



COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY FUND

Final report

General Information					
Programme title:	System- Wide Evaluation of COVID-19				
Programme number:	00124795				
Amount:	1,237,572 USD				
Start date:	05 Nov 2020	Original end date:	31 Oct 2021	Current end date:	31 Dec 2022
Agencies:	EOSG and UNOPS				
Report Cleared By					
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Narrative					
Programme summary:	<p>The primary objective of the evaluation would be to assess progress and results and demonstrate accountability of the UN development system's contribution to the socio-economic response to COVID-19 and to learn lessons to accelerate progress towards recovering better and greener and achieving the SDGs.</p>				
Results achieved:	<p>The support from UNOPS office with the funds from COVID-19 MPTF the System-Wide Evaluation Office has provided management and technical support to achieve results in six key areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Early Lessons and Evaluability of United Nations COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund https://unsdg.un.org/resources/early-lessons-and-evaluability-un-covid-19-response-and-recovery-mptf. This report was commissioned by the Secretary-General's Designate for COVID-19 in line with the Secretary-General's April 2020 Report on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR). It represents a first effort to realize the potential value of taking a system-wide evaluation approach to shared learning and providing an assessment of mutual accountability. The report has been highlighted by the Secretary-General in his reports on QCPR implementation and member 				

states have commented on the utility of the report, such as here:

https://estatemnts.unmeetings.org/estatemnts/30.0010/20210518/NBzRNLTqz6Yr/LL6V49lznzntGW_en.pdf

b. **Interim Report: System-wide Evaluation of the United Nations Development System Response to COVID-19**

<https://unsdg.un.org/resources/interim-report-system-wide-evaluation-unds-response-covid-19>. This interim report's main objective was to ensure that evaluative findings can be used in a timely manner to help adjust and improve the ongoing pandemic response, as well as the United Nations development reform process. The interim report provided illustrative examples and analysis in real time, which helped the UN system to undertake early course corrections. Importantly, the interim report also highlighted to Member States how their guidance and directions are translated into action and put into practice. The Interim Report was included in the Secretary-General Report on QCPR Implementation.

c. **System-wide Evaluation of the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund**

<https://unsdg.un.org/resources/system-wide-evaluation-joint-sdg-fund-2019-2022>. This evaluation served as an important accountability tool for the United Nations Development System and made specific recommendations on how to better-position the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund within the United Nations Sustainable Development Group and the wider development context. The evaluation also provided informative evidence on how to better manage the Fund to accelerate United Nations collaborative action to support developing countries during the Decade of Action.

d. **System-wide Evaluation of United Nations Development System Response to COVID-19**

<https://unsdg.un.org/resources/system-wide-evaluation-unds-socio-economic-response-covid-19-final-report>. Using a system-wide lens, the evaluation provided evidence for important achievements of the United Nations Development System in addressing the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19. The results indicate that a very large number of vulnerable people benefited from the United Nations Development System response to COVID-19. The report also recommends that important challenges identified by the evaluation are addressed. These include: a persistent country-level competitive environment for resources among United Nations Development System entities; issues of accountability for collective results and the need for full operationalization of the Management Accountability Framework; the requirement for acceleration of United Nations Development System reforms at the regional level to support progress at the country level;

	<p>and the need to develop stronger models and approaches for ensuring coherence between the United Nations Development System entities and International Financial Institutions (IFIs).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. The SWE Office is now managing the System-Wide Evaluation of the Spotlight Initiative, a flagship programme and a demonstration fund for the United Nations Development System Reform, with targeted efforts to end all forms of violence against women and girls. f. The SWE Office is providing the oversight and technical support to re-orient and improve the evaluations of the new generation sustainable development Cooperation Frameworks. The re-oriented approach is to develop a field-tested evaluation strategy and plan for the three mutually reinforcing components: coherence of the collective offer of the CF; contribution of the UNCT as a collective; and importantly the mutual accountability to achieve the collective offer. <p>The SWE office thanks the UNOPS office for the high quality of the management support that helped to deliver these products in a timely manner.</p>
<p>Challenges and lessons learned (include information on delays and programme/ budget revisions and account for changes to the original workplan):</p>	<p>As the first system wide evaluation the project helped the SWE Office to learn lessons through implementation and learnt valuable lessons on how to measure and take account of coherence and collective contribution of the UN Development System. The main challenge was that since the UN Reform is new there are not many experts in this field who understand UN reform to undertake the evaluation. There is continued inertia by UN entities to change in terms of evaluative thinking of evaluation as a UN system.</p> <p>The project was extended to continue the System-Wide Evaluation function until the System-Wide Evaluation Office was set up. There were no delays or changes in the project, but the function continued with that additional activities were undertaken that are listed in the report. The cost of additional project evaluation undertaken by the System-Wide Evaluation function is charged to the projects.</p>

