

Inception and Evaluation Mapping Report

SYNTHESIS OF UN SYSTEM EVALUATIONS OF SDG 5

UN WOMEN, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP

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Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted in 2015. Goal 5 of this framework is to “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” and includes nine targets with fourteen indicators to meet this goal (See Annex 1). While advancement has been made on some of these targets, notable gaps and barriers remain. Notably, the COVID-19 pandemic has stalled and even undone some of the progress towards SDG 5.

At the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda and amid pandemic recovery, there is an opportunity for an inter-agency effort to take stock of learnings regarding SDG 5 through a synthesis of UN system evaluations related to SDG 5. Across many UN agencies, there have been numerous evaluations related to SDG 5 since the start of the 2030 Agenda; however, there has not yet been a synthesis to compile, triangulate and bring together the evidence and lessons from these evaluations. UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP are therefore undertaking a synthesis of the evaluation evidence and lessons on SDG 5 to support learning and decision making for future programming related to SDG 5 and contribute to the wider body of knowledge on progress towards SDG 5. By bringing together the evidence, lessons, and gaps from our collective evaluations, the synthesis will provide UN agencies and their partners with a holistic view of barriers and enabling factors towards achieving SDG 5 and what works or does not work in interventions for gender equality and women’s empowerment. Based on the analysis, the synthesis will also offer recommendations for advancing progress towards SDG 5 by 2030.

The primary users of this synthesis are intended to be the UN agencies involved in supporting SDG 5, notably UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, and WFP. Secondary users include ECOSOC regional economic commissions, civil society organizations, women’s organizations, donors, national governments, and members of the broader Partnership Platform that support the implementation of SDG 5.

This inception report provides an overview of the first phase of the evaluation synthesis, outlines the methodology for the document search and analysis, and details the results of the search process with an evaluation mapping. It also includes a summation of progress in SDG 5 and related SDG targets, which has informed the refinement of the guiding synthesis questions and fed into the coding and analysis framework.

Context

Overview of SDG 5

Gender is integrated throughout the SDGs, but SDG 5 – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls – focuses on nine targets and 14 indicators in priority areas for women and girls. Table 1 shows the targets and indicators along with a summary status of progress at the global level, as reported in The Gender Snapshot 2022.¹

Table 1: SDG 5 targets, indicators, and world status

Source: *Sustainable Development Goals: Gender Snapshot 2022*, UN Women and UNDESA.

Targets and Indicators	Distance to Target/ Global Progress
5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere	
5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex	Moderate distance to target
5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation	
5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age	Moderate distance to target
5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence	Insufficient data
5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation	
5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18	Moderate distance to target
5.3.2 Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age	Insufficient data
5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate	
5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location	Far from target
5.5 Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life	
5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments	Moderate distance to target
5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (b) local governments	Close to target

¹ *Sustainable Development Goals: Gender Snapshot 2022*, UN Women and UNDESA.

5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions	Moderate distance to target
5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences	
5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care	Far from target
5.6.2 Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee women aged 15-49 years access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education	Close to target
5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws	
5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure	Insufficient data
5.a.2 Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control	Insufficient data
5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women	
5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex	Insufficient data
5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels	
5.c.1 Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment	Very far from target

Legend

Close to target	Moderate distance to target	Far from target	Very far from target	Insufficient data
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Progress towards SDG 5

Worldwide, only 47% of data necessary to track progress against SDG 5 has been reported.² As Table 1 shows, data for five SDG 5 indicators are insufficient to draw conclusions about progress made. Data for the others are often incomplete as well, but what does exist demonstrates that 28% of the SDG 5 indicators are very far or far from target; about one in three are at moderate distance from target; a quarter are close to target; and only 12% are at target met or almost met. Recent setbacks in progress, and even reversal in some areas, can be attributed to the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic, the backlash against women's sexual and reproductive rights (SDG 5.6), and the expanding number of women and girls living in or displaced from fragile or conflict affected countries. COVID-19 has had an especially

² Except where noted, data in this section is taken from *Sustainable Development Goals: Gender Snapshot 2022*, UN Women and UNDESA.

detrimental effect on rates of violence against women and girls (SDG 5.2)³ through increased intimate partner violence, rates of child marriage (SDG 5.3) because of school closures and economic pressures,⁴ and time spent on unpaid care (SDG 5.4),⁵ as women absorbed additional childcare tasks during shutdown periods. Likewise, interruptions in health services and access to contraception has caused a drop in many measures of women’s sexual and reproductive health (SDG 5.6). Despite good progress towards legal guarantees of women’s rights to access sexual and reproductive health services and bodily autonomy, there continues to be a significant mismatch with women’s de facto abilities to make decisions about their own fertility and sexual behavior.

While trend analysis points to some progress in women’s representation in national governments, this year’s SDG 5 Tracker reveals a concerning regression in women’s economic empowerment, with two regions experiencing a decline in the proportion of women in managerial positions (SDG 5.5). This decline may also relate to COVID-19 dynamics, which caused more women than men to leave the workforce. Informal workers, who are predominantly women, were particularly at risk of exclusion from pandemic-response social protection programmes (SDG 5.a) and mobile-phone based surveys to monitor the social and economic impact of COVID-19 (SDG 5.b).⁶ However, the pandemic spurred investment in digital infrastructure for administration of public programmes and services in some countries and triggered innovations in reaching typically hard-to-reach populations,⁷ creating new opportunities to recover ground lost and speed progress. Unfortunately, the global response to the conditions of women’s and girls’ lives is not proportionate to the problem—just 4.2% of overseas development assistance is allocated to programmes to advance gender equality, and only 26% of countries have comprehensive systems to track such spending from national budgets (SDG 5.c).

Regional and subgroup differences

The global picture of progress towards the SDGs masks significant variations across regions and countries and between subgroups of people. The SDG 5 Tracker shows the region of North Africa and Western Asia as furthest from achieving SDG 5, followed by Sub-Saharan Africa. Central and Southern Asia is the only region to have met Target 5.5.1b—Proportion of seats in local governments held by women—and the only to have achieved moderate distance from Target 5.c.1—Countries with systems to track gender budgets. Other regions are all very far from Target 5.c.1. Yet Central and Southern Asia is the only region to remain very far from the goal of women’s legal rights to employment and economic benefits. Eastern and Southeastern Asia, along with Latin America and the Caribbean, are doing very well in SDG 5.5 on reproductive rights and in one or more targets under 5.4. Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand) lacks much of the necessary data and, among the four with sufficient data, is the only region remaining very far from Target 5.2.1 on intimate partner violence.⁸

³ *Government Responses to COVID-19: Lessons on gender equality for a world in turmoil*, UN Women and UNDP, 2022.

⁴ *COVID-19: A threat to progress against child marriage*, UNICEF, 2021.

⁵ *Government Responses to COVID-19*.

⁶ *Government Responses to COVID-19: Lessons on gender equality for a world in turmoil*, UN Women and UNDP, 2022.

⁷ *Government Responses to COVID-19*, page 58.

⁸ Drawn from charts on pages 22-27 of *Gender Snapshot*.

The focus on the leave no one behind (LNOB) principle in the SDG agenda addresses disparities between countries and between groups within countries. The poorest countries, in which the majority of residents live in absolute poverty, are often politically and/or environmentally fragile. Within countries, LNOB addresses groups with relative disadvantage such as people with disabilities, the forcibly displaced, exploited workers, and other segments of the population who are less powerful. This includes women and girls, and therefore SDG 5 itself supports the pledge to leave no one behind. However, there are subgroups of women and girls—for example, refugees, domestic workers, or disabled women—that face additional vulnerabilities and merit particular attention in the LNOB framework. Yet there is little analysis, outside of focused studies and national surveys, of relative progress in SDG 5 and fulfillment of rights for these women and girls. Existing data is insufficient to draw regional or global conclusions.⁹

Progress towards gender equality in other SDGs

Each of the 17 SDGs is relevant to gender equality and women’s empowerment, and there is considerable overlap across goals. Therefore, progress in SDG 5 should be considered alongside progress for women and girls in other SDGs. Progress in poverty reduction has lapsed under the pandemic (SDG 1), and women’s labor force participation rate is below pre-pandemic levels in nearly all countries (SDG 8).¹⁰ Since 2015, the gender gap in moderate and severe food insecurity has widened in five out of seven regions, amid an overall trend of increasing insecurity (SDG 2). Health systems were severely impacted as COVID-19 (SDG 3) contributed to service disruptions and declines in sexual and reproductive healthcare. Maternal mortality increased during the pandemic, and women had a shorter life expectancy in 2021 compared to 2019 because of the direct and indirect effects of the pandemic. There have also been more adolescent pregnancies during the pandemic era, with adolescents out of school and increased economic pressures on households.¹¹ Overall in the post-2015 period, gender parity in school enrolment and completion has seen progress, in part due to positive effects of cash transfers and school feeding on girls’ educational participation and reducing household chores. However, the most marginalized girls and those with multiple vulnerabilities are rarely reached by such programmes.¹²

Progress to date on SDG 6.2—By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations—has been minimal, with minor change in the status of the first indicator and none at all for the second indicator. The picture suggests that sanitation and hygiene programming with women and girls works but that the scale of programming needs to increase multiple times over to reach the goal by 2030.¹³ Ongoing conflicts, climate and natural disasters, and other crises have resulted in record numbers of women and girls forcibly displaced amid surging income inequality (SDGs 10 and 13). Evidence from UN Women’s rapid gender assessments in 13 countries showed that 49 per cent of women in urban

⁹ For examples of analyses at national levels for SDGs other than SDG 5, see Samman et al., 2021.

¹⁰ Except where noted, data in this section is taken from *Sustainable Development Goals: Gender Snapshot 2022*, UN Women and UNDESA.

¹¹ <https://esaro.unfpa.org/en/news/how-covid-19-has-increased-fertility-adolescent-pregnancy-and-maternal-deaths-east-and-southern>; <https://www.brookings.edu/events/ensuring-young-mothers-return-remain-and-learn-in-school/>.

¹² *Making Evaluation Work for the Achievement of SDG 4 Target 5: Equality and Inclusion in Education*, IOS Evaluation Office, UNESCO, 2019.

¹³ *Evaluation Synthesis of United Nations System and Development Bank Work Towards SDG 6*, UNICEF Evaluation Office, 2021.

areas feel less safe walking alone at night since COVID-19 (SDG 11), and women remain poorly represented in the justice sector (SDG 16).

Implications for synthesis

This brief look at progress in SDG 5 and other SDGs suggests several lines of inquiry for the synthesis. Uneven progress across targets and regions requires analysis by individual SDG 5 target, in relation to other SDGs, and with reference to regions, at a minimum, to understand the reasons for lower advancement in some areas and greater in others. It will be necessary to capture key enablers and barriers to progress in the political, social, and economic environments, partnership arrangements, and approaches to the interventions. Patterns in what works and what does not, and why, may offer lessons for acceleration of progress in lagging targets and regions, and attention to who benefits can suggest improvements for leaving no one behind. COVID-19 has had a tremendous negative impact on forward momentum in several SDGs; it also triggered adaptations and innovations that may be fruitful in the second half of the SDG period to not only regain lost ground but also enable further progress. Likewise, the scarcity of data for some targets may be mirrored in the synthesis's dataset; alternatively, the evaluations may provide insight into these gaps.

The record of progress has implications for the synthesis exercise, in suggesting adjustments in the synthesis questions originally proposed in the Terms of Reference (see Annex 2). The next section presents these modified guiding questions.

Overview of the synthesis

Objectives and synthesis questions

The objectives of the synthesis include:

- Mapping existing UN system evaluation evidence on SDG 5 and its targets. Identifying what evaluation evidence has been collected and where evaluation gaps remain across the nine SDG 5 targets.
- Synthesizing evaluation evidence across SDG 5 evaluations. Analyzing barriers, enabling factors and lessons learned related to SDG 5 policies and programming.
- Developing recommendations to advance and accelerate progress towards SDG 5 by 2030.

Accordingly, preliminary synthesis questions to guide the document collection and analysis were formulated in the Terms of Reference. After review of the progress towards SDG 5 and similar synthesis processes for other SDGs, the questions have been expanded as follows:

1. Where is evaluation evidence the strongest and where are the main gaps in evaluation evidence across the nine SDG 5 targets?
 - How do SDG 5 related evaluations relate to or overlap with evaluations of other SDGs?
 - What are the priority areas for future evidence generation to support acceleration of progress towards SDG 5?
2. What interventions and approaches to SDG 5 have worked well and which have not?
 - Can any promising interventions or approaches be identified from the evidence?

3. What are the enabling factors and what has hindered progress towards achieving the SDG 5 targets?
 - In what contexts or under what conditions were interventions more (or less) successful?
 - What are the main barriers that need to be dismantled to advance SDG 5?
 - What other factors account for differences in outcomes? (geography, income, context, etc.)

4. What lessons have been learned regarding different UN activities and approaches to advance SDG 5?
 - How can coordination and coherence across UN entities at different levels be enhanced to support SDG 5?
 - How can partnerships with different stakeholders (civil society, women's and feminist movements, governments, private sector, etc.) be strengthened to advance SDG 5?
 - What lessons have been generated to improve implementation of the leave no one behind principle?

5. What policy and programme recommendations have been made to advance and accelerate progress towards SDG 5 by 2030?

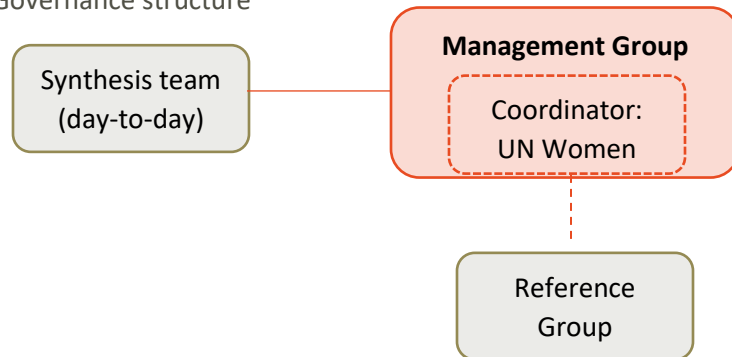
In addition, the participating agencies see the value of reflecting on the synthesis process itself, to provide lessons and identify efficiencies for future evaluation syntheses of other SDGs. Accordingly, the team will remain cognizant of the following questions throughout the exercise, recording the process appropriately to be able to address them:

- Was the scope of the synthesis appropriate? Did the synthesis address the right guiding questions?
- Was the evaluation selection process effective? Was tagging of evaluations within the UNEG evaluation database and other sources effective at capturing the breadth of SDG 5 evaluations?
- How can gender equality be explored in the synthesis of other SDGs given the completion of the SDG 5 synthesis and cross cutting nature of gender equality? Are there efficiencies that can be realized?
- Were the chosen methodologies effective at answering the guiding questions? Were software and other tools used effectively?
- What worked well and what could be improved in the synthesis process?

Management structure

A management structure was developed to conduct the SDG 5 evaluation synthesis effectively, efficiently and to high quality. As depicted in Figure 1, the structure contains three components: a Management Group, Reference Group and Synthesis Team.

Figure 1: Governance structure



Management Group: To manage and coordinate the planning and execution of the synthesis, a Management Group has been established to include representatives of the participating agencies (see Table 2). The Management Group will meet regularly during the synthesis process, share in decision making and approve synthesis deliverables. UN Women acts as the coordinator of the group; however, decisions are taken jointly. A terms of reference document guides the management group (see Annex 3 for the terms of reference and membership); key responsibilities include:

- Hiring consultants to support the evaluation
- Providing guidance to the Synthesis Team undertaking the day-to-day synthesis work
- Providing input into the inception report, including synthesis questions and evaluation selection criteria.
- Convening reference group meetings
- Providing Technical input into the analysis and synthesis of UN system evaluations and quality assurance of the process and methodology.
- Validation and sign-off of the final synthesis report, final presentation, video and other deliverables.
- Supporting communication, dissemination and use of the synthesis
- Providing feedback on what worked well and what could be improved in the synthesis process to support future initiatives

Reference Group: To support the management group and enhance utilization and dissemination of the synthesis, a Reference Group has been formed with key stakeholders and representatives from Management Group agencies, other UN agencies, civil society, think tanks, donors and others as relevant. The Reference Group allows members to contribute technical feedback to the initiative, support sourcing of evaluations and support dissemination of the findings. A Reference Group terms of reference document is available that outlines the roles and responsibilities of Reference Group members in greater detail (see Annex 4); briefly, the Reference Group will be responsible for:

- Reviewing and providing feedback on key documents, including the inception and evaluation mapping report, preliminary results and draft report
- Participating in periodic reference group meetings, including a meeting on the inception report and the preliminary results.

- Contributing evaluations from their agency for the evaluation mapping and selection
- Communicating and dissemination of the synthesis results

Synthesis Team: A team of select agency staff and consultants have been assembled for conducting the day-to-day activities of the synthesis. This team meets weekly and has frequent contact while completing their tasks, including creating frameworks for the document search, coding, analysis, and reports; implementing searches, importing documents into the NVivo database, and assigning attributes; and producing deliverables for review by the Management and Reference Groups. The team will also build the coding structure and assign codes to evaluations before collectively analyzing patterns in the evaluations and synthesizing lessons learned. See Annex 5 for more information about team members.

Workplan and timeline

The evaluation synthesis is being conducted in four phases. The first phase began in April 2022 with the development of an initial concept note, engagement and identification of UN partners to participate in this interagency initiative and consultant recruitment to support the initiative. The phases and key steps are outlined below (deliverables are highlighted in **bold**).

Phase 1: Establish the management structure for the synthesis (completed).

1. Establish a management group to collaboratively conduct the synthesis.
2. Engagement of consultants to support the synthesis.
3. Establish one reference group of internal and external stakeholders to contribute technical insight to the inception and evaluation mapping report and draft reports, identify evaluations, and provide quality assurance during the synthesis process.

Phase 2: Inception, evaluation collection and evaluation mapping. The main deliverable for this phase is the inception and evaluation mapping report.

1. Desk review and evaluation collection. Review existing syntheses and other documentation to help understand gaps and priorities for achieving SDG 5. Identify UN agency evaluation databases, develop inclusion criteria, undertake evaluation collection and screening and enter selected evaluations into NVivo and assign attributes.
2. **Draft inception and evaluation mapping report.** finalize guiding questions, data collection approach, coding framework and inclusion criteria. Conduct descriptive analysis of collected evaluations by attributes to understand the evaluation characteristics by region, evaluation type, SDG 5 target area and agency.
3. Hold a meeting with the Reference Group to share the inception and evaluation mapping report.
4. Finalize the inception and evaluation mapping report based on feedback from the Management Group and Reference Group members.

Phase 3: Analysis and synthesis of selected evaluations. The main deliverable for this phase is the preliminary findings presentation with Reference Group members.

- Conduct thematic coding of evaluation reports following the coding framework.
- Analyze and synthesize extracted data against key guiding questions.
- **Preliminary results presentation:** develop preliminary findings and results for the synthesis questions.

Phase 4: Reporting and dissemination. Key deliverables are the draft synthesis report, final synthesis report, and lessons learned documentation of the synthesis process itself.

1. **Draft report:** develop the draft report and receive feedback from the reference group.
2. **Final report:** incorporate feedback and develop the final report.
3. **Dissemination materials:** develop dissemination materials, including a presentation and short video to support sharing and utilization of the synthesis results.
4. **Methodological note:** identify best practices and lessons learned regarding the synthesis process to guide future SDG syntheses and support the Global SDG Synthesis Coalition.
5. Dissemination following communication and dissemination plan.

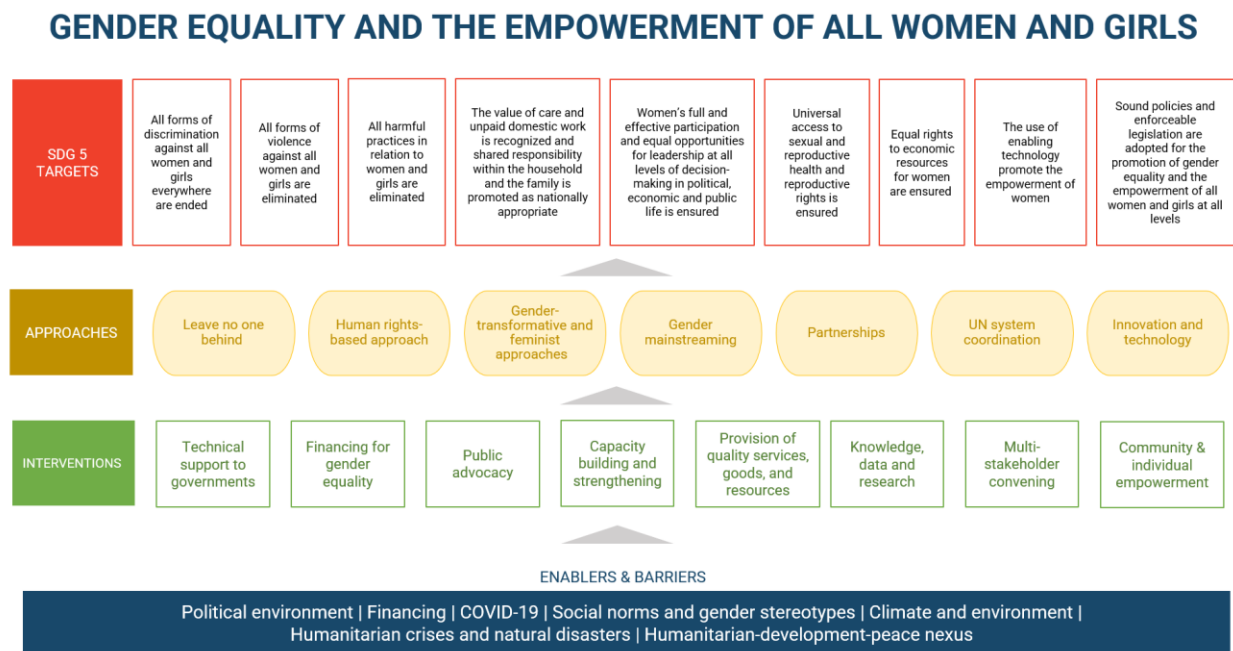
Methodology

Conceptual framework

In support of a cohesive synthesis process, the team created a conceptual framework (Figure 2) to portray the logic of UN contributions to the achievement of SDG 5. This was accomplished through review of the strategic plans and theories of change of the five Management Group agencies and identification of commonalities across spheres of activity and programmatic approaches. The resulting framework has eight categories of activities and seven approaches that contribute to the nine targets of SDG 5. It also names key contextual factors that act as enablers or barriers to the activities and approaches or their effectiveness.

The conceptual framework is designed to support the synthesis analytical framework and will inform the analysis process (see Coding and Analysis Framework, below, for more information). The framework is intended to be adaptable in response to the data and evidence that arises from the synthesis, for example, as new barriers, enablers or approaches are uncovered through the analysis. The resulting framework may therefore provide useful input to subsequent SDG 5 syntheses.

Figure 2: Conceptual framework for the SDG 5 evaluation synthesis



Evaluation mapping methodology

The evaluation mapping phase occurred between December 2022 and March 2023. Overall, 54 UN agency databases were searched, and relevant evaluations were identified from 30 agencies. Evaluations for the synthesis were identified using the following inclusion criteria, search strategy and screening process.

Inclusion criteria

To be included in the synthesis, evaluations must meet the following criteria:

- **Objective:** The evaluation must have a strong SDG 5 focus and evaluate a project, programme, theme or strategy related to an SDG 5 target. This is verified through one of the following:
 - The evaluation’s scope, objective or purpose includes a focus on gender equality/topic related to SDG 5.
 - The programme being evaluated includes gender equality/topic related to an SDG 5 target at the outcome or impact level, and this outcome is evaluated
 - The evaluation focuses on integration or mainstreaming of gender equality at a strategic level or evaluates gender equality/SDG 5 related strategies (corporate, regional or country)
- **Geographic Scope:** evaluations at the global, regional, national, subnational are included.
- **Evaluation Year:** Evaluation reports must be published between 2018 – 2022.
- **Intervention Timeframe:** to ensure evaluations are relevant to the SDG period, more than half of the intervention or strategy being evaluated must be in the SDG period (after 2015) or extend at least two years into SDG period.
- **Evaluation Type:** project/programme evaluations, country portfolio evaluations, regional evaluations, thematic evaluations, strategy/policy evaluations, impact evaluations and other evaluation types are included.
- **Quality:** Scoring in the top two of four categories on a typical UN agency quality assurance rating system, or top three categories for agencies using a six-point scale¹⁴ (See Table 3 below).
- **Implementing Agencies:** the synthesis is limited to those evaluations conducted or commissioned by UN agencies and economic commissions.
- **Language:** evaluation reports written in English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Russian are included in the synthesis.

Table 3: UN agency evaluation quality assurance systems

	UNICEF GEROS	UN Women GERAAS	WFP EQAS	UNDP Evaluation Quality Assessment	UNFPA EQAA
CATEGORY RATINGS	Highly satisfactory	Very good	Highly satisfactory	Highly satisfactory	Very good
	Satisfactory	Good	Satisfactory	Satisfactory Mostly satisfactory	Good
	Fair	Fair	Partially Satisfactory	Mostly unsatisfactory	Fair
	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory Highly unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory

¹⁴ The quality assurance systems used by the Management Group members are **UNICEF:** Global Evaluation Reports Oversight System (GEROS); **UN Women:** Global Evaluation Report Assessment and Analysis System (GERAAS); **WFP:** Evaluation Quality Assurance System (EQAS); **UNDP:** Evaluation Quality; Assessment; **UNFPA:** Evaluation Quality Assurance and Assessment (EQAA)

Search strategy and screening

The primary source of evaluations came from UN agency evaluation databases publicly available through their websites. The UNEG database of evaluation reports was an additional search tool, however, given discrepancies between the number of evaluations available in the UNEG database compared to agency databases, UN agency databases were considered the primary focus for the evaluation search. The synthesis included all UN agency UNEG members in the search; however, not all agencies had relevant evaluations meeting the inclusion criteria (see Table 5: Evaluation Mapping Results by Agency or Annex 6 for a list of the UN agencies where at least one evaluation was identified).

The public databases of UN agencies all have different search and filter capabilities, which made the development of a single search strategy difficult. At the start of an evaluation database search, Synthesis Team members would explore the agency's database, identifying its features and testing different search options. From this, a search approach specific to that database was developed and recorded in our evaluation mapping tool. The general search strategy employed consisted of applying broad search terms and categories/tags, followed by more specific search terms related to specific SDG 5 targets. The following steps were typically followed. First, where available, relevant filters and tags, such as 'SDG 5', 'gender equality' or other thematic tags (e.g. women's empowerment or SRHR) were utilized to narrow the search. These tags were used with caution, as evaluation report tagging was found to be inconsistently applied and did not necessarily capture all relevant evaluations. Second, where text search functions were available, broad search terms, such as 'gender equality,' 'women,' and 'empowerment' were utilized. Finally, depending on results of previous broad text and tag search, specific SDG target related search terms were used. See Annex 7 for a list of search terms that were developed to guide evaluation database searches. Many databases allowed for a date range to be applied to the search or listed evaluations by date. Where possible, evaluations outside of the 2018 – 2022 date range were excluded during this phase of the search. Evaluations not meeting the quality criterion were also excluded at this stage where the information was available.

Figure 3: Artificial Intelligence for Development Analytics (AIDA)

To identify evaluations from UNDP, the Synthesis Team utilized AIDA to conduct the search and facilitate the screening process. Unlike other evaluation database search functions, AIDA searches report text and generates output in the forms of paragraphs (tagged as either a finding, conclusion or recommendation). AIDA results can be exported to excel where the paragraph text results are included alongside other evaluation attributes (such as evaluation title, reference number, country, year completed, tags, quality rating and other factors).

As a first step, the Synthesis Team used the broader search term 'gender equality' to identify potential evaluation reports. Additional search terms specific to each SDG 5 target were used to identify any additional evaluations not identified through the broader search. The paragraph level results were exported to Excel and combined. Text searches of evaluation titles and narrative results (findings, conclusions, recommendations) and other search methods were used to flag evaluations potentially meeting the inclusion criteria. Second, potential evaluations were manually screened in greater depth to determine whether they met the inclusion criteria or not. Those that met the criteria were brought into the NVivo project.

By searching through evaluation report text, AIDA's output provides a powerful method for identifying UNDP evaluations related to specific SDG targets.

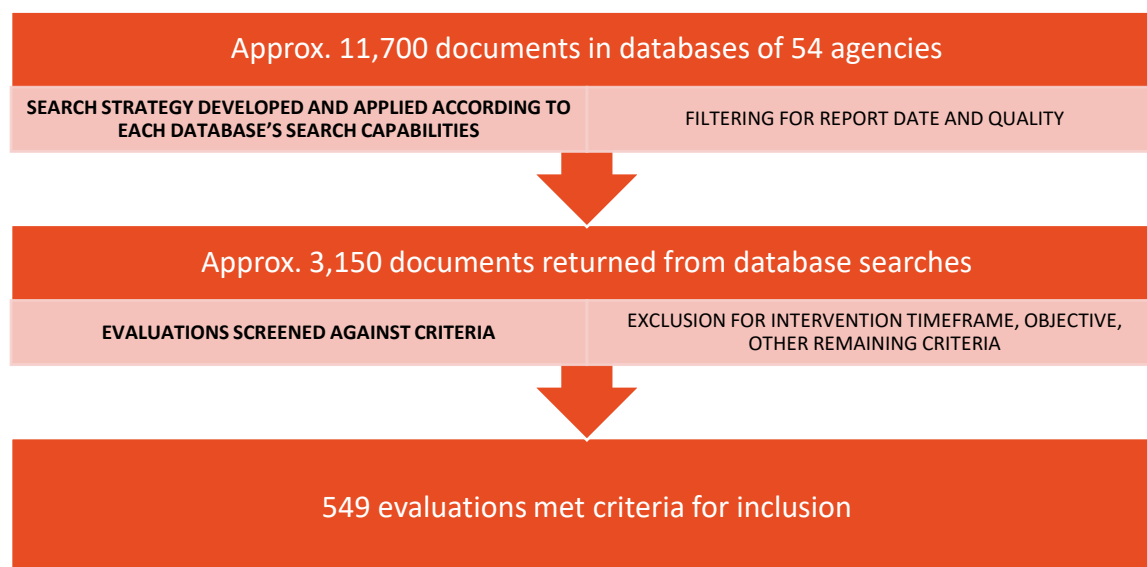
Evaluations identified through the above search strategy were then reviewed against the inclusion criteria. The screening processes generally followed the following steps. First, if not already excluded through the database search functionality, evaluations outside the report date range and below the quality criterion were excluded. Then, evaluation titles and/or abstracts were reviewed for a clear programmatic connection to an SDG 5 target or strategic focus on gender equality and SDG 5. Finally, the evaluation scope and project objectives were reviewed to identify whether the objective, intervention timeframe and other criteria were met.

The steps each strategy required to complete the screening varied enough that it is difficult to meaningfully sum the numbers included and excluded stepwise. However, Figure 4: Search process and result shows the approximate number of documents in the databases searched, how many were returned in search processes and how many met all the inclusion criteria.

Initially, the Synthesis Team also included evaluations with a strong gender equality focus¹⁵ but where the programmatic focus of the evaluation was not clearly linked to an SDG 5 target. Due to the volume of evaluations identified, the decision was made to keep the focus on the evaluations with clear relevance to SDG 5 targets. Therefore, evaluations of programmes primarily related to other SDGs, such as girls' education, WASH, the environment, food security, etc., might be excluded from the synthesis without components linked to SDG 5 targets.

¹⁵ I.e., the evaluation's scope included a focus on gender equality or the programme being evaluated included gender equality at the outcome or impact level.

Figure 4: Search process and result



Validation by UNEG members

Following the dissemination of the inception report, the list of identified evaluations will be shared with UNEG members. UNEG members will have the opportunity to identify any further evaluation reports that meet the criteria that were not identified through the evaluation mapping process. Any evaluations identified by agencies will be reviewed against the inclusion criteria by the Synthesis Team to make the final eligibility determination. Those reports meeting the criteria will be added to the NVivo project in preparation for the analysis phase.

Quality assurance

The evaluation quality inclusion criterion was used when identified evaluations had a quality rating assigned and those ratings were available to the Synthesis Team. However, if a quality rating was not available, the evaluation was still brought into the project (assuming it met all other inclusion criteria) to avoid excluding eligible evaluations that would meet quality criteria if applied or where quality assurance was conducted but not made available. Among the 549 evaluations that met all other criteria (see Evaluation Mapping, below), 373 evaluations had quality ratings assigned while 176 were either not rated or the rating was not available in the evaluation database.

For the evaluations without available quality ratings, the Synthesis Team will first reach out to the relevant evaluation offices where realistic to confirm whether quality assurance was performed and what the ratings for identified evaluations are. If ratings are still unavailable, prior to analysis, the Synthesis Team will use UN Women's Global Evaluation Report Assessment and Analysis System (GERAAS) to assess reports that do not appear to meet quality criteria. Reports that score fair or unsatisfactory will be excluded from analysis at that point and removed from the project.

NVivo project and evaluation attributes

Evaluations identified through the above search process were uploaded to the synthesis NVivo project as files. A file classification, 'UN system evaluation,' was created to allow the Synthesis Team to assign each evaluation attribute. These attributes were used for the evaluation mapping analysis and will be used to run queries in NVivo during the coding and analysis phase.

Table 4: Attributes assigned to evaluation documents

Attribute name	Description
Evaluation Title	Title of the evaluation report or name of project being evaluated.
Agency	Name of the UN agency conducting the evaluation. Space for up to three agencies for joint programmes.
Evaluation Type	One of the following categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project/programme/thematic evaluation• Country portfolio evaluation• Institutional effectiveness/strategy evaluation
Impact Evaluation	A yes or no marker to identify any impact evaluations. These are evaluations that used experimental or quasi experimental methodologies (with a counterfactual).
Geographic Scope	Country; Multi-country; Regional; Global/Headquarters.
Year Completed	Evaluation report publication date is between 2018 – 2022.
Country	Name of country where evaluation conducted, for country level evaluations.
Region	Name of region where evaluation conducted: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Americas and Caribbean• Asia and the Pacific• Arab States• Europe and Central Asia• East and Southern Africa• West and Central Africa• Multi-region• Global/Headquarters
SDG 5 Target	SDG 5 target the project corresponds to. Space for up to three relevant targets to be listed.
Related SDG	Other SDGs the project relates to, if applicable. Space for up to two other related SDGs.
Quality Assurance Rating	Quality assurance rating or whether the evaluation is unrated.
Language	Language of the evaluation report.

Evaluation mapping results

Following the search strategy and screening process described in previous sections of this report, a total of 549 evaluation reports met the inclusion criteria. The following section presents the results of the screening process and maps the collected evaluative reports by UN entity, geographic area, region, scope, and type of evaluation, among other attributes. Overall, 30 United Nations entities were found to have at least one evaluation report that met all the inclusion criteria. Yet, the majority of the included evaluations are from UN Women (31 per cent), UNICEF (19 per cent), UNFPA (14 per cent), and UNDP (12 per cent).

Table 5: Evaluation Mapping Results by Agency

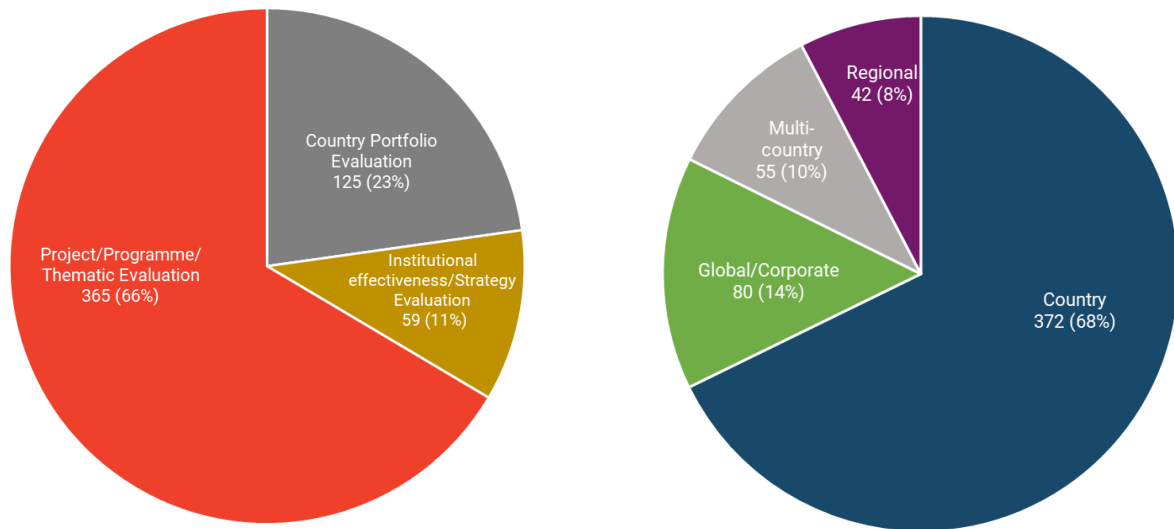
Agency	Total	Agency	Total
UN Women	170 (31%)	WHO	4 (1%)
UNICEF	103 (19%)	UNRWA	4 (1%)
UNFPA	79 (14%)	OIOS	3 (1%)
UNDP	67 (12%)	UNECE	3 (1%)
UNODC	23 (4%)	UNESCO	3 (1%)
IOM	15 (3%)	ECLAC	2 (0%)
OHCHR	13 (2%)	UNCTAD	2 (0%)
WFP	13 (2%)	ESCAP	1 (0%)
UN Habitat	8 (1%)	GCF	1 (0%)
FAO	7 (1%)	IFAD	1 (0%)
OCHA	6 (1%)	ITC	1 (0%)
ILO	4 (1%)	UNCDF	1 (0%)
UN AIDS	4 (1%)	UN-DPI	1 (0%)
UNEP	4 (1%)	UNIDO	1 (0%)
UNHCR	4 (1%)	UNV	1 (0%)
Grand Total			549

Evaluation type and geographical distribution

Most evaluations are programme or thematic evaluations (66 per cent), while 23 per cent are country portfolio evaluations, and the remaining 11 per cent are institutional effectiveness or strategy evaluations. Only 6 of these are impact evaluations—evaluations using a comparison group, with a focus on impact.

Given that most of the collected reports are programme evaluations, it is unsurprising that 372 (68 per cent) of the reports have a country focus. Eighty evaluations (14 per cent) have a global focus, 55 (10 per cent) have a multi-country focus (most common in case study evaluations), and 42 (8 per cent) have a regional focus (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Evaluation mapping by type of evaluation and geographical scope



All geographic regions are represented in the collected reports (Figure 6). The region most represented is Asia and the Pacific with 91 evaluation reports, followed by the Americas and the Caribbean with 87 evaluation reports. The least represented region refers to the Arab States, with 48 evaluation reports that met all inclusion criteria. Figure 7: Number of identified evaluation reports by shows the geographic spread and concentration of identified country level evaluations.

Figure 6: Evaluation mapping by region

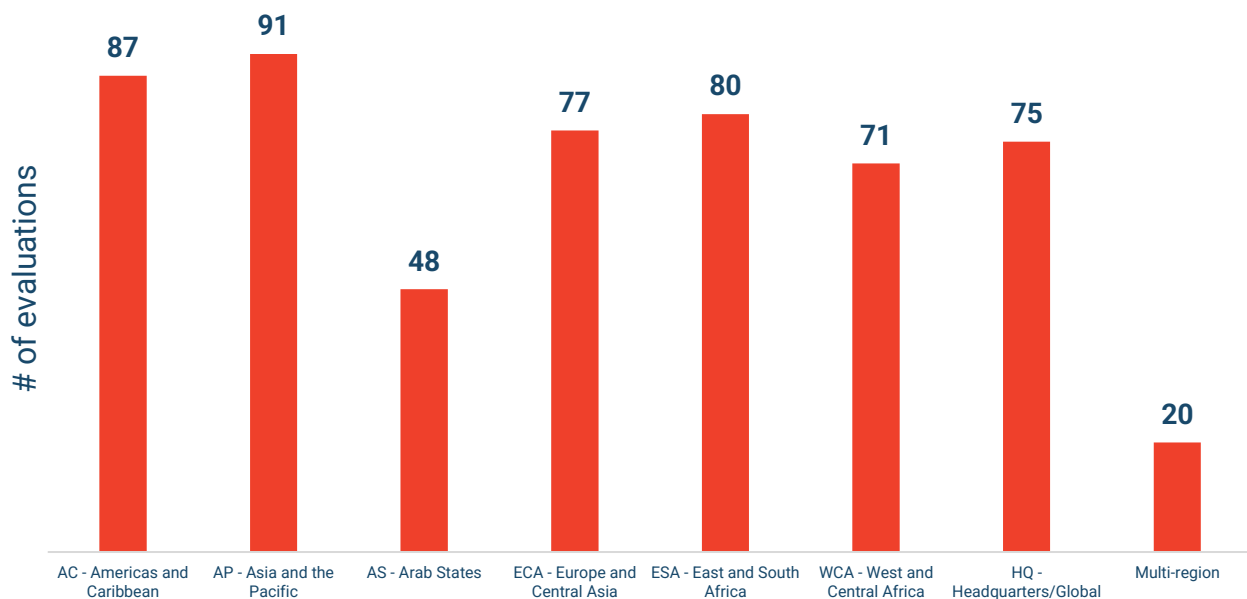


Table 6: Evaluation mapping by year completed

Year Completed	Number (%) of Evaluations
2018	76 (14%)
2019	100 (18%)
2020	103 (19%)
2021	145 (26%)
2022	125 (23%)

Table 7: Evaluation mapping by language

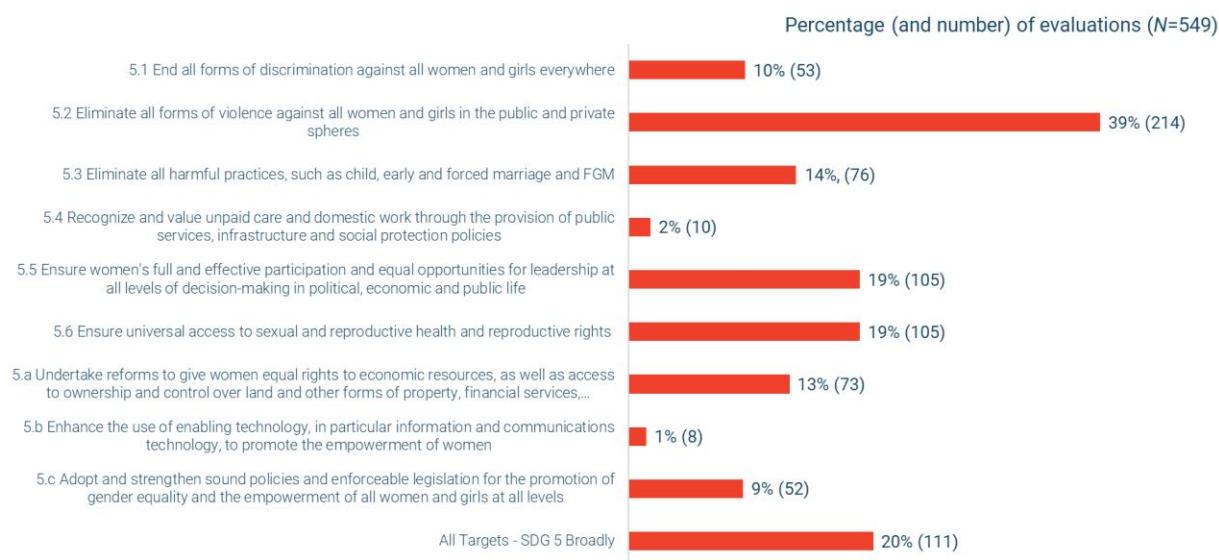
Language	Number (%) of Evaluations
English	462 (84%)
Spanish	44 (8%)
French	41 (7%)
Russian	1 (0%)

Tables 6 and 7 show the distribution of included evaluations by year of publication and language.

Evaluations by SDG 5 target

All the collected evaluations have a strong SDG 5 focus and evaluate a project, programme, theme or strategy related to an SDG 5 target (Figure 8). The evaluation team tagged each collected report with up to three SDG 5 targets. The results of the evaluation mapping show that 39 per cent of the evaluations (214 evaluations) refer to interventions related to SDG target 5.2: eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres. Nineteen per cent of the evaluations (105 evaluations) relate to target 5.5: ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life. The same percentage of evaluations (19 per cent, equivalent to 105 evaluations) relate to target 5.6: ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

Figure 8: Evaluation mapping by SDG 5 target



Fewer than five per cent of the evaluations relate to targets 5.4 (recognize the value of unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure, and social protection policies) or 5.b (enhancing the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women).

Disaggregating the collected evaluations by SDG target and UN agency (Figure 9) reveals that most UN Women evaluations relate to SDG targets 5.5 (54 evaluations), 5.2 (42 evaluations), 5.a (36 evaluations), and 5.1 (21 evaluations), a finding consistent with UN Women’s mandate focused on ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls and ensuring women’s equal opportunities in life. UNFPA evaluations, on the other hand, relate to SDG target 5.6 (73 evaluations), target 5.2 (68 evaluations) and target 5.3 (43 evaluations). These findings are consistent with UNFPA’s mandate of ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive rights, eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls, and eliminating all harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation. Similarly, the collected FAO reports relate to SDG target 5.a: Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources.

Figure 9: Evaluation mapping results by agency and target

	5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere	5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation	5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation	5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate	5.5 Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life	5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome doc	5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws	5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communication s technology, to promote the empowerment of women	5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels	All targets-SDG 5 Broady
UN Women	21	42	5	3	54	4	36	3	19	50
UNFPA	0	68	43	0	0	73	0	0	3	0
UNDP	9	16	1	1	21	3	14	4	18	9
UNODC	1	20	1	0	2	0	3	0	0	2
UNICEF	9	41	25	3	8	17	1	0	3	21
OHCHR	3	9	1	0	3	1	0	0	1	0
IOM	0	6	0	0	5	0	0	0	6	3
UN-Habitat	5	0	0	0	3	0	6	0	0	0
WFP	1	1	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	6
FAO	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0

The targets also varied geographically, where target 5.1 (ending all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere) was more relevant in Asia and the Pacific and Europe and Central Asia, while target 5.3 (eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early, and forced marriage and female genital mutilation) was more relevant in Africa (East, South, West, and Central Africa). Target 5.2 (eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation) was consistently the most reported target across all regions.

Figure 10: Evaluation mapping results by region and target

	5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere	5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation	5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation	5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate	5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life	5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome doc	5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws	5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women	5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels
AC - Americas and Caribbean	5	46	6	4	16	16	10	0	5
AP - Asia and the Pacific	13	33	12	1	16	20	10	3	13
AS - Arab States	6	25	5	1	13	13	9	0	4
ECA - Europe and Central Asia	12	29	6	2	20	17	10	1	15
ESA - East and South Africa	6	28	18	1	14	17	12	0	6
WCA - West and Central Africa	1	29	20	1	18	13	11	0	2
HQ - Headquarters	8	19	5	0	6	6	7	2	4
Multi-region	2	5	4	0	2	3	4	2	3

Analysis, limitations and dissemination

Sampling methodology

The evaluation mapping process yielded 549 evaluations meeting the inclusion criteria. This total emerged after adjustments to the inclusion criteria that involved moving the year of evaluation publication from 2015 to 2018 and excluding evaluations that address gender equality or women and girls' empowerment but do not address an SDG 5 Target (such as girls' education programmes).

As stated by the Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care group, "the inclusion of a large number of primary studies with a high volume of data in a qualitative synthesis can threaten the quality of the synthesis" by making it difficult to undertake the level of detailed analysis often required in a qualitative synthesis.¹⁶ As a result, and in order to complete the synthesis within the given timeframe (see Table 3), the synthesis will employ a sampling methodology to sample from the evaluation reports identified during the mapping process (i.e. the sample frame).

A target sample size of 300 has been selected based on feasibility, timeframe and desire to reflect insights from as many evaluations as possible without posing a risk to the analysis. This sample will apply to the thematic coding, discussed below. For quantitative descriptive analysis using evaluation attributes (see Table 4), the full sample frame will be used.

Evaluations will be sampled across two strata: geographic region and evaluation type. Stratifying by regions is designed to ensure geographic representation and include a variety of programmatic contexts. Stratifying by evaluation types is designed to ensure representation of different evidence sources which each provide unique evidence towards the synthesis questions. Sampling across SDG 5 targets proved

¹⁶ Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care (EPOC), 2017, p. 1.

challenging given that a single evaluation may relate to more than one target (the evaluation mapping process assigned up to three targets per evaluation).

There are two exceptions to the sampling methodology. First, evaluations conducted at the global level (n = 75) will be included in the sample in their entirety. Generally, evaluations conducted at the global level focus on multiple region and country contexts, may explore a programmatic theme in great depth and may provide more information on broader approaches such as coordination and partnerships. To preserve this richness in content, the 75 global level evaluations in the evaluation universe will be maintained in the sample. The remaining 225 evaluations will be proportionately and randomly selected from the sample frame across geographic regions and evaluation types. Second, to ensure representation across agencies, each agency from which an evaluation has been identified will have at least one evaluation report brought into the sample. To accomplish this, following the random selection of evaluations, if an agency is not represented, one evaluation will be randomly chosen and replace a randomly chosen evaluation within the same region and evaluation type. If undertaken, all of these steps will be documented and reported. The sampling methodology is presented in Table 8 below.

The sampling methodology is designed to be as representative of the identified evaluations as possible. With the large sample size of 300 and randomization within the strata, the methodology is designed to maintain representation across agencies, regions, and evaluation types.

The team also recognizes the need to maintain flexibility and may revisit the sampling process during the synthesis. The Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care group note the importance of revisiting the sampling methodology during the synthesis if the volume of reports and data exceed an appropriate level.¹⁷

Table 8: Sampling methodology

Region and Evaluation Type	Sample Frame	Target Sample Size
Headquarters/Global	75	75
Institutional effectiveness/strategy Evaluation	39	39
Project/Programme/Thematic Evaluation	36	36
Americas and Caribbean	87	41
Country Portfolio Evaluation	27	13
Institutional effectiveness/strategy Evaluation	5	2
Project/Programme/Thematic Evaluation	55	26
Asia and the Pacific	91	43
Country Portfolio Evaluation	25	12
Institutional effectiveness/strategy Evaluation	5	2
Project/Programme/Thematic Evaluation	61	29
Arab States	48	23
Country Portfolio Evaluation	10	5
Institutional effectiveness/strategy Evaluation	1	1
Project/Programme/Thematic Evaluation	37	17
Europe and Central Asia	77	36
Country Portfolio Evaluation	22	10

¹⁷ Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care (EPOC), 2017, p. 1.

Institutional effectiveness/strategy Evaluation	3	1
Project/Programme/Thematic Evaluation	52	25
East and South Africa	80	38
Country Portfolio Evaluation	27	13
Institutional effectiveness/strategy Evaluation	5	2
Project/Programme/Thematic Evaluation	48	23
West and Central Africa	71	34
Country Portfolio Evaluation	14	7
Institutional effectiveness/strategy Evaluation	1	1
Project/Programme/Thematic Evaluation	56	26
Multi-region	20	10
Project/Programme/Thematic Evaluation	20	10
Grand Total	549	300

Coding and analysis methodology

Thematic coding

The analysis will be both deductive and inductive, beginning with a framework of codes addressing the synthesis questions but applying emergent coding for patterns of data that are responsive to the questions but were not foreseen. The team has discussed styles of coding and arrived at shared norms that favor simultaneous coding (overlapping topic and sentiment codes). This method will enable the identification of patterns and tendencies in the data. Due to the volume of evaluations included in the synthesis, the team will attempt to complete coding in a single pass. However, iterative analysis and re-coding will take place as needed for meaningful interpretation and to capture nuances.

Note that the frameworks used in similar evaluation syntheses of other SDGs, the SDG Output Indicator Framework, and external typologies of interventions were reviewed in the development of the following coding and analysis framework. Ultimately, the strategic plans of major UN agencies served as the best sources of activity categories—what interventions or programmes are implemented—and approaches—how activities are implemented with reference to guiding principles of action and accelerators of progress. See the conceptual framework of the synthesis in Figure 2 above for the categories of activities and approaches, which become two groups of codes within the starting code structure. The enablers and barriers identified there are another group of codes. A final set of codes relates to evaluation findings, results, promising practices, lessons, and recommendations. Below, 9 lists which of these sets, along with attributes assigned to each evaluation, will enable the analysis under each synthesis question. The coding phase will begin with the five Synthesis Team members piloting the coding framework.

Cluster analysis

Cluster analysis will be used to paint a picture of the relationships within the universe of evaluations. For example, patterns of overlap between SDG 5 targets and other SDGs or between agencies and regions can be explored and depicted graphically.

Attributes assigned to files will be employed in the analysis, and therefore it is not necessary to duplicate them in the coding hierarchy. However, if instances arise in which an attribute would better serve the

analysis by being captured as a code within the NVivo infrastructure, the team will adjust the process as necessary.

Evidence gap mapping

An evidence gap map and analysis will be created to summarize the distribution of available evaluation evidence relevant to SDG 5. This analysis will include but go beyond the description of evaluations by region, target, type, and other attributes. It will highlight areas that need more evaluative attention in terms of types of activities, efficacy of interventions, variations in outcomes by region or setting, approaches such as gender transformative programming, the application of the LNOB principle, UN coordination mechanisms, and other factors, in light of progress to date on SDG 5 targets. The evidence gap map is in addition to an assessment of the quality of available evidence, which will take place through the broader analysis.

Table 9: Framework of coding and analysis

Synthesis question	Codes and attribute sets
Where is evaluation evidence the strongest and where are the main gaps in evaluation evidence across the nine SDG targets?	SDG 5 target Quality assurance rating Impact evaluation Findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do SDG 5 evaluations relate to/overlap with evaluations of other SDGs? 	SDG 5 target Related SDG
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the priority areas for future evidence generation to support acceleration of progress? 	Findings
What interventions and approaches to SDG 5 have worked well and which have not?	Interventions Approaches Findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can promising interventions or approaches be identified from the evidence? 	Findings Interventions Approaches
What are the enabling factors and what has hindered progress towards achieving the SDG 5 targets?	Enablers & barriers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In what contexts or under what conditions were interventions more (or less) successful? 	Enablers & barriers Findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What other factors account for differences in outcomes? (geography, income, context, etc.) 	Findings Country Region Enablers & barriers
What lessons have been learned regarding different UN activities and approaches to advance SDG 5?	Findings Approaches Agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can coordination and coherence across UN entities at different levels be enhanced to support SDG 5? 	Approaches Enablers & barriers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can partnerships with different stakeholders (civil society, women's and feminist movements, governments, private sector, etc.) be strengthened to advance SDG 5? 	Findings Approaches

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What lessons have been generated to improve implementation of the leave no one behind principle? 	Approaches Findings
What policy and programme recommendations have been made to advance and accelerate progress towards SDG 5 by 2030?	Findings

Supplementary qualitative interviews

There are some areas with a very low number of evaluations (such as SDG 5.4 and 5.b). In these cases, the Synthesis Team will supplement the data with qualitative interviews with select experts and seek their input on evaluation findings and noted gaps. Experts will be identified with the help of Reference Group members.

Quality assurance

Several steps have been taken and will be integrated into the synthesis process to assure the quality of the data collection and data analysis. These include:

- A workshop with team members on inclusion and exclusion criteria, to review difficult examples and arrive at a shared understanding of concepts such as ‘gender mainstreaming’. This workshop resulted in refined criteria and clearer definitions.
- Collective establishment of team norms for coding and expectations for evaluation content to be coded, simultaneous coding, topical versus descriptive codes, etc., and joint development of the starting coding structure. The resulting codebook will establish definitions and parameters of use for each code.
- Piloting coding in a small batch of evaluations and convening the team for peer review of the use of codes and the appropriateness of and gaps in the starting coding structure.
- Workshopping emergent codes at weekly team meetings to clarify new applications and maintain a cohesive coding structure.
- Data review workshop part way through the coding process, to assess the number of times codes are being applied and expand or collapse codes as needed, and to design ways to address newly emerging questions about the dataset.
- NVivo has a function to examine intercoder reliability—Because only a small percentage of text in each evaluation is likely to receive a code,¹⁸ this function will only be meaningful for our purposes after a large number of evaluations have been coded. Nonetheless, the function will be explored as a potential tool to evaluate consistency across the team.
- Management Group oversight and input throughout the synthesis.
- Reference Group technical reviews of deliverables and preliminary findings.

Synthesis limitations

Although the synthesis will generate important knowledge for the second half of the SDG period, there are certain limitations to the comprehensiveness and validity of the results. First, as demonstrated by the current data availability against SDG 5 targets (see Table 1) and the evaluation mapping results, there are areas with limited data and evaluation evidence. Evidence for these targets will be included in the

¹⁸ Although the full texts will be reviewed, the coders will only assign codes to text that responds to the synthesis questions.

synthesis, but the ability to draw firm conclusions or recommendations will be limited. Additionally, more recent innovations, interventions and influencing factors (such as Covid-19) may not be fully explored in evaluations within our time period. Second, the scope of the synthesis does not encompass evaluations outside of the UN system, such as those conducted by governments, academia, think tanks or civil society. Consequently, the results may not reflect the evidence or perspectives from non-UN actors or be able to draw on these sources to potentially fill evidence gaps within the UN system. The voices of beneficiaries and partners, including grassroots organizations, will be captured to the extent that they are captured within identified evaluations. Additionally, as described above, qualitative interviews will be conducted to contextualize findings in areas with a noted evidence gap. Third, it is possible that not all relevant evaluations from the UN system have been discovered through the search methodology. The team is therefore providing UNEG members with lists of evaluations to request them to submit any that have been missed.

Fourth, the quality of the synthesis is dependent on the quality of the evaluations in the analysis. Evaluations from agencies with public quality assurance ratings have been limited as described in the inclusion criteria; to address those without quality assurance ratings, the team will contact the agency to learn if there are nonpublic assurance processes, and if not, will review them for quality before coding begins. Fifth, there were few impact evaluations with scientific designs including counterfactuals discovered, limiting the rigor of evidence available to draw conclusions about effective interventions. Finally, while necessary to manage the scope of the synthesis, the use of a sampling methodology limits the comprehensiveness of the synthesis as not all relevant pieces of evidence will be reviewed. This will be mitigated through a representative sampling methodology, but there is a risk that a potentially salient report will not be sampled.

Dissemination

The primary users of this synthesis are the UN agencies involved in supporting SDG 5, notably UN Women, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP and WFP. Secondary users include ECOSOC regional economic commissions, civil society organizations, donors, national governments, and members of the broader Partnership Platform that support the implementation of SDG 5 and the other SDGs.

The final suite of synthesis products will be geared towards various audiences as appropriate and include executive summaries and plain language summaries in common languages.

The synthesis will maintain a living dissemination plan, which will be adapted in accordance with the findings of the synthesis and as new opportunities for sharing arise. The plan will contain relevant opportunities, key timelines, budget implications and other relevant information. Dissemination opportunities will be discussed during Management Group meetings and through engagement with the Reference Group.

At present, the following platforms are being explored for dissemination:

- Input into the SDG synthesis of the People Pillar, Global SDG Synthesis Coalition
- Webinars scheduled at various hours to enable participation of colleagues around the world
- Internal news/information sharing channels of Reference and Management Group Members
- Lessons learned and results shared through the UNEG Synthesis Working Group and the Gender, Disability and Human Rights Working Group

- Short video highlighting key results, to share on agency websites, social media and other platforms
- Executive Board presentation
- Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE)
- Side event at CSW68, March 2024
- Posting to newsletters of major donors, government bodies, bilaterals, and research networks, such as the Interagency Gender Working Group of USAID and the Gender and COVID-19 Working Group
- Conference events, such as:
 - What Works Global Summit 2023 conference, October 18-20, 2023, in Ottawa, Canada – this initiative was included as part of the UNEG Synthesis Working Group proposal and awaiting response regarding acceptance
 - Regional evaluation association conferences
 - Women Deliver 2024

Depending on the relevance of specific conclusions of the synthesis, other coalitions and working groups of UN agencies and outside partners may also be interested, such as:

- IASC Gender Reference Group
- Gender-Based Violence AoR
- Girls Not Brides
- Spotlight Initiative
- Global Media Campaign
- MenEngage Alliance
- Orchid Project
- White Ribbon Alliance

Annexes

Annex 1: SDG 5 targets and indicators

Targets	Indicators
5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere	5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex
5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation	5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age
	5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence
5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation	5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18
	5.3.2 Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age
5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate	5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location
5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life	5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments
	5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions
5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences	5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care
	5.6.2 Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee women aged 15-49 years access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education

<p>5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws</p>	<p>5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure</p>
<p>5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women</p>	<p>5.a.2 Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control</p>
<p>5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels</p>	<p>5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex</p>
	<p>5.c.1 Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment</p>

Terms of Reference
Synthesis of UN system evaluations of SDG 5
September 2022

Context

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted in 2015. Goal 5 of this framework is to “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” and includes nine targets with fourteen indicators to meet this goal (See Annex 7). While progress has been made on some of these targets, notable gaps and barriers remain. The impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic have adversely affected progress towards SDG 5. Women have experienced a disproportionate share of job losses and increased burden of care work. Violence against women and girls has increased and recent gains in reducing child marriage could be undone as families cope with the challenges of the pandemic. Although on a slow upward trend, women’s representation in government remains far from parity. Women also account for a smaller proportion of managerial positions compared to their participation in the global workforce and the pandemic’s impact on women’s economic empowerment could reverse some of the recent progress in the percentage of managerial positions held by women.¹⁹ There is opportunity, however, to leverage the response to the pandemic “to reshape and rebuild systems, laws, policies and institution in order to advance gender equality.”²⁰

At the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda and in the midst of the pandemic recovery, there is an opportunity for an inter-agency effort to take stock of learnings regarding SDG 5 through a synthesis of UN system evaluations related to SDG 5. Across many UN agencies, there have been numerous evaluations related to SDG 5 since the start of the 2030 Agenda; however, there has not yet been a synthesis to compile, triangulate and bring together the evidence and lessons from these evaluations.

This exercise will be led by a Management Group with representatives from the evaluation offices of UN Women (coordinator), UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP. It will be conducted in collaboration with the 5P²¹ synthesis being initiated by the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) and the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Alongside the 5P synthesis, the synthesis of evidence on SDG 5 is an opportunity for UN agencies who implement SDG 5 programming to engage in an inter-agency process to enhance coherence, lesson learning and accountability on SDG 5 work in a coordinated, coherent and holistic manner.

Purpose and objective

The purpose of this exercise is to synthesize evaluation evidence and lessons on SDG 5 to support learning and decision making for future programming related to SDG 5 and contribute to the wider body of knowledge on progress towards SDG 5. By bringing together the evidence, lessons, and gaps from our

¹⁹ UNSTATs. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. [SDG Indicators \(un.org\)](#)

²⁰ [E/2021/58 - E - E/2021/58 -Desktop \(undocs.org\)](#) 10

²¹ The 17 SDGs are organized under five pillars: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership.

collective evaluations, the synthesis will provide UN agencies and their partners with a holistic view of barriers and enabling factors towards achieving SDG 5 and what works or does not work in interventions for gender equality and women's empowerment. Based on the analysis, the synthesis will also provide recommendations for advancing progress towards SDG 5 by 2030. The opportunity to learn from the work of other agencies will help strengthen the design and coherence of gender equality programmes and gender mainstreaming throughout the UN's work towards SDG 5.

More specifically, the objectives of the synthesis include:

1. Mapping existing UN system evaluation evidence on SDG 5 and its targets. Identifying what evaluation evidence has been collected and where evaluation gaps remain across the nine SDG 5 targets.
2. Synthesizing evaluation evidence across SDG 5 evaluations. Synthesizing barriers, enabling factors and lessons learned related to SDG 5 policies and programming.
3. Developing recommendations to advance and accelerate progress towards SDG 5 by 2030.

The primary users of this synthesis are the UN agencies involved in supporting SDG 5, notably UN Women, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP. Secondary users include ECOSOC members, international financial institutions (such as the World Bank and other regional development banks), civil society organizations, donors, national governments, and members of the broader Partnership Platform that support the implementation of SDG 5.

Scope

The synthesis will include evaluations conducted since 2015 by UN agencies. Evaluations from all regions will be included. Evaluations can be global, regional, national, or sub-national in focus. There are approximately 680 evaluations by 26 different agencies in the United Nations Evaluation Group's evaluation report database completed since January 2015 that are tagged with SDG 5.^{22,23} Evaluations will also be drawn from participating UN agency evaluation banks, submissions from reference group members and other potential sources identified during the inception phase.

Quality and content criteria will be established to determine the final sample of evaluations to be included in the synthesis. The sample of evaluations is expected to contain the following types of UN system evaluations:

1. Evaluations of programmes in which gender equality is the primary focus (impact level focus on gender equality)
2. Evaluations of programmes with strong gender equality/gender transformative goals (outcome level focus on gender equality or strong gender equality component at output level)
3. Corporate level evaluations of internal agency capacity for mainstreaming gender equality in the agency's work

²² United Nations Evaluation Group. *UNEG Database of Evaluation Reports*. [Evaluation Reports \(uneval.org\)](https://uneval.org)

²³ Date of search: March 2, 2022. Suspected duplicates removed. The total number evaluation reports in the UNEG database is 22,296.

Guiding questions

As part of the inception period, guiding synthesis questions will be developed, however, some preliminary questions include:

6. Where is evaluation evidence the strongest and where are the main gaps in evaluation evidence across the nine SDG targets? How do SDG 5 related evaluations relate to or overlap with evaluations of other SDGs?
7. What are the enabling factors and what has hindered progress towards achieving the SDG 5 targets?
8. What has worked well and what has not – and in what contexts – in interventions for gender equality and women’s empowerment?
9. What lessons have been learned from SDG 5 related evaluations? For example, what lessons have been learned regarding coordination and coherence across UN entities at different levels? What lessons have been learned regarding partnerships with different actors (civil society, women’s and feminist movements, governments, private sector, etc.) to advance GEWE?
10. What policy and programme recommendations have been made advance and accelerate progress towards SDG 5 by 2030?

The SDG 5 evaluation synthesis will be used to inform future syntheses under UNEG and UNDP’s 5P initiative. Consequently, the Synthesis Team will also provide feedback and address questions related to the synthesis process itself. For example:

- Was the scope of the synthesis appropriate? Did the synthesis address the right guiding questions?
- Was the evaluation selection process effective? Was tagging of evaluations within the UNEG evaluation database and other sources effective at capturing the breadth of SDG 5 evaluations?
- How can gender equality be explored in the synthesis of other SDGs given the completion of the SDG 5 synthesis and cross cutting nature of gender equality? Are there efficiencies that can be realized?
- Were the chosen methodologies effective at answering the guiding questions? Were software and other tools used effective?
- What worked well and what could be improved in the synthesis process?

Methodology and phases

The synthesis of SDG 5 evaluations will utilize qualitative methodologies to allow for an in-depth analysis of evidence and lessons captured in UN system evaluation reports. The synthesis will be conducted over the following phases and steps (specific deliverables in **bold**):

Phase 1: Establish the management structure for the synthesis (see management section below).

- Establish a management group to collaboratively conduct the synthesis.
- Engagement of consultants to support the synthesis.

- Establish one reference group of internal and external stakeholders to contribute technical insight to the inception and draft reports, identify evaluations, and provide quality assurance during the synthesis process.

Phase 2: Inception, evaluation collection and evaluation mapping. Key deliverables for this phase are the inception report including the evaluation mapping report.

- Desk review of existing syntheses and other documentation to help understand gaps and priorities for achieving SDG 5.
- Stakeholder engagement through inception interviews to fully scope and validate the priority areas/areas of focus for the synthesis.
- ***Inception Report:*** Finalize guiding questions, data collection approach, tools, coding framework and inclusion criteria to select evaluations for synthesis.
- Search for evaluations - identify evaluation sources and collect UN system evaluations for synthesis.
- Evaluation selection - screening and application of the selection criteria, assess evaluations for quality and bias.
- ***Evaluation mapping:*** descriptive analysis of collected evaluations to understand the evaluation characteristics by region, sector, SDG 5 target (see Annex 7),²⁴ evaluation quality/rating, and other factors.

Phase 3: Analysis and synthesis of selected evaluations. Key deliverables for this phase are preliminary lessons and findings presentation with reference group members.

- Data extraction against key guiding questions/coding framework. Utilize appropriate qualitative analysis or systematic review/literature review software (e.g. NVivo).
- Systematically review and synthesis extracted data against key guiding questions using qualitative syntheses approaches. Qualitative synthesis will help identify key drivers of progress and factors that have hindered achievement of SDG 5.
- ***Preliminary results presentation:*** develop preliminary lessons, findings, results and policy recommendations across each synthesis guiding question/SDG 5 target.

Phase 4: Reporting and dissemination. Key deliverables are the draft synthesis report, final synthesis report, and lessons learned documentation of the synthesis process itself.

- ***Draft report:*** develop the draft report and receive feedback from the reference group.
- ***Final report:*** incorporate feedback and develop the final report.
- ***Dissemination materials:*** develop dissemination materials, including a presentation and short video to support sharing and utilization of the synthesis results.
- ***Methodological note:*** identify best practices and lessons learned regarding the synthesis process to guide future UNEG SDG syntheses as part of the 5P initiative.
- Dissemination following communication and dissemination plan.

²⁴ During the inception phase, the synthesis may narrow its focus to a select number of SDG 5 targets where there is sufficient evaluation evidence.

Management Structure

Management Group: The evaluation synthesis will be jointly undertaken by several UN agencies, including UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP and UNICEF. To manage and coordinate the planning and execution of the synthesis, a Management Group will be established which includes representatives of the participating agencies. The Management Group will meet regularly during the synthesis process, share in decision making and provide sign off on synthesis deliverables. To facilitate the Management Group, UN Women will act as the coordinator of the group, however, decisions will be taken jointly. A terms of reference will guide the management group, however key responsibilities will include:

- Hiring one to two consultants to support the evaluation (facilitated by UN Women).
- Preparing the inception report, including tools and evaluation selection criteria
- Convening reference group meetings
- Compiling evaluations and evaluation mapping report
- Analysis and synthesis of evaluation results and lessons learned
- Producing preliminary results, a draft report and the final report
- Providing quality assurance throughout the exercise
- Supporting communication, dissemination and use of the synthesis
- Providing feedback on what worked well and what could be improved in the synthesis process to support future initiatives

Reference Group: The synthesis will be highly participatory and collaborative among other UN agencies, other key stakeholders central to advancing SDG 5, and the 5P synthesis management structure. To support the management group and enhance utilization and dissemination of the synthesis, a Reference Group will be formed with key stakeholders and representatives from Management Group agencies, other UN agencies, civil society, think tanks, donors and others as relevant. The Reference Group will allow members to contribute technical feedback to the initiative, support sourcing of evaluations and support dissemination of the findings. A Reference Group terms of reference will outline the roles and responsibilities of Reference Group members in greater detail, however, the Reference Group will be responsible for:

- Reviewing and providing feedback on key documents, including the inception report, evaluation mapping report, preliminary results and draft report
- Engaging in periodic discussions to help finalize the methodology, evaluation selection criteria, and support other critical steps of the evaluation process
- Participating in reference group meetings
- Contributing evaluations from their agency for the evaluation mapping and selection
- Communicating and dissemination of the synthesis results

Timeframe

Task	Timeline
Phase 1: Management structure	
A. Engage UN partners in the management group	May - July 2022
B. Consultant recruitment	August - October
C. Form reference group	August - September
Phase 2: Inception, evaluation collection and mapping	
A. Desk review	November - December
B. Scope and validate area of focus	December – January 2023
C. Finalize guiding questions and methodology	December - January
D. Evaluation collection	December - January
F. Evaluation mapping and descriptive analysis	January
Phase 3: Analysis and synthesis	
A. Data extraction	February – March
B. Systematic review and synthesis	March – April
C. Preliminary findings	April - May
Phase 4: Reporting and dissemination	
A. Draft report	May - June
B. Final report	June - July
C. Dissemination materials	July – August
D. Best practices and lessons learned documented	August
E. Dissemination of results	August

Management Group – Terms of Reference

Synthesis of UN system evaluations of SDG 5

November 2022

Background

At the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda and in the midst of the pandemic recovery, there is an opportunity for an inter-agency effort to take stock of learnings regarding SDG 5 through a synthesis of UN system evaluations related to SDG 5. The purpose of this exercise is to synthesize evaluation evidence and lessons on SDG 5 to support learning and decision making for future programming related to SDG 5 and contribute to the wider body of knowledge on progress towards SDG 5.

To manage and coordinate the planning and execution of the synthesis, a **Management Group** will be established which includes evaluation office representatives of the participating agencies. The Management Group will meet regularly during the synthesis process, share in decision making and provide sign off on synthesis deliverables. To facilitate the Management Group, UN Women will act as the **Coordinator** of the group, however, decisions will be taken jointly.

These **Terms of Reference** describe the responsibilities, governance and other details for the Management Group.

Responsibilities

The Management Group provides leadership and coordination of the overall synthesis process across all phases of the synthesis to ensure that synthesis components are completed, within the agreed timeline and of the expected quality. The Management Group will also be responsible for providing technical input, expertise and guidance into synthesis products to ensure quality and utility of synthesis deliverables.

Planning and strategy

- Identifying commitments to the synthesis process (e.g., staff time, management capacity, and/or financial support).
- Providing feedback on the SDG 5 evaluation synthesis Concept Note/Terms of Reference.
- Developing consultant TORs and hiring consultants to support the evaluation (facilitated by UN Women).
- Approving the synthesis budget and workplan.

Management, quality assurance and technical input

1. Participating in regular Management Team meetings, team analysis workshops/meetings, preliminary results workshops and other meetings as required.
2. Convening and participating in Reference Group meetings.
3. Providing guidance to staff and consultants undertaking the day-to-day synthesis work (facilitated by UN Women).

4. Providing input into the inception report, including tools, synthesis questions and evaluation selection criteria. Reviewing, validating and signing-off of the inception report.
5. Supporting the compilation of evaluations and providing input into the evaluation mapping process and report (part of inception phase).
6. Providing Technical input into the analysis and synthesis of UN system evaluations and quality assurance of the process and methodology.

Reporting

- Validation and sign-off of the final synthesis report, final presentation, video and other deliverables.
- Identifying and documenting feedback and lessons learned on what worked well and what could be improved in the synthesis process to support future initiatives.
- Supporting communication, dissemination and use of the synthesis.

Membership and Governance

Membership

The Management Group will be made up of focal points appointed by participating agencies. Membership includes (updated March 2023):

Agency	Representatives	Title
UN Women Independent Evaluation Service	Inga Sniukaite	Chief, Independent Evaluation Service
	Ross Tanner	Evaluation Specialist
UNDP Independent Evaluation Office	Ana Soares	Chief, Evaluation Syntheses and Lessons
	Shivit Bakrania	Evaluation Specialist (Synthesis)
UNFPA Evaluation Office	Karen Cadondon	Evaluation Specialist
	Deborah McWhinney	Evaluation Advisor
UNICEF Evaluation Office	Erica Mattellone	Senior Evaluation Specialist
WFP Office of Evaluation	Catrina Perch	Evaluation Officer

Decision making and coordination

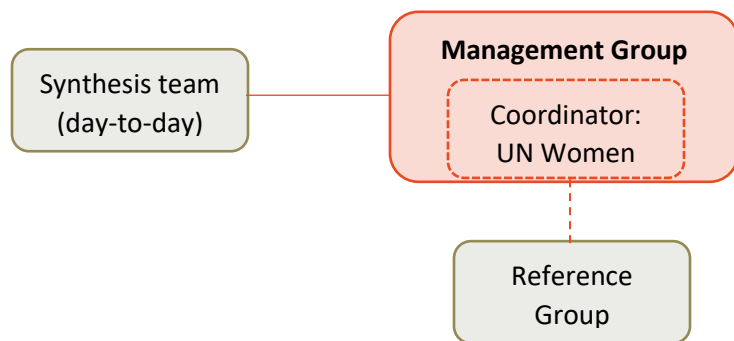
1. Decisions will be taken jointly by Management Group members through agreement and consensus.
2. UN Women will act as the **Coordinator** of the group in order to execute certain administrative functions to facilitate smooth operation of the Management Group and synthesis. Roles of the Coordinator include sending out Management Group meeting invites, preparing Management Group meeting agendas, recording Management Group meeting minutes and circulating those minutes, facilitating communication among the Management Group.
3. Feedback on documents should be provided within 5 days. If more time is required, this should be communicated in advance.
4. Management Group members can delegate reviews, decisions and participation in meetings as required due to absences etc.

Day-to-day synthesis work

1. Day-to-day work on the synthesis will be undertaken by a **Synthesis Team** made up of consultants, UN Women and any other member of the Management Group who wish to join.
2. It is expected that the team members working on the day-to-day synthesis work will meet more frequently than the Management Group (e.g., weekly).
3. Staff and consultants working on the synthesis will participate in Management Group meetings to provide updates and receive guidance.

Reference Group

1. To support the Management Group, a **Reference Group** will be formed with key stakeholders Management Group agencies, other UN agencies, civil society, think tanks, donors and others as relevant. The Reference Group will allow members to contribute to the planning, methodology, and implementation of the exercise. A separate Reference Group terms of reference will outline the roles and responsibilities of reference group members in greater detail. The Reference Group has an advisory role and the Management Group can exercise full independence in the conduct of the synthesis.



Meetings

1. Management Group meetings will be held once per month or as required until the completion of the initiative in May 2023.
2. An agenda will be circulated by the Management Group coordinator prior to each Management Group meeting.
3. Meeting minutes will be recorded at each meeting and circulated one week after each meeting for review and validation by Management Group members prior to finalization.
4. For ease of reporting, a meeting minutes template should be used, which includes:
 - a. Summary of key points for each agenda item
 - b. Actions to be taken, those responsible for each action and the timeline for each action item
5. Attendees at Management Group meetings will include Management Group focal points and other supporting staff members and consultants as required

Synthesis of UN system evaluations of SDG 5 Reference Group Terms of Reference December 12, 2022

Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted in 2015. Goal 5 of this framework is to “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” and includes nine targets with fourteen indicators to meet this goal. While progress has been made on some of these targets, notable gaps and barriers remain. The impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic have adversely affected progress towards SDG 5. Women have experienced a disproportionate share of job losses and increased burden of care work. Violence against women and girls has increased and recent gains in reducing child marriage could be undone as families cope with the challenges of the pandemic. Although on a slow upward trend, women’s representation in government remains far from parity. Women also account for a smaller proportion of managerial positions compared to their participation in the global workforce and the pandemic’s impact on women’s economic empowerment could reverse some of the recent progress in the percentage of managerial positions held by women.²⁵ There is opportunity, however, to leverage the response to the pandemic “to reshape and rebuild systems, laws, policies and institution in order to advance gender equality.”²⁶

At the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda and in the midst of the pandemic recovery, there is an opportunity for an inter-agency effort to take stock of learnings regarding SDG 5 through a synthesis of UN system evaluations related to SDG 5. This exercise will be conducted in collaboration with the Global Coalition on Evaluative Evidence for SDG Synthesis being initiated by the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

A **Management Group** of participating agencies was established to manage and conduct this joint synthesis. The group consists of UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP. The group meets regularly during the synthesis process to provide guidance, technical input and quality assurance. To facilitate the Management Group, UN Women will act as the Coordinator of the group, however, decisions are taken jointly.

To support the Management Group in an advisory capacity, a **Reference Group** will be formed with key stakeholders from Management Group agencies, other UN agencies, civil society, think-tanks, donors and others as relevant. The Reference Group will allow members to contribute technical feedback to the initiative, support sourcing of evaluations and support dissemination of the findings. The roles and responsibilities of this Reference Group are outlined in these terms of reference.

²⁵ UNSTATs. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. [SDG Indicators \(un.org\)](https://sdgindicators.un.org/)

²⁶ [E/2021/58 - E - E/2021/58 -Desktop \(undocs.org\)](https://undocs.org/E/2021/58) 10

Synthesis purpose and scope

The purpose of this exercise is to synthesize evaluation evidence and lessons on SDG 5 to support learning and decision making for future programming related to SDG 5 and contribute to the wider body of knowledge on progress towards SDG 5. By bringing together the evidence, lessons, and gaps from our collective evaluations, the synthesis will provide UN agencies and their partners with a holistic view of barriers and enabling factors towards achieving SDG 5 and what works or does not work in interventions for gender equality and women’s empowerment. Based on the analysis, the synthesis will also provide recommendations for advancing progress towards SDG 5 by 2030.

The synthesis will include evaluations conducted since 2015 by UN agencies, from all regions. Evaluations can be global, regional, national, or sub-national in focus. Evaluations will also be drawn from UNEG’s evaluation report database, participating UN agency evaluation banks, submissions from reference group members and other potential sources identified during the inception phase. Quality and content criteria will be established to determine the final sample of evaluations to be included in the synthesis.

Reference Group Roles and Responsibilities

The synthesis process is designed to be collaborative with key stakeholders for the advancement of SDG 5, including other UN agencies, civil society, think-tanks, donors and other interested parties. To facilitate participation and support the synthesis and Management Group, a Reference Group will be formed with key stakeholders. The Reference Group is an integral part of the synthesis management structure and plays several key roles in the synthesis process. Reference Group members will be expected to:

- Review and provide feedback on the following deliverables: inception report and evaluation mapping report, preliminary results, draft final report, and the methodological note identifying lessons learned about the synthesis process.
- Identify and contribute evaluations from their agency for the evaluation mapping and selection process
- Engage in periodic discussions and interviews to help finalize the methodology, evaluation selection criteria, and support other critical steps of the evaluation process.
- Participate in the preliminary results workshop.
- Communicate and disseminate of the synthesis results.

Reference Group Membership

Member	Organization
Papa Seck	UN Women
Nahla Valji	UN Women
Shreyasi Jha	UNICEF
Julie Diallo	UNFPA
Caitlin Boyce	UNDP
Anou Borrey	UNDP
Claudia Ibarguen	UNESCO
Yumiko Kanemitsu	WFP

Sonal Zaveri	EvalGender+
Kassem El Saddik	EvalSDGs
Kristin Diemer	University of Melbourne
Laura Rahm	Democracy Institute of the Central European University
Krista Baptista	Data2X
Ada Ocampo	International Development Evaluation Association
Madeleine Kennedy-Macfoy	Gender at Work

Annex 5: Synthesis team members

Ross Tanner is an Evaluation Specialist with UN Women’s Independent Evaluation Service (IES) where he supports corporate evaluations of UN Women’s programmes and operations. Prior to joining UN Women, Ross worked in the nongovernmental space and supported gender responsive evaluations of multi-year projects across many sectors, including maternal, newborn and child health, education, child protection, adolescent sexual reproductive health and rights, food security and humanitarian programmes. He has also been responsible for providing policy support and strategic advice to inform the development of government social policy and programmes in Ontario, Canada. He holds a MSc in Development Management from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Kamilla Nabiyeva is an Evaluation Officer with UNICEF’s Evaluation Office, where she co-manages and conducts institutional effectiveness evaluations. Prior to joining UNICEF, she worked as Evaluation, Partnerships and Fundraising Project Leader at the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. She also worked for the UNDP Sub-Regional Response Facility for the Syria Crisis, where she analyzed the consequences of the Syria Crisis and recommended ways to promote resilience and sustainable livelihoods. Kamilla was a consultant in Indonesia, where she gave policy recommendations on the economic development and improvement of small and medium enterprises and startups. Moreover, Kamilla worked as a project manager, trainer, and researcher in various sectors, such as climate change, gender, public-private partnerships, education, youth policy, migration, and human rights, in international and non-governmental organizations. Kamilla holds an M.A. in International Affairs from Columbia University (specializing in Economic and Political Development) and Sciences Po Paris (specializing in International Public Management).

Carol Boender is an independent consultant with more than twenty years of experience in programme quality, evaluation, research, and learning, with specific expertise in gender, adolescent girls, child marriage, maternal and child health, gender-based violence, social norm change, sexual and reproductive health, and integrated rural development. She has an MA in Applied Anthropology and was trained as a midwife. Her geographic experience includes nine years in Asia with CARE Australia and Plan International, 2 years in South America, and work assignments in several African countries for the International Center for Research on Women and Conservation International. Since returning to the US, she has produced numerous knowledge products for UN agencies.

Paola Vela is an experienced research assistant and independent consultant with a track record of supporting high-profile UN corporate and fund evaluations. Over the past three years, she has played a role in evaluating the UNDS Socioeconomic Response to COVID-19, the Joint SDG Fund, and the COVID-19 Multiparter Trust Fund. With a background in data analysis and evaluation methodologies, Paola brings her expertise to each project she works on. She is skilled in documentation analysis, interview transcription, coding, and data collection, and is known for her attention to detail. Paola holds a master’s degree in economics and has completed additional training in data analysis and evaluation methodologies.

Dr. Anita Hasni Mohammad is an interdisciplinary researcher, writer, and thinker with more than 13 years of experience helping organizations design, conduct and learn from research. Anita has led mixed-methods projects across a variety of sectors including psychology, neuroscience, early childhood education, literacy, and, most recently, for gender equality. She currently works as an independent research consultant contributing to corporate evaluations, reports, and analyses with UN Women. Anita holds a PhD in Developmental Psychology and Cognitive Sciences and is based in the USA.

Annex 6: List of included evaluations (exported from NVivo)

Agency	Document or File Title	Year
ECLAC	Programme Evaluation- Early Childhood and Comprehensive Care System Argentina	2022
ECLAC	Strengthening national capacities to design policies that address women's economic autonomy	2018
ESCAP	2022_Terminal evaluation of Project 2023AA-Building urban economic resilience during and after COVID-19	2022
FAO	Creating peaceful societies through women's management of natural resources, land tenure rights in Sierra Leone	2021
FAO	Evaluation of FAO's Work on Gender	2019
FAO	Evaluation of the FAO cooperation program in Colombia 2015–2019	2021
FAO	Evaluation of the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean 2017–2020	2021
FAO	Promotion of social cohesion between farmers and herders (men and women) Niger	2022
FAO	Strengthening the role of women in peacebuilding through natural resources management in Sana'a and Lahaj in Yemen	2021
FAO	Water for Peace in Yemen-Strengthening the role of women in water conflict resolution	2022
GCF	Evaluation of the GCF's environmental and social safeguards	2020
IFAD	2020_Tejaswini Women's Empowerment Programme	2020
ILO	Evaluation of Strengthening gender monitoring and evaluation in rural employment in the Middle East and North Africa	2019
ILO	High-level Independent Evaluation of ILOs Gender Equality and Mainstreaming Efforts 2016-2021	2021
ILO	MTE of Win-win Gender Equality means good business	2020
ILO	SIPA Cluster Evaluation of Policy Outcome and Gender Equality	2020
IOM	Aide aux enfants et femmes vulnérables dans République d'Haiti et la République Dominicaine	2018
IOM	APOYAR AL MINISTERIO DE TRABAJO Y LA ASAMBLEA NACIONAL EN LA FORMULACIÓN DE POLÍTICAS Y NORMAS RELATIVAS A LA MIGRACIÓN LABORAL	2021
IOM	Assistance to Nigerien Returnees in Agadez and Zinder (ANRAZ)	2019
IOM	CROSS-BORDER ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN CÔTE D'IVOIRE AND LIBERIA TO STRENGTHEN SOCIAL COHESION AND BORDER SECURITY	2022
IOM	EVALUATION OF IOM'S INSTITUTIONAL APPROACH and CONTRIBUTION TO THE 2030 AGENDA	2022
IOM	EVALUATION OF IOM'S INSTITUTIONAL APPROACH TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HUMANITARIAN DEVELOPMENT PEACE NEXUS	2022
IOM	EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT "IMPROVED MIGRATION MANAGEMENT THROUGH POLICY DEVELOPMENT IN KYRGYZSTAN"	2021
IOM	FINAL EVALUATION-PREVENTION OF GBV AND PROMOTION OF AUTONOMY OF WOMEN OF THE FARC IN TRANSIT TO CIVIL LIFE	2022
IOM	FORTALECER LAS POLÍTICAS PÚBLICAS PARA PROTEGER Y EMPODERAR A LAS MUJERES MIGRANTES EN MESOAMÉRICA	2021

IOM	FORTALECIMIENTO DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES DE SOCIEDAD CIVIL PARA LA PREVENCIÓN DE POSIBLES CASOS DE TRATA DE PERSONAS A NIVEL COMUNITARIO	2022
IOM	Priority Implementation Actions of the AU-ILO-IOM-ECA JP on Migration Governance for Development	2022
IOM	PROGRAMA PARA EL FORTALECIMIENTO DEL SISTEMA INTEGRAL DE VERDAD, JUSTICIA, REPARACIÓN Y NO REPETICIÓN	2021
IOM	PSYCHOSOCIAL AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO URBAN REFUGEE SURVIVORS AND THOSE AT RISK OF SGBV IN KAMPALA	2020
IOM	Strengthened Capacities for Improved Coordination, Protection and Prosecution on Trafficking in Madagascar	2020
IOM	UN-SWAP FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (GEEW)	2020
ITC	SheTrades Evaluation Report	2022
OCHA	Inter-agency Humanitarian Evaluation - Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls	2020
OCHA	Inter-agency Humanitarian Evaluation of the Yemen Crisis	2022
OCHA	Inter-agency Humanitarian Evaluation on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls	2020
OCHA	Inter-agency Humanitarian Evaluation - Ethiopia	2019
OCHA	Inter-agency Humanitarian Evaluation-Mozambique-final-report	2020
OCHA	Review_of_progress_GEWE in triple nexus Report	2020
OHCHR	Evaluation_Cambodia_Country_Programme_2017-2020_August2020	2020
OHCHR	Evaluation_Guatemala_Honduras_Country_Programmes_Subregional_Programme_El_Salvador_September2020	2020
OHCHR	Evaluation_legislation_international_standards	2018
OHCHR	Evaluation_OHCHR_Colombia_Country_Programme2017-2021	2022
OHCHR	Evaluation_Sexual_Gender_Based_Violence_Programme_report	2020
OHCHR	Evaluation_UN_Free_and_Equal_campaign_report	2021
OHCHR	Evaluation-of-the-projects-on-Civic-Space-and-Conflict-Related-Sexual-Violence-in-DRC	2022
OHCHR	Evaluation-of-the-project-Strengthening-the-Capacity-of-the-Independent-National-Commission-on-HR-Liberia	2022
OHCHR	Evaluation-OHCHR-Programme-Ethiopia	2022
OHCHR	Evaluation-OHCHR-Project-Strengthening-capacity-regional-actors-asia-pacific-region	2022
OHCHR	Interim-Evaluation-of-the-OHCHR-Youth-and-Human-Rights-project	2022
OHCHR	Mid-term-evaluation-of-the-project-Accountability-for-abduction-torture-and-enforced-disappearance-in-Iraq	2021
OHCHR	UgandaCountryProgrammeEvaluation2016-2018	2019
OIOS	Evaluation of the contribution of the resident coordinator system to country-level coherence	2022
OIOS	Evaluation of women and peace and security in field-based	2022
OIOS	Triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of UN Women	2018

UN AIDS	Evaluation UNAIDS Secretariat Gender Action Plan	2021
UN AIDS	Joint Evaluation Preventing Responding Violence Women Girls Report	2021
UN AIDS	Joint_Evaluation_Report_UNAIDS	2022
UN AIDS	UNAIDS_VAAWG_report_final	2021
UN Women	ESA_South Sudan_UN Women South Sudan Country Portfolio Evaluation Report 2014-2018	2018
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UNICEF	2019_Rapport Final de l'évaluation Sommativ de l'évaluation Sommativ du Projet Protection des Enfants Mauritanien Contre la Violence L'Exploitation les Discriminations les Abus et la Négligence VEDAN	2019
UNICEF	2019_Realizing Potential-Evaluation of the UNICEF Gender Action Plan	2019
UNICEF	2020_Adolescents in Afghanistan-A Portfolio Evaluation with a Gender Lens (2015–2019)	2020
UNICEF	2020_Evaluation Formative de la Réponse Au Mariage d'enfants et aux Mutilations Génitales Femminines - Tchad	2020
UNICEF	2020_Evaluation formative des stratégies et approches mises en œuvre pour construire un système de protection de l'enfant au Gabon (2012-2017)	2020
UNICEF	2020_Evaluation Formative Multi-Pays du Programme de promotion et protection des droits de l'enfant Rapport Pays - Burkina Faso (2017-2019)	2020
UNICEF	2020_Evaluation of Child Advocacy Centers Supported by UNICEF Bulgaria	2020
UNICEF	2020_Evaluation of Country Programme of Co-operation between the Government of Uzbekistan and UNICEF 2016–2020	2020
UNICEF	2020_Evaluation of the Performance, Relevance, Sustainability, and Scalability of Village Midwifery in Viet Nam	2020
UNICEF	2020_Evaluation of the UNICEF Turkey Country Programme (2016-2020)	2020
UNICEF	2020_Evaluation of UNICEF Uganda Country Programme 2016–2020	2020
UNICEF	2020_Evaluation of UNICEF's Contribution to Strengthening Child Protection Systems in India	2020
UNICEF	2020_Evaluation of UNICEF's Contribution to the Migrant and Refugee Crisis Response in Greece	2020
UNICEF	2020_Formative Evaluation of Child Protection Centres to Prevent and Respond to Violence, Abuse, Exploitation and Neglect	2020
UNICEF	2020_Formative Evaluation of Meena Communication Initiative	2020
UNICEF	2020_Formative Evaluation of the Family-Based Care Component within the UNICEF Croatia Country Programme (2017-2020)	2020

UNICEF	2020_Inter-agency Humanitarian Evaluation on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls	2020
UNICEF	2020_Mid-term Evaluation of the National Strategy for Ending Child Marriages and Teenage Pregnancies in Uganda	2020
UNICEF	2020_Mid-term review of the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP 2017-2021)	2020
UNICEF	2020_Saving mothers' and children's lives through innovative, sustainable and comprehensive reproductive, mother, child and adolescent health services	2020
UNICEF	2020_Summative Evaluation Mobilizing Rural Youth to Serve as Peace Building Leaders in Guinea Bissau	2020
UNICEF	2020_UNICEF Tajikistan Country Programme Evaluation	2020
UNICEF	2020_UNICEF-UNFPA Afya Bora ya Mama na Mtoto Project (2015-2019)	2020
UNICEF	2021_An Evaluation of UNICEF Supported Child Advocacy Centers in Guyana	2021
UNICEF	2021_Child Marriage Programme Evaluation	2021
UNICEF	2021_Country Programme Evaluation UNICEF – Lebanon (2017-2021)	2021
UNICEF	2021_Country-led Evaluation of the Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Children in Cambodia (2017-2021)	2021
UNICEF	2021_Evaluacion Programa Pais 2017-2021 - UNICEF Peru	2021
UNICEF	2021_Evaluacion summativo appui aux femmes leaders communautaires pour la prévention des éventuels conflits liés aux élections législatives et présidentielles de 2020	2021
UNICEF	2021_Evaluation a mi-parcours du projet - Lutte Contre le Travail Domestique des Enfants en Haiti (2017-2021)	2021
UNICEF	2021_Évaluation multi-pays de l'engagement communautaire pour Mettre fin au mariage des enfants (2016-2019) au Mali	2021
UNICEF	2021_Évaluation multi-pays de l'engagement communautaire pour Mettre fin aux mutilations génitales féminines (2016-2019) en Guinée	2021
UNICEF	2021_Evaluation of the Implementation of the Law on Child Protection (LCP) in Mongolia	2021
UNICEF	2021_Evaluation of the UNICEF Parenting for Child Development (P4CD) Programme in Papua New Guinea	2021
UNICEF	2021_Evaluation of UNICEF's work towards Accelerating Action towards Ending Child Marriage in Bangladesh	2021
UNICEF	2021_Evaluation Régionale_Protection de l'Enfance	2021
UNICEF	2021_Formative and summative evaluation of Government of Ghana - UNICEF Child Protection Programme (2012-2019)	2021
UNICEF	2021_Formative Evaluation of the Domestic Violence Prevention Programme - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	2021
UNICEF	2021_Formative Evaluation of the Girls' Access through Female Teacher Education (GATE) Scholarship Programme Afghanistan (2015-2019)	2021
UNICEF	2021_Formative Evaluation of the System for Prevention and Response to Violence Against Children in Kazakhstan	2021
UNICEF	2021_Formative Evaluation of the UNICEF Eastern Caribbean Multi-Country Programme (2017-2021)	2021
UNICEF	2021_Ghana Multi-Country Evaluation of Community Engagement to End Child Marriage	2021
UNICEF	2021_Improving Adolescent Lives in Pakistan	2021
UNICEF	2021_Joint evaluation of the UNFPA-UNICEF joint programme on the abandonment of FGM, Phase III (2018-2021)	2021

UNICEF	2021_Mid-Term Evaluation of the EU-UNICEF Joint Nutrition Action	2021
UNICEF	2021_Multi-Country Evaluation of Community Engagement to End Child Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (2016-2019)	2021
UNICEF	2021_Multi-Country Evaluation of Community Engagement to End Female Genital Mutilation (2016-2019) in Nigeria	2021
UNICEF	2021_Multi-Country Formative and Summative Evaluation of Elimination of Violence Against Children in Egypt Jordan and Lebanon	2021
UNICEF	2021_Real Time Evaluation (RTE) of Gender Integration in UNICEF COVID-19 Response- South Asia	2021
UNICEF	2021_Real-Time Assessment (RTA) of UNICEF's Response to COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean - Synthesis Report	2021
UNICEF	2021_Summative Evaluation of Afghan Women's Leadership Initiative (AWLI) Programme in Support of Adolescent Girls	2021
UNICEF	2021_UNICEF Evaluation of the District Health System Strengthening (DHSS) Model in Uzbekistan (2016-2020)	2021
UNICEF	2021_United Nations–Republic of Moldova Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development (PFSD) 2018-2022 (2)	2021
UNICEF	2021_Valoracion en tiempo real de la respuesta de UNICEF a COVID-19 en la Republica Bolivariana de Venezuela	2021
UNICEF	2021_Zambian Girls 2030 Phase 1 End-line Evaluation	2021
UNICEF	2022_24-Month Impact Evaluation of the Child Grant 0-2 Component in the Nampula Province in Mozambique (2019-2021)	2022
UNICEF	2022_Evaluability Assessment and Formative Evaluation of UNICEF's Positioning to Achieve the Goals of the Strategic Plan (2022-2025)	2022
UNICEF	2022_Evaluación de la meta 2 del FOBAM Impulsar	2022
UNICEF	2022_Evaluación del Programa de País UNICEF Ecuador (2019-2022)	2022
UNICEF	2022_Evaluation of Joint Programme 'Enhancing Resilience and Acceleration of the SDGs in the Eastern Caribbean	2022
UNICEF	2022_Evaluation of the Boresha Afya Mama na Mtoto linking cash transfers with RMNCH during 1000 days	2022
UNICEF	2022_Evaluation of the Joint GOB-UNICEF WASH Programme in Bangladesh (2017-2020)	2022
UNICEF	2022_Evaluation of the pregnant adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) peer mentor programme in selected health facilities in Tshwane, eThekweni and uMgungundlovu districts in South Africa	2022
UNICEF	2022_Evaluation of the UNICEF Brazil Country Programme (2017-2022)	2022
UNICEF	2022_Evaluation of the UNICEF Migrant and Refugee Child Health Project	2022
UNICEF	2022_Evaluation of UNICEF Gender and the COVID-19 response in MENA	2022
UNICEF	2022_Évaluation sommative du projet d'appui à la participation citoyenne des jeunes et des femmes à la gouvernance locale et à la consolidation de la paix au Tchad	2022
UNICEF	2022_Final Evaluation of Girls Education Project Phase 3 2012-2022 in Northern Nigeria	2022
UNICEF	2022_Final Evaluation of the Joint Programme - Improving the system of social protection through the introduction of inclusive quality community-based social services	2022
UNICEF	2022_Final Evaluation Report United Nations Pacific Strategy (2018-2022)	2022
UNICEF	2022_Final Independent Evaluation for "Transforming national dialogue for the development of an inclusive national Social Protection system for Lebanon" January 2020 – September 2022	2022

UNICEF	2022_Improving Adolescent Lives in India (2015-2019) - An Impact Evaluation	2022
UNICEF	2022_Independent Final Evaluation of the UN Joint Programme – Toward a Somali Led Transition to National Social Protection Systems (2020-2021)	2022
UNICEF	2022_Multi-Country Programme Evaluation ECA Region Country Evaluation Report - Bulgaria	2022
UNICEF	2022_Multi-Country Programme Evaluation ECA Region Country Evaluation Report -Moldova	2022
UNICEF	2022_Multi-Country Programme Evaluation ECA Region Country Evaluation Report -Ukraine	2022
UNICEF	2022_Rapid assessment of UNICEF Thailand Country Office's Adolescent Pregnancy Initiatives (2020-2021)	2022
UNICEF	2022_Summative Evaluation of the Programme on Improving Adolescents' Lives in Afghanistan (2017-2022)	2022
UNICEF	2022_UNICEF Ethiopia Adolescent Nutrition-WASH-Education Joint Programme Evaluation- Midline Process Evaluation	2022
UNIDO	Gender Equality_Empowerment of Women_2020	2021
UNODC	BHUZ13_Final_Independent_Project_Evaluation_Jan_2019	2019
UNODC	Cluster_In-Depth_Evaluation_Research_June_2018	2018
UNODC	DAT10-Programme-on-Statistics-and-Data-Final-Eval-Report	2018
UNODC	EGYZ33_Final_Independent_Project_Evaluation_June_2019	2019
UNODC	Final_Evaluation_Report_1819AY	2022
UNODC	Final_Evaluation_Report_1819U	2021
UNODC	Final_Evaluation_Report_ETHX97	2022
UNODC	Final_Evaluation_Report_GLOZ82	2020
UNODC	Final_Evaluation_Report_MEXW55_MEXW64	2022
UNODC	Final_Evaluation_Report_MEXW78	2022
UNODC	Final_Evaluation_Report_PERW77_Spa	2021
UNODC	Final_Evaluation_Report_UNDA_2019_001	2020
UNODC	Final_Evaluation_Report_UNODC_Programming_West_and_Central_Asia	2021
UNODC	GLO.ACT_Final_Independent_Evaluation_Report	2019
UNODC	GLOR35_Final_Evaluation_Report	2021
UNODC	GLOT63_Final_independent_evaluation_report_Dec_2018	2018
UNODC	GLOZ82_Mid-term_Independent_Project_Evaluation_Report_June_2018	2018
UNODC	Indepth_Evaluation_Regional_Programme_Southeast_Asia_9JULY2020	2020
UNODC	MMRZ39_mid-term_Independent_Project_Evaluation_August_2018	2018
UNODC	Strategic_Evaluation_on_Gender_Equality_UNODC_UNOV	2022

UNODC	UNODC_XAPA10_Final_Independent_Project_Evaluation_Report_January_2018	2018
UNODC	UZBU57_Final_Independent_Project_Evaluation_May_2018	2018
UNODC	XASV23_Final_evaluation_report_final_evaluation	2019
UNRWA	Evaluation of the agency medium-term strategy Oct 2021 final	2021
UNRWA	evaluation_of_the_unrwa_family_health_team_reform_october2021_final	2021
UNRWA	Family and Child Services in Jordan	2019
UNRWA	Gender Initiative	2018
UNV	UNVContributiontotheGenderPromotionInitiative	2020
WFP	Burkina Faso Gender Policy	2020
WFP	Central African Republic Gender Interventions	2018
WFP	Evaluation of the Gender Policy	2020
WFP	Gender Evaluation El Salvador Strategic Plan	2020
WFP	Ghana Value Chain Development, Gender and Women's Empowerment	2018
WFP	Impact Evaluation of Cash-Based Transfers on Food Security and Gender Equality in El Salvador	2022
WFP	JP on Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women	2021
WFP	Malawi JP for Girls Education	2018
WFP	Prevailing Gender Dynamics and Power Relations in WFP Palestine Beneficiary Households	2022
WFP	Review of Progress Mainstreaming GEEWG into the Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus Agenda	2021
WFP	Rwanda Impact Evaluation of Cash-Based Transfers on Food Security and Gender Equality	2022
WFP	Strategic Plan Evaluation Kyrgyz Republic	2022
WFP	Syria Gender Risks and Urban Livelihoods Study in three cities	2018
WHO	cpe-synthesis-final-report	2021
WHO	gehr-report-september-2021	2021
WHO	independent-evaluation-of-whole-syria-reponse-report-8-june-2021	2021
WHO	synthesis-report-race	2018

Annex 7: SDG 5 targets, indicators and search terms

SDG-5 TARGETS & INDICATORS	SEARCH TERMS ²⁷
General Search Terms (these search terms apply to all Targets)	SDG 5 / SDG-5, Gender, Women, Female, Girl
<p>5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere</p> <p>5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex</p>	Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment
<p>5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation</p> <p>5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age</p> <p>5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence</p>	VAW, violence against women, GBV, Gender based violence, SGBV, sexual and gender based violence, trafficking, CEDAW
<p>5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation</p> <p>5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18</p> <p>5.3.2 Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age</p>	Child marriage, FGM, early and forced marriage
<p>5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate</p> <p>5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location</p>	Care work, unpaid care 'informal economy'
<p>5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life</p> <p>5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments</p> <p>5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions</p>	Women's Political participation, female, women's leadership, governance
<p>5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and</p>	SRHR – Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights,

²⁷ Search terms were also identified in French and Spanish.

<p>Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences</p> <p>5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care</p> <p>5.6.2 Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee women aged 15-49 years access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education</p>	
<p>5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws</p> <p>5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure</p> <p>5.a.2 Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control</p>	<p>Women's Economic empowerment, female labour participation, women's financial inclusion, land ownership</p>
<p>5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women</p> <p>5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex</p>	<p>Women and ICT, women and technology, women and mobile phones</p>
<p>5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels</p> <p>5.c.1 Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment</p>	<p>Gender budgeting, gender responsive budgeting</p>

Annex 8: Databases included in search

UN AGENCY/UNEG MEMBERS	DATABASE LOCATION
UNEG	http://uneval.org/evaluation/reports
UN Women	https://gate.unwomen.org
UNICEF	https://www.unicef.org/evaluation/reports#/
UNDP	https://aida.undp.org/landing
UNFPA	https://web2.unfpa.org/public/about/oversight/evaluations/search.unfpa?method=input
WFP	https://www.wfp.org/publications
FAO	https://www.fao.org/evaluation/list/completed/en
IOM	https://evaluation.iom.int
UN-Habitat	https://unhabitat.org/about-us/evaluation
OHCHR	https://www.ohchr.org/en/about-us/evaluation-un-human-rights
UNRWA	https://dios.unrwa.org/evaluation-division
UNESCO	https://www.unesco.org/en/ios/evaluation/reports?hub=67038
WHO	https://www.who.int/about/what-we-do/evaluation
UNHCR	https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/evaluation-and-research.html
UNEP	https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/1
ILO	https://www.ilo.org/eval/Evaluationreports/lang--en/index.htm
UNIDO	https://www.unido.org/resources-evaluation-and-internal-oversight-evaluation/reports-project-evaluations
UNODC	https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/evaluation/reports.html
UN-Aids	https://www.unaids.org/en/whoweare/evaluation
IFAD	https://www.ifad.org/en/web/ioe
OCHA	https://www.unocha.org/themes/evaluations-and-reviews/reports
UNCTAD	https://unctad.org/publications-search?Operator=or&keys=gender&f%5B0%5D=product%3A487
UNITAR	https://unitar.org/results-evidence-learning/evaluation
OIOS	https://oios.un.org/inspection-evaluation-reports
Green Climate Fund	https://ieu.greenclimate.fund/evaluations
ITC	https://intracen.org/about-us/governance/evaluation
UN-DPI	None found
UNCDF	https://www.uncdf.org/evaluation
UNV	None found
GEF	https://www.gefio.org/
CTBTO	None found
IAEA	https://www.iaea.org/publications
ICAO	None found
IMO	https://www.imo.org/en/publications/Pages/Home.aspx
Office of Legal Affairs	None found
OPCW	None found
UN-DGACM	None found
UNICRI	None found
UNOCT	https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/publications
UN-PBSO	None found
WIPO	https://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/oversight/iaod/evaluation/
WMO	None found
WTO	None found
UNWTO	None found

UN-DPA	https://dppa.un.org/en/planning-monitoring-and-evaluation
UN-DPKO	https://peacekeepingresourcehub.un.org/en/evaluation
PAHO	None found
UNDESA	None found
ICC	None found
ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS/ UNEG MEMBERS;	
ECLAC (United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean)	https://www.cepal.org/en/publications
ESCAP (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific)	https://www.unescap.org/kp?f%5B0%5D=kp_sdg_areas%3A6
ESCWA (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia)	https://www.unescwa.org/resources?f%5B0%5D=publication_type%3A165 & https://archive.unescwa.org/unbis/evaluation
UNECA (United Nations Economic Commission for Africa)	https://repository.uneca.org/
UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe)	https://unece.org/evaluation-reports

Annex 9: Beginning coding structure

INTERVENTIONS

Technical support to governments
Capacity building/strengthening
Financing for gender equality
Public advocacy, communications
Quality services, goods, resources
Knowledge, data & research
Community & individual empowerment
Multi-stakeholder convening

APPROACHES

Partnerships (non-UN)

Civil society
Women's and feminist movements
Inter-governmental
Private sector

LNOB – reaching/inclusion of marginalized groups

Ethnic, religious groups
People with disabilities
Displaced and migrant populations

UN system coordination

Joint programmes/MPTFs
UNCT/UNSDCF
UN-SWAP

Humanitarian Cluster System

Gender transformative programmes

HRBA

Gender mainstreaming

Innovation and technology

ENABLERS AND BARRIERS

Enabler

Hindrance

Financing

Political environment

Legislative/policy context

Political will

Transparency/corruption

Instability

COVID-19

Reversal/stall of progress

Adaptations during pandemic

Social norms & gender stereotypes

Humanitarian setting

SDGs

Related to SDG 5 target

SDG 5.1

SDG 5.2

SDG 5.3

SDG 5.4

SDG 5.5

SDG 5.6

SDG 5.a

SDG 5.b

SDG 5.c

Related to other SDGs

SDG 1

SDG 2

SDG 3

SDG 4

SDG 6

SDG 7

SDG 8

SDG 9

SDG 10

SDG 11

SDG 12

SDG 13

SDG 14

SDG 15

SDG 16

SDG 17

FINDINGS

Lessons about SDG 5 progress

Positive

Negative

Mixed

Gaps in knowledge/evidence

Recommendations to advance SDG 5 progress

What works

Positive

Negative

Mixed

Promising practices

Annex 10: References

Brookings. 2022. 'Ensuring young mothers return, remain, and learn in school. An Echidna Global Scholar Dialogue.' <https://www.brookings.edu/events/ensuring-young-mothers-return-remain-and-learn-in-school/>.

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