

WHAT IS A PEER REVIEW?

The mechanism, created by the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) and the OECD DAC Evaluation Network, aims to stimulate organisations to **strengthen the quality, independence and utility of their evaluation functions** by means of peer-led assessment, internal discussion and self-assessment, as well as dialogue with key stakeholders.

OBJECTIVES

To determine if the evaluation function at UNFPA and its products are independent, credible and useful for learning and accountability purposes, as assessed against UN standards and the evidence base. Since 2005, peer reviews have been conducted for 13 UN agencies. A specific objective for UNFPA is to assess the extent to which the current evaluation function is still relevant to the evolving internal and external changes, and feed into the update/formulation of a new evaluation policy to be presented to the Executive Board in 2024.

SCOPE – WHAT DOES THE PEER REVIEW LOOK AT?

The Peer Review will assess the entire evaluation function, including centralised and decentralised function, demand and use, and evaluation culture at UNFPA. In specific, it will look at:

1. Evaluation policy
2. Governance of the function
3. Management of function at centralised and decentralised levels
4. Evaluation planning
5. Evaluation quality
6. Evaluation follow-up and use
7. External influence, partnerships and positioning
8. Financial and human resources for the evaluation function

USERS

The primary users for this review are senior management at all levels and the Executive Board, as well as the staff of the Evaluation Office, regional monitoring and evaluation advisors and M&E officers/focal points or evaluation managers at regional/country offices.

PEER REVIEW 2022 – ANTICIPATED METHODS AND APPROACH

Self-assessment

UNFPA evaluation staff complete a self-assessment based on the Maturity Matrix for UNEG evaluation functions, which is operationalised through a set of 53 performance criteria organised according to the norms and standards

Independent desk review

Policy, procedures, budgets and staffing, evaluation reports, etc.

Interviews

Selected UNFPA executive board members, senior management and evaluation staff at HQ, regional and country level, Oversight Advisory Committee, external users

Analysis and reporting

Short report (20-25 pages) combining overall assessment against UN norms, and thematic issues to be considered

MANAGEMENT OF THE REVIEW

- **Peer Review panel:** formal management and accountability for the review (design, consultant supervision, methodological guidance and quality assurance)
- **UNFPA Reference Group:** selected Executive Committee members to provide feedback on interim products
- **Peer review panel composition:**
 - **Chair:** UNEG Vice Chair and Head of Evaluation, UNHCR
 - **Panel members:** UNEG Senior Evaluation Specialist, Chair of EvalYouth, OECD-DAC EvalNet representative (Switzerland), Chair of the Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation

For more information, contact Marco Segone, Director, UNFPA Evaluation Office (segone@unfpa.org)

UNEG/EVALNET 2023 PEER REVIEW OF THE EVALUATION FUNCTION AT UNFPA



Lori Bell
UNEG Vice Chair
Head of the Evaluation Office
UNHCR

Peer Review Panel Chair

Lori leads the evaluation function in UNHCR. Previously a senior evaluator in UNICEF and FAO (2007-), she also has decades of management experience in humanitarian action. She is currently a vice-Chair in the UN Evaluation Group. Lori holds a MSc. in epidemiology and biostatistics from McGill University and a BComm from University of Guelph in Canada.



Gabriela Flores
Chair
EvalYouth Global Network

Peer Review Panel Member

Gabriela works as an independent evaluator. She holds a MA in Development Economics from the University of Göttingen in Germany and a BA in Economics from the University of Guanajuato in Mexico. She has evaluative experience in development cooperation projects in India, national and subnational social programs in Mexico, and projects related to monitoring and evaluation of the 2030 Agenda. Gabriela is an active member of EvalYouth LAC, and the National Academy of Evaluators of Mexico (ACEVAL). Gabriela advocates for the inclusion of youth in all stages of evaluation processes and for influential evaluation.



Hon. Kabir Hashim
Chair
Global Parliamentarians
Forum for Evaluation

Peer Review Panel Member

Kabir Hashim is a Sri Lankan politician and economist. He is a member of the Parliament of Sri Lanka representing the Kegalle District and the Chair of the Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation. Kabir is a graduate of the International Program for Development Evaluation Training (IPDET) and advocates for institutionalization of evaluation through Parliaments. He is the former Minister of Highways, Higher Education and Investment Promotion of the government of Sri Lanka.



Urs Nagel
Regional Evaluation Adviser
UNICEF

Peer Review Panel Member

Urs Nagel is the Evaluation Adviser of UNICEF's Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa, based in Nairobi. He works with UNICEF country offices to strengthen their evaluation functions, conduct utilization-focused evaluations, and support development of evaluation capacity of national partners with a view to strengthening evidence-based policy-making and accountability for public policies. Prior to his current assignment, he worked with UNICEF in Afghanistan and Nepal, with the Evaluation Office of the United Nations Development Programme in New York, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Geneva. He holds an MA in Development Studies.



Derek Mueller
Deputy Head of the Evaluation and
Controlling service
Swiss Agency for Development and
Cooperation

Panel Member

Derek works for the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) since 1999, having served among others as Head of Cooperation for the South Caucasus and Bangladesh. More recently, at headquarters, he has headed the operational divisions South Asia and MENA as well as the thematic unit Fragility, Conflict and Human Rights. He is familiar with UNFPA from his foreign postings, in particular Bangladesh, where the two organizations were closely involved in policy coordination. During his career, he has been involved in various types of evaluations. In his current assignment he manages independent evaluations mandated by the SDC directorate.



Angela Bester
Director, Communication Works
Evaluation and institutions expert

Senior support / consultant to the panel

Angela Bester is an evaluation expert, specialising in public sector governance and administration, and social development. Her expertise includes monitoring & evaluation, facilitating strategic planning, conducting sector reviews. Angela has conducted evaluations and reviews for UNICEF Eastern & Southern Africa, FAO Office of Evaluation, UNDP Independent Evaluation Office, Evaluation Office of IAEA, and UNDESA.