

## ► United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

### Evaluation Office (EO)

#### *Mandate*

The Evaluation Office of the UNDP conducts: strategic evaluations, evaluations of Global, country-level, regional and South-South programmes; sets standards and supports capacity development in the organisation and in programme countries; and assures quality of decentralised evaluations and those conducted by associated funds and programmes. UNDP is currently undergoing an independent review of its evaluation policy.

UNDP programme units commission decentralised evaluations such as outcome evaluations, project evaluations, programme evaluations and thematic evaluations. The Evaluation Office sets standards and provides guidance through handbook, etc, but does not provide direct support.

#### *Independence and quality*

All EO evaluations involve consultants. EO Task Managers are also members of the team and are responsible for meeting UNDP and UNEG standards for evaluation. Quality assurance is provided internally by other colleagues in EO and by an external expert advisory panel.

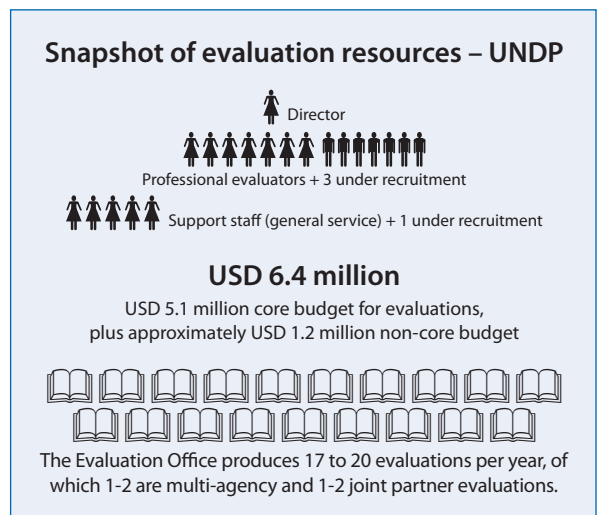
To protect independence, the Director issues evaluation reports without clearance from UNDP management. The Director is appointed by the Administrator in consultation with the Executive board, is allowed to serve only two terms, without re-entry into the organisation. The Director reports administratively to the Administrator but substantively to the intergovernmental governing body. The Director has full authority over the conduct and content of evaluations and presents them directly to the Executive board.

The budget for EO is approved by the executive board on a biennial basis.

#### *Co-ordination, planning and stakeholder involvement*

The two-year work programme is developed by the Evaluation Office based on consultation with UNDP regional, policy and practice bureaux, UNDP management and UN sister agencies. The programme is presented to the executive board for discussion and approval in the annual report on evaluation prepared by the Evaluation Office.

Partner country governments are regularly involved in various stages of the evaluation process and the UNDP carries out extensive work on capacity development in evaluation. The EO participates in UNEG, the DAC Network on Development Evaluation and other international fora.



## **Use**

The UNDP management group reviews and discusses all management responses to EO evaluations (except the assessments of development results, which are country-level programme evaluations). The management group is UNDP's most senior decision making body, chaired by the administrator and includes the associate administrator and the directors of regional and central bureaus. The Evaluation Office maintains a tracking system of management responses. All evaluation reports are made public and the EO also produces Evaluation E-news for broad circulation and sends copies of evaluation reports to all programme units.