



Governing with Evidence

UNFPA India

UNFPA's Approach to Monitoring and Evaluation

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UNFPA's Distinct Role

- ✔ UNFPA focuses on population dynamics, reproductive health, gender norms, and rights-based outcomes
- ✔ UN agencies apply the *OECD – Development Assistance Committee evaluation criteria (Relevance, Coherence, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact, Sustainability) within UN and United Nations Evaluation Group frameworks
- ✔ UNFPA's emphasis is on capturing long-term, systemic, and normative change
- ✔ Stronger focus on evaluation for policy influence and beyond service delivery output



UNFPA's Internal Monitoring and Evaluation System



Balance

Centralised evaluations provide credibility and comparability, while decentralised evaluations ensure contextual relevance and national ownership

Transparency

All evaluations are publicly available, ensuring open access to evidence and findings.

Capacity

Empowering national evaluation systems beyond individual organisations



Global Challenges: Why Evidence Still Fails to Drive Policy

Weak Data Ecosystems

- Incomplete civil registration and vital statistics systems.
- Adolescent girls, elderly women, and indigenous communities are the least visible in datasets

Evaluation-Use Gap

- Evidence not designed for decision-makers
- Reports lack actionable guidance

Capacity Constraints

- Uneven national systems
- Weak sub-national analytical capacity

Attribution Challenge

Need shift from attribution



Contribution

Importance of Collaboration

Collaboration = building evaluation ecosystems beyond silos

Core gap is institutional, not technical → culture, leadership, and political will

Role of partners (UNFPA, UNICEF, ADB):

Normalise evidence use in
governance

Promote South–South
learning & joint evaluations

Need long-term investment in national systems (data, Civil Registration and Vital Statistics [CRVS], capacity)

India Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO)



Key Takeaways

1

Timing is everything

Evidence only matters if it is available when decisions are being made- Ensure priorities and budgets are not already set.

2

Ownership drives use

Engage stakeholders throughout the evaluation process, so they feel ownership and use the findings and recommendations - during the programming, co-define questions/ indicators.

3

Simplicity and Communication

Clear, focused insights are often more influential than complex analytical frameworks that are difficult to translate into action. - Package evidence for policymakers through clear storytelling and effective data visualization.

4

Capacity is key

Strengthening monitoring to improve evaluation outcome- Investing in capacity across all levels (national, state and district) and building robust data systems



THANK YOU

