



CORPORATE THEMATIC EVALUATION OF UN WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTION TO HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Final Report



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The evaluation was conducted by an external evaluation team co-lead by Angélica Arbulú and Silvia Hidalgo from DARA. The UN Women Independent Evaluation Service team included Florencia Tateossian and Mona Selim (former UN Women) as Evaluation Managers, and Inga Sniukaite as Chief of Independent Evaluation Service.

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EVALUATION TEAM:

DARA

Angélica Arbulú, Co-Team Leader

Silvia Hidalgo, Co-Team Leader

Dorian LaGuardia, Team Member

Alesia O'Connor, Team Member

Ana Rodriguez, Team Member

EVALUATION MANAGEMENT:

UN Women Independent Evaluation and Audit Services

Florencia Tateossian, Manager, Evaluation Specialist,
UN Women Independent Evaluation Service

Inga Sniukaite, Chief, UN Women Independent Evaluation Service

Lisa Sutton, Director, UN Women Independent Evaluation and Audit Services

Design and layout: Blossom

Editor: Catherine Simes

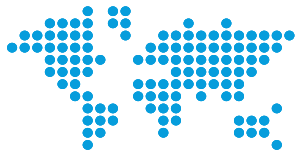
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INDEPENDENT EVALUATION AND AUDIT SERVICES (IEAS)

Independent Evaluation Service (IES)

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ADPC	Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre
CAR	Central African Republic
CBPF	Country Based Pooled Funds
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECHO	European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
FAQ	Frequently Asked Question
GAM	Gender and Age Marker
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
GFDRR	Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction
GIHA	Gender in Humanitarian Action
GIR	Gender Inequality of Risk
GRG	Gender Reference Group
HA	Humanitarian Action
HACRO	Humanitarian Action and Crisis Response Office of UN Women
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
HDN	Humanitarian Development Nexus
HFA	Hyogo Framework for Action
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IDTF	Interdivisional Task Force
IES	Independent Evaluation Service

IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
LEAP	Women's Leadership, Empowerment, Access and Protection
LGBTIQ	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer
MCO	Multi-Country Office
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NWOW	New Way of Working
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OECD DAC	OECD Development Assistance Committee
oPt	Occupied Palestinian Territory
RMS	Results Management System (UN Women)
SCP	Gender Standby Capacity Project
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SOGIE	Sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression
SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
ToR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDS	United Nations Development System
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
UN WOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
US\$	United States Dollar
WCDR	World Conference on Disaster Reduction
WFP	World Food Programme
WHS	World Humanitarian Summit
WPHF	Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund

FOREWORD



The centrality of ensuring that gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) are fundamental in humanitarian action has been repeatedly emphasized in international forums, including the 60th Commission on the Status of Women and the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS). UN Women's work in humanitarian action is focused on this pressing need: ensuring that women and girls play a greater role in, and are better served by, disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response and recovery process efforts in order to support their empowerment and resilience. This formative evaluation of UN Women's contribution to humanitarian action therefore comes at the right time to help us understand the evolution of UN Women's work in this area and its role in the humanitarian context.

The Independent Evaluation Service (IES) of the UN Women Independent Evaluation and Audit Services (IEAS) undertook this evaluation as part of its corporate evaluation plan. IES assessed the relevance and appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency, connectedness and sustainability, and extent to which a human rights approach and gender equality principles were integrated in UN Women's humanitarian action work across its integrated mandate: normative, operational and coordination at country, regional and global levels.

The evaluation found that the evolution and trajectory of UN Women's work in humanitarian action since 2014 has been positive. By 2018, UN Women's contributions to humanitarian action included: crisis prevention; preparedness; responses to reduce vulnerabilities, addressing risks and promoting resilience; and leveraging of women's leadership across the humanitarian-development nexus. UN Women effectively supported normative work

to assist Member States and the United Nations in developing and implementing humanitarian action policies. The Entity also assumed the role of GEWE coordinator for the United Nations system and the humanitarian community at various programming levels during humanitarian responses.

The evaluation concludes that while the growth in UN Women's humanitarian work is positive, a more strategic and consistent approach is needed to make further progress. This will require a new detailed, response-level strategy with specific approaches to effectively engage in coordination mechanisms, as well as innovative resource mobilization strategies, partnerships, and knowledge management and learning initiatives. Increasing the effectiveness and impact of UN Women's humanitarian action work to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable women and girls are among the recommendations of this evaluation.

The management response and action plan presented by UN Women acknowledges the need to use this formative evaluation to inform future humanitarian work strategies and plans. It confirms UN Women's commitment to learn from its experience and use gender-responsive evidence of what works and what doesn't to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Sutton". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lisa Sutton

Director, Independent Evaluation and Audit Services

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Almost all actors, from the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) to local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), recognize that humanitarian action (HA) is more effective when it sufficiently accounts for the needs of women and girls and when gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) are integral to all aspects of the humanitarian programme cycle. UN Women is one of the most important actors in ensuring that this is achieved consistently and well.

UN Women's contribution to HA has been growing. UN Women's HA annual budget has grown by 700 per cent, from US\$ 3.4 million in 2011 to US\$ 27.2 million in 2017. The Entity has been involved in all aspects of HA, from small livelihood projects that give women critical income and promote their role in non-traditional sectors, to essential policy work in global forums like the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

While UN Women's growth and scope of programming is impressive, a more strategic and consistent approach is now required, with particular focus on:

- A detailed response-level strategy that provides specific approaches and standard operating procedures for engaging with and influencing coordination mechanisms, resource mobilization strategies within and beyond coordinated appeals, key partnerships/joint programming

- A focus on developing global partnership frameworks with OCHA, UNHCR and UNFPA.

Action on these and other findings and conclusions from this evaluation will enable UN Women to strengthen its contribution to HA, from emergency response to longer-term transformative change.

1.1

Evaluation description and methodology

This corporate thematic evaluation assesses UN Women's contribution to HA at global, regional and country levels and seeks to inform strategic policy, decision-making, organizational learning and accountability, and contribute knowledge to what works and what doesn't to advance GEWE in HA. The evaluation also assesses UN Women's efforts to promote GEWE in the context of the New Way of Working (NWOW), UN reform, the 2030 Agenda for Humanity, UN Common Guidance on Resilience and the commitment to leave no one behind.

The primary audiences for this evaluation include UN Women's Executive Board, senior management, staff of the Humanitarian Action and Crisis Response Office (HACRO), and regional and country level staff working on GEWE in HA. The evaluation's scope is from 2014 to present, with a brief review of work conducted from 2011 to 2013.

The evaluation focused on issues and examples that inform how and when UN Women plays a significant

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