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In her current role at the UN Trust Fund, she provides programmatic, M&E, operational, and financial support to the UN Trust Fund grant’s portfolio of 160+ projects (USD 98 million in 70 Countries and Territories).
Lessons on Supporting CSOs to Manage EVAW Evaluations

How might we bridge the gap between learning-based practices and rigorous research methods?
Outline

1. About Us
2. How does the UN Trust Fund support learning?
3. How does the UN Trust Fund learn?
4. So what?
5. Now what?
About Us

- Established by the UN General Assembly in 1996
- The UN Trust Fund is a global, inter-agency mechanism focused on eliminating all forms of violence through grants to CSOs around the world
- Administered by UN Women on behalf of the UN system
About Us (cont’d)

- $149 M
- 139 countries
- 517 grants

Three outcome areas:
- Prevention
- Access to multi-sectoral services
- Legislation, policies and national action plans

Three pillars:
- Grant making and management
- Resource mobilization
- Monitoring, Evaluation and Knowledge Management
How does the UN Trust Fund support learning?
Monitoring & Evaluation Support

Support on monitoring frameworks
- Feedback on project design
- Project start-up Action Plans
- Refining results chains and theory of change

Review of sensitive data collection tools
- Risk mitigation strategy
- Identify CSOs with less capacity or attention to ethics and safety
- Meet “do no harm” principle

Final External Evaluation
- Technical assistance & quality assurance
- Webinars
- Outcome and process not impact
- Gender-responsive evaluation

LEARNING
Evaluation Library

UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

Learning hub

untf.unwomen.org/en/learning-hub
How does the UN Trust Fund learn?
Lessons and actions from discrete analyses

- 2019 Meta-evaluation & analysis
- 2018 Mid-term Review of Strategic Plan
- 2018 Internal Lessons Learned
- 2016 Meta-evaluation & analysis

...feeds into...

Learning Roadmap

UN Trust Fund Strategic Plan 2021-2025
Reflections on Evaluation Practice

- First meta-evaluation:
  - 61% evaluations are satisfactory and above: hence, initial focus was on improving the quality of our evaluation guidance, down to budgeting, ToRs, Ethics and safety

- Second meta-evaluation:
  - 91% are satisfactory and above
  - Methodology and findings have significantly improved
Partner voices

“...evaluation results on what works are not always transferrable. The UN Trust Fund should focus on the whole process of knowledge creation rather than just evaluations.”

--Women’s rights organization

“We intend to use the guidelines and hands on experience built during the process … in subsequent project evaluation. We have decided to include external evaluations for other projects and dedicate resources to it to improve the quality and validity of our project result findings”

--Women’s rights organization

“It is really hard to get people to use evidence and data to develop policies and programs. Spreading that message is pretty intensive work. UN Trust Fund needs to put more resources into that […]”

--Donor

“The UNTF should focus its role on knowledge exchange through regional communities of practice, dissemination of good practices and lessons learned with governments, grantees and other CSOs, and brokering of partnerships between academic/research institutions and grantees to generate knowledge.”

-- MTR Recommendation
So what?
What do UN Trust Fund evaluations potentially offer?

- **Nuanced**, presenting the viewpoints of diverse stakeholders, even if they did not agree.
- Voices of **women and girls, especially survivors** were front and center; participatory evaluations.
- The qualitative data asked, and answered the question, “why did x [output, result etc.] happen the way it did?”
- Data were **disaggregated** across sites.
- Learning on enabling conditions for reduction of violence prevalence (e.g. voice, participation, norms) not violence itself.
- **Ethics and safety risks** taken into account.
- National and local consultants as evaluators rather than from universities and research firms in the global North.
Synthesizing Knowledge

- **Consolidation of knowledge** from UN Trust Fund evaluations of prevention projects into a series of knowledge briefs:
  1. Community mobilization
  2. Engaging faith-based and traditional actors
  3. Exploring intersectional approaches
  4. Mobilizing women as agents of change
  5. Training for behaviour change
  6. Adolescent-focused approaches
  7. Resistance and backlash
  8. Adaptative programming
  9. Survivor-centred, multi-sector responses
  10. Law and policy implementation and reform

- **Testing and validating** these briefs with practitioners prior to publication
Now what?
Way forward... through partnerships and consultations

- Continue to mine these 160+ evaluations
- Invest more in learning-based practices and building CSO's adaptive capacity
- Create a peer-to-peer space for learning and discussion
Extract lessons. What better way to learn about practice-based knowledge than to hear from them directly?
Thank you!

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