributions to advancing gender equality and women's empowerment across Asia and the Pacific. The evaluation covers activities from December 2021 to October 2025, focusing on achievements, lessons learned and recommendations for the Centre moving forward. The evaluation aims to inform decision-making as the Centre enters a new phase of implementation; accountability; learning; and capacity development for the Centre and its stakeholders, including government, civil society, development partners and UN Women offices.

Methodology

The evaluation employed a non-experimental, theory-based and gender-responsive approach, integrating feminist analytical frameworks and intersectional analysis. Data collection was both qualitative and quantitative, involving 134 respondents (majority female) from diverse stakeholder groups. Methods included interviews, surveys, case studies and document reviews. Triangulation and NVIVO software were used to ensure robust findings. Ethical standards were rigorously applied, with informed consent and secure data management. Key limitations included low survey response rates and potential responder bias, which were mitigated through triangulation and assurances of confidentiality.

DATA COLLECTED

134	100+	2	2	61
individuals consulted	documents analysed	case studies	surveys	interviews

The analysis and recommendations of this evaluation are those of the Independent Evaluation, Audit and Investigation Service (IEAIS) and do not necessarily reflect the views of UN Women. This is an independent publication by the UN Women Independent Evaluation, Audit and Investigation Service (IEAIS).

Key findings and conclusions

The Centre has demonstrated how UN Women can operationalize its universal mandate in a high-income context by strategically leveraging both UN Women and the Republic of Korea's comparative advantages for advancing gender equality. Stakeholders consistently valued the Centre's role as a convener and knowledge hub, recognizing its ability to translate global frameworks into actionable strategies for governments, civil society, academia and the private sector. While the Centre's efforts were found to be highly relevant and responsive to stakeholder needs, enhancing internal coherence will ensure the Centre better contextualizes its efforts towards diverse groups and country contexts. In collaboration with UN Women and partners, the Centre could also strengthen its approach to structured follow-up to ensure the application of knowledge and skills gained through its training activities.

Strategic partnerships have expanded the Centre's regional influence and technical credibility, supporting policy development and the strengthening of gender data systems. Although generous funding was received from the Government of Korea, continued reliance on a single donor remains a potential constraint to the Centre's sustainability: in line with donor expectations around resource mobilisation, where feasible, diversification and institutionalization of funding partners is essential for long-term continuity. Operationally, the Centre's model demonstrated cost-efficiencies by leveraging internal resources and partnerships to ensure quality delivery. However, monitoring and clarity of roles between the Centre and the Regional Office could be enhanced for greater efficiency and ownership.

Finally, while the Centre has advanced gender-equality dialogues and institutional change, there is a clear need to strengthen intersectional inclusion, particularly for marginalized groups.

RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION 1

Strengthen the Centre's regional role by establishing a streamlined coordination model that unifies internal teams and formalizes strategic, multi-stakeholder partnerships across priority themes.

RECOMMENDATION 2

To realize the Centre's theory of change, ensure that capacity gains translate into sustained institutional change by improving follow-up and supporting the application of knowledge through systematic engagement with UN Women offices.

RECOMMENDATION 3

Strengthen organizational efficiency by establishing clear, accountable roles and responsibilities between the Regional Office and the Centre; optimizing staffing to ensure complementarity and avoid parallel efforts; streamline review and approval workflows for greater agility; implement integrated tools for coordination and knowledge management; and proactively diversify financial resources to ensure resilience and sustained impact.

RECOMMENDATION 4

Systematically strengthen intersectional inclusion by proactively engaging marginalized groups and embedding social norms considerations across training and partnerships.

220 East 42nd Street
New York, New York 10017, USA
Tel: 646-781-4400
www.unwomen.org