



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited  
3 June 2021

Original: English

**For decision**

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## United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Board

**Annual session 2021**

1–4 June 2021

Agenda item 8

### **Draft decision submitted to the Executive Board**

### **Evaluation reports and management responses**

#### *The Executive Board*

1. *Takes note* of the annual report for 2020 on the evaluation function in UNICEF ([E/ICEF/2021/18](#)) and its management response ([E/ICEF/2021/19](#));
2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the global evaluation of UNICEF water, sanitation and hygiene programming in protracted crises, 2014–2019, its summary ([E/ICEF/2021/20](#)) and its management response ([E/ICEF/2021/21](#));
3. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the significant increase in the number of evaluative products and of the increase in evaluation coverage;
4. *Welcomes* the recruitment of 16 multi-country evaluation specialists in order to increase evaluation capacities at the country and regional levels;
5. *Recalls* the funding target of 1 per cent of programme expenditure for evaluation and notes with concern the expenditure of only 0.64 per cent of total programme expenditure on evaluation in 2020, acknowledging the special circumstances of conducting evaluations during the current pandemic;
6. *Requests* UNICEF to take adequate measures to facilitate a significant increase in the share of spending on evaluation relative to total programme expenditure, especially by country offices that spend significantly less than 1 per cent of programme expenditure on evaluation;
7. *Notes with concern* the lower availability of resources from the Evaluation Pooled Fund and requests UNICEF to ensure the continuously adequate funding of the evaluation function;
8. *Welcomes* the decision by UNICEF to establish a quality-assurance procedure for the evaluation function;
9. *Also welcomes* UNICEF initiatives to promote innovative evaluation technologies and approaches and encourages UNICEF to continue to develop and



implement options with regard to remote evaluations and innovative digital approaches, without compromising the quality of evaluations, and requests UNICEF to provide, in the annual report for 2021 on the evaluation function, updates on the application of innovative technologies and approaches, including a discussion of associated risks and UNICEF management plans to address them;

10. *Encourages* UNICEF to devote appropriate resources to evaluations designed to proactively search for scalable solutions that address evidence and knowledge gaps in key programmatic areas for both UNICEF and the global development community;

11. *Also encourages* UNICEF to consider increasing the use of rigorous impact evaluations to further improve its programming approaches and asks UNICEF to ensure that the findings of such evaluations contribute to relevant applicable areas of UNICEF policy and programming of the Strategic Plan and to building the global evidence and knowledge base for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

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