

JOINT PROGRAMMING FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT (GEWE)



Photo: UN Women/Faith Bwibo

Lessons from the following evaluations:

(all evaluations available at <https://gate.unwomen.org/>)

2018

Evaluation of the JP
“Advancing and
Sustaining Gender
Equality Gains in Rwanda.”



2016

Country Portfolio
Evaluation. Tanzania.



2017

Country Portfolio
Evaluation. Sudan.



2016

Country Portfolio
Evaluation. South Sudan.



2016

Country Portfolio
Evaluation. Ethiopia.



2017

Mid Term Evaluation of
the Joint Programme
on Prevention of
Gender Based Violence
(JPGBV). Zimbabwe.



2018

Country Portfolio
Evaluation. Rwanda.



2016

Final Evaluation of
National Scale-Up of the
Isange One Stop Model in
Africa. Rwanda.



2018

Final Project Evaluation
- Engaging Women
in Preventing and
Countering Extremist
Violence in Kenya.



2017

Report of Final
Evaluation Integrating
Gender in Peace Support
Operations. Kenya.



2017

Evaluation of *Wanawake
Wanaweza* Project on
Women Leadership and
Political Participation in
Tanzania.



2016

Evaluation of the Peace
Building and Protection
Systems. Uganda.



2016

Country Portfolio
Evaluation. Sudan.



2017

Mid-term evaluation
Gender Based
Governance Programme.
Malawi.



2015

Mid Term Evaluation of
UN Women South Sudan
Strategic Note. South
Sudan.



2018

Evaluation of Preventing
and Responding to
Violence against Women
and Girls in Ethiopia.



2017

Mid Term Evaluation of
Women's Economic
Empowerment project
in Gaza Province.
Mozambique.



2017

Evaluation of UN Women ESARO
Capacity Development Initiatives.



1. WHY IS JOINT PROGRAMMING FOR GEWE IMPORTANT?



Photo: UN Women/Tumaini Ochieng

Joint Programmes (JPs) are part of a comprehensive set of UN reform processes initiated in 2002 to improve UN coordination, effectiveness and efficiency in supporting the realization of national development goals.

These measures are intended to simplify and harmonize programming at the country level and reduce transaction costs for governments, donors, and the UN. Over the past years, the overall number of Joint Programmes, including those with specific objectives on gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) has increased. The goal of Joint Programmes for UN Women is to advance GEWE

through four main strategic priorities being:

- institutional strengthening of the national gender machineries;
- grounding gender equality into policies, programmes and budgets at all levels;
- strengthening accountability mechanisms for gender equality across sectors; and
- Increasing access to resources, in particular, for vulnerable women.

Joint Programmes are not without challenges as they require significant levels of effort to be effective.

Joint Programmes - Strategic Priorities



**INSTITUTIONAL
STRENGTHENING
OF THE NATIONAL
GENDER
MACHINERIES**



**GROUNDING
GENDER EQUALITY
INTO POLICIES,
PROGRAMMES AND
BUDGETS AT ALL
LEVELS**



**STRENGTHENING
ACCOUNTABILITY
MECHANISMS
FOR GENDER
EQUALITY
ACROSS SECTORS**



**INCREASING
ACCESS TO
RESOURCES, IN
PARTICULAR, FOR
VULNERABLE
WOMEN**

2. WHICH APPROACHES HAVE PROVEN EFFECTIVE FOR JOINT PROGRAMMING ON GEWE?



Photo: UN Women/Faith Bwibo

Evidence from evaluations demonstrate that for a Joint Programme to be effective, it requires careful planning and the development of programme results frameworks with SMART indicators and targets. They also need monitoring and evaluation frameworks that facilitate the collection, analysis, and utilization of data and evidence for decision making and programme improvement.

The situation analysis at the planning stage should include a comprehensive analysis of the fundamental issues of gender inequality and discrimination against women. This analysis should also look at lessons learned from other Joint Programmes in similar thematic areas and systematically feed into the new JP strategy and design. A new Joint Programme on gender equality and women's empowering should be developed in a participatory/consultative manner, and various funding modalities and sources agreed upon to support such programmes.

To ensure ownership, the planning process of any new Joint Programme on GEWE must involve national partners and stakeholders. In the ideal scenario, a Joint Programme is built into the national budget, and a government official assumes full-time responsibility for the coordination, monitoring, reporting, and evaluation of its outcomes and impacts. The joint programme's alignment with national and sector policies and institutional capacity building are key enablers for the sustainability of the joint programme.

It is imperative that all implementing partners are fully aware of not only their own but also each other's roles and responsibilities in the Joint Programme, as well as the procedural requirements, for instance, concerning joint monitoring and reporting.

Systematic information sharing and collaboration during Joint Programme implementation is key as it allows partners to learn from one another and build a strong partnership. This also includes Joint Programme visits by partner agencies as they provide an important opportunity for the collective monitoring of progress and challenges encountered. In terms of outreach, it is crucial to ensure systematic collaboration with national government partners and civil society organizations, academic institutions, and the media.

Through its mandate, UN Women is uniquely positioned to take the leadership in Joint Programmes on issues related to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The leadership and reputation of UN Women in this area are highly acknowledged. UN Women should ensure that the design and implementation of Joint Programmes are premised on women's human rights and aim at promoting their substantive rights.

Key Considerations for Joint Programming:



PARTICIPATORY
PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT
OF MONITORING AND
EVALUATION SYSTEMS
FOR EVIDENCE-BASED
DECISION-MAKING



3. HOW CAN UN WOMEN IMPROVE ITS JOINT PROGRAMMING FOR GEWE?

Evaluations have demonstrated that Joint Programmes do not always realize the potential that partnerships can bring to bear, i.e., increased resources and more sustainable development impact through collective efforts. Joint Programmes are typically designed within a limited timeframe and with small budgets.

It is important to make the best use of a productive joint planning stage, and UN Women and its partners should focus on financial resource mobilization. The various funding modalities and sources need to be agreed upon by partners at the design stage given they have direct implications on the effective roll-out of the Joint Programmes. Such joint planning can also be a way of strengthening UN Women partnerships, improve ownership, and ultimately programme results.

Evaluations have recommended that UN agencies in Joint Programmes consider targeting the same geographical areas to ensure a complimentary, holistic support approach and increase the chances of achieving impact.

The management and coordination of a Joint Programme is often more complicated than in the case of a single-agency programme. The lifespan of a Joint Programme should hence be expanded, e.g., to an indicative minimum operational duration of at least three years. It has also proven essential to put in place an experienced full-time Joint Programme coordinator from the inception stage of the programme.

The goal of any Joint Programme for UN Women should be focused on capacity enhancement, particularly in the National Gender Machineries. There is evidence that countries require longer gestation periods to truly build the kind of capacity that is necessary to maximize the assistance delivered through a Joint Programme. It is further recommended that exit strategies for Joint Programmes are geared towards sustainable phase-out of its activities.



TARGET THE SAME GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS

TO ENSURE A COMPLEMENTARY, HOLISTIC SUPPORT APPROACH AND INCREASE THE CHANCES OF ACHIEVING IMPACT



FOCUS ON NATIONAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT



TO PUT IN PLACE AN EXPERIENCED FULL-TIME JOINT PROGRAMME COORDINATOR FROM THE INCEPTION STAGE OF THE PROGRAMME