

2.5 Evaluations and Lessons learned

The UN in collaboration with the Government of Zimbabwe commissioned the ZUNDAF 2016-2021 evaluation in 2019. The evaluation covered the period 2016-2018 in preparation of the new 2022-2026 UNSCDF. The evaluation report was formally validated by the Government at a high-level meeting co-convened by the UNCT and the Office of the President and Cabinet in November 2020.

The evaluation found out some significant results and best practices that include: ZUNDAF's strong alignment with national and sectoral plans and systems, SDGs and the changing context; two track approach to addressing gender equality and implementing and reporting on all Pillars of Delivering as One. The report also came up with 10 recommendations to further strengthen the work of the UN in Zimbabwe and below are five key strategic recommendations and proposed actions:

Strengthening ZUNDAF Coordination: The evaluation recommended that Delivering as One through enhanced interagency collaboration should be central to the UN's implementation strategy in line with the UN's reform agenda and the General Assembly Resolution A/RES/72/279. In response to this recommendation, the UN will continue to strengthen high level engagement, develop and implement an accountability framework that makes UNSCDF outputs part of individual performance indicators at UN agency level and establish a country level compact to enhance accountability framework between RC and UNCT.

Humanitarian-development-peace nexus: The UNCT should consider ways of developing 'collective outcomes' that encapsulate the work and contribution of both development and humanitarian actors to move from a fragmented approach to a more integrated programming framework that encourages UN agencies to work together towards common outcomes. In response

to this recommendation, the UN will continue operationalizing the SG's Prevention Vision and reinforce the capacity of national institutions that promote peacebuilding towards ensuring a harmonious society and redesign a comprehensive resilience approach to programme implementation.

Develop gender accountability tools: The evaluation noted that gender equality is a critical factor for realising the central theme of the SDGs of 'leaving no one behind and that the UNCT should therefore consider how to strengthen its interventions on gender equality, and in particular how to measure its performance in mainstreaming gender equality. In response to this recommendation, the UN will focus on promoting the fundamental values, standards and principles of the UN Charter, including respect for and protection of human rights and gender equality and mainstreaming of human rights, protection of the most vulnerable and policies to reach the furthest behind first in UN and national planning processes and policies.

Leveraging UN's comparative advantage: The evaluation recommended that UNCT should consider ways of leveraging its comparative advantage to demand government accountability for its commitments to normative standards and international/regional treaties. In response to this recommendation the UN successfully advocated for an SDG-based national development plan and will continue strengthening the Government capacity to monitor and evaluate the national development plans including tracking of SDG indicators and advocate for costing and allocation of resources for prioritized SDG targets, as well as a clear accountability framework for measuring performance.