



UNSDG SYSTEM-WIDE EVALUATION OFFICE

## Unlocking quality funding

### Summary of United Nations evaluation evidence

In the context of repositioning the United Nations development system, funding is understood to be a key enabler of the transformative, collaborative action required to help countries achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Repositioning has been accompanied by dialogue and commitments between Member States and the United Nations Sustainable

Development Group (UNSDG) to ensure predictable and flexible funding for United Nations development activities.

This summary compiles evidence on funding quality, defined as a measure of how well funding received by United Nations entities supports efficiency, effectiveness and sustainable development outcomes. Figure 1 details key features required for high-quality funding.

**Figure 1: Features of high-quality funding**

<p><b>PREDICTABILITY</b></p> <p>Allows UN entities to plan and implement programmes over the long term without interruptions or uncertainties. Reduces the risk of funding gaps and enhances ability to achieve sustainable results.</p>	<p><b>FLEXIBILITY</b></p> <p>Enables UN entities to allocate resources where they are most needed and adapt to changing circumstances (for example, response to emergencies, emerging priorities, or unforeseen challenges).</p>
<p><b>ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES</b></p> <p>Allows UN entities to plan and implement programmes over the long term without interruptions or uncertainties. Reduces the risk of funding gaps and enhances ability to achieve sustainable results.</p>	<p><b>CORE FUNDING</b></p> <p>Provides UN entities with the autonomy to use funds as needed across their mandate rather than being tied to specific projects or activities. Supports comprehensive programme delivery and institutional capacity.</p>
<p><b>LONG-TERM, MULTI-YEAR COMMITMENT</b></p> <p>Allows UN entities to plan and implement programmes over the long term without interruptions or uncertainties. Reduces the risk of funding gaps and enhances ability to achieve sustainable results.</p>	<p><b>JOINT PROGRAMMING</b></p> <p>Enables UN entities to allocate resources where they are most needed and adapt to changing circumstances (for example, response to emergencies, emerging priorities, or unforeseen challenges).</p>
<p><b>COORDINATION</b></p> <p>Enhances quality funding through stronger donor alignment, increased trust and greater efforts to reduce individual visibility, reporting, assessment and partnership requirements.</p>	<p><b>TRANSPARENCY</b></p> <p>Ensures full visibility of core and flexible contributions and clarity in funding needs, budgets and expenditures, allowing UN entities to allocate resources efficiently and demonstrate accountability.</p>

These key features are embedded in the Funding Compact<sup>1</sup>, which articulates concrete actions on the part of Member States and all entities of the UNSDG to implement a radical shift in the funding environment and fully realize the United Nations’ contribution to development.

This summary draws on the extensive knowledge and evidence generated by independent evaluations conducted across the United Nations between 2020 and 2024. It presents key issues and learning from evaluations, for consideration in the context of United Nations system-wide and intergovernmental policy discussions. Its publication is timed to provide

information to stakeholders involved in the 2024 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR), in line with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 78/166 (2023).

This summary is part of a series produced by the United Nations Sustainable Development Group System-Wide Evaluation Office (SWEO) which includes summaries of United Nations evaluation evidence on:

- I the resident coordinator system;
- II development system reform at the regional level;
- III whole of system responses in complex settings;
- IV sustainable food systems; and
- V an interactive evidence map featuring UN evaluations, published between 2021 and 2024, mapped against priority areas of the 2020 QCPR<sup>2</sup>.

The complete series is available at: <https://ecosoc.un.org/en/what-we-do/oas-qcpr/2020-qcpr-status-reporting>.

## Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review

The QCPR is the primary policy instrument of the United Nations General Assembly to define the way the United Nations development system operates to support programme countries in their development efforts. It assesses the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact of United Nations operational activities

for development. A QCPR resolution is adopted by the General Assembly every four years with annual follow-up and guidance from Member States provided by the Economic and Social Council at its Operational Activities Segment and the General Assembly in its Second Committee. The 2020 QCPR resolution builds on the United Nations development system reform<sup>3</sup>. The next QCPR resolution will be negotiated in late 2024 to guide efforts from 2025 to 2028.

General Assembly resolution 72/279 welcomed the Secretary-General’s call for a funding compact as an essential mechanism to optimize Member States’ investments in the United Nations development system. The 2020 QCPR resolution welcomed the Funding Compact, noting its voluntary nature, and encouraged all Member States and entities of the United Nations development system to contribute to its full and effective implementation. The updated funding compact was also welcomed by ECOSOC in 2024<sup>4</sup>. The key commitments of the Funding Compact are summarized in Figure 2.

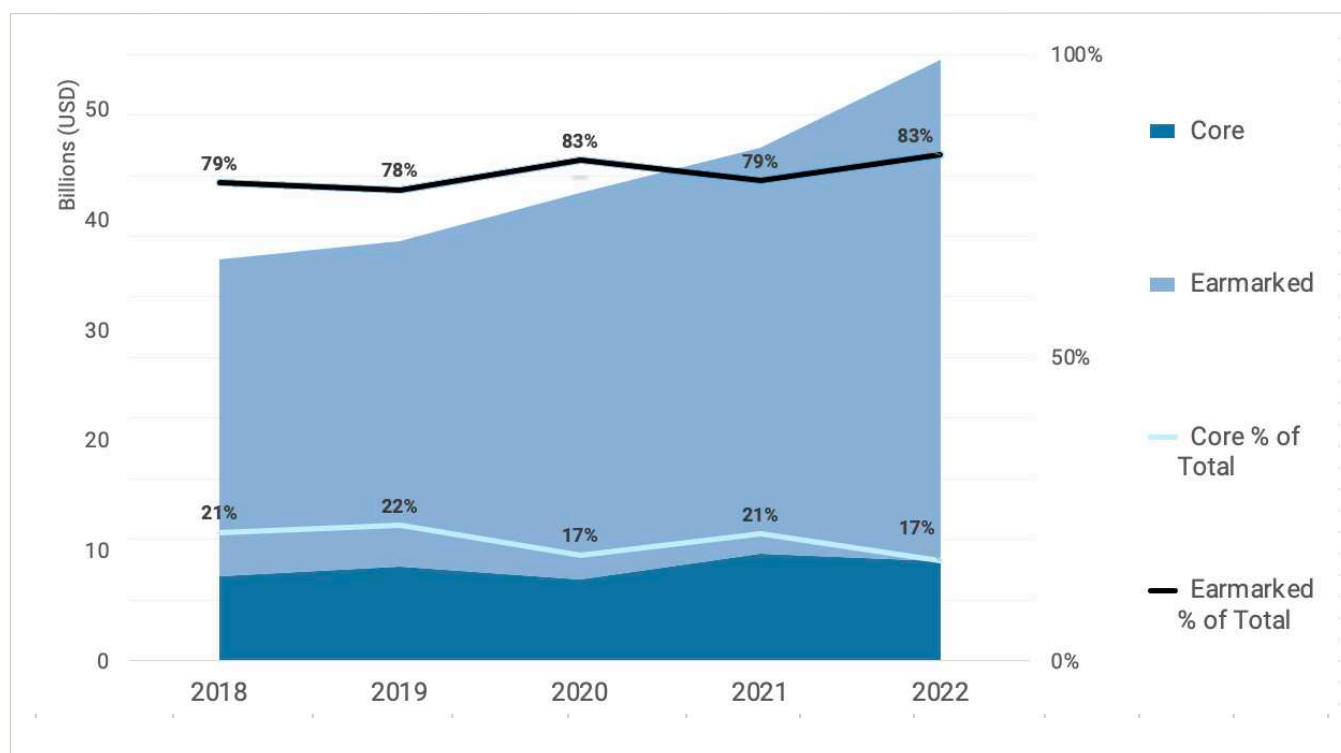
The Secretary-General provides annual reports on the implementation of the QCPR to the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Since 2020, contributions to operational activities (humanitarian and development combined) have steadily increased, but this was largely due to increased earmarked funding for specific projects or programmes. Core funding as a share of overall funding has decreased from 29.6 per cent in 2019<sup>5</sup> to 16.5 per cent in 2022<sup>6</sup>, (see Figure 3) far from the 30 per cent target set out in the Funding Compact

**Figure 2: Summary of Funding Compact commitments (updated May 2024)**



Source: Photo: © UN DCO

**Figure 3: Core and earmarked funding for UN operational activities**



Source: Statistical Annex on 2018-2022 UNDS funding data.

(Figure 2). Single-donor and project- and programme-specific funding accounted for 74 per cent of the earmarked funding provided in 2022; an increase from 68 per cent in 2021.

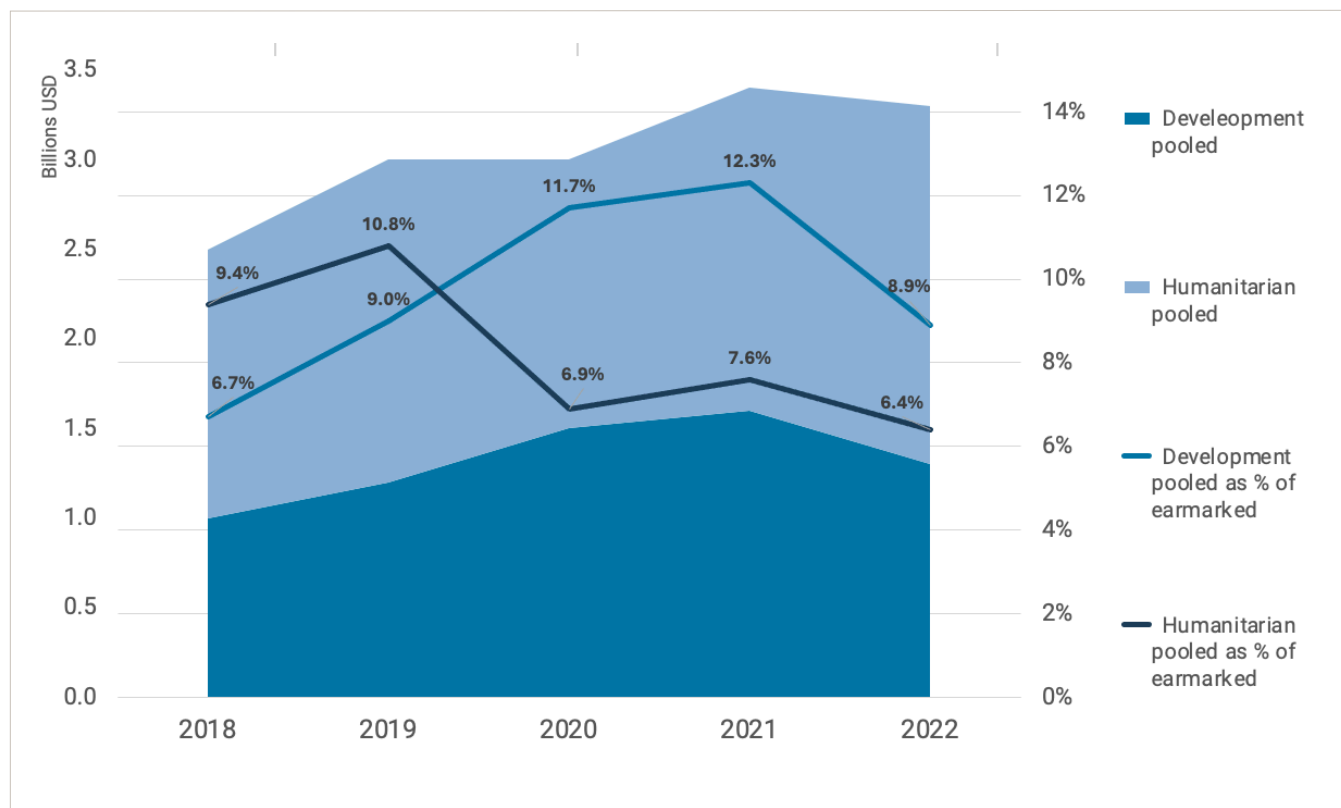
Since 2019, the United Nations development system has seen a declining trend in multi-year core funding among the four<sup>7</sup> entities that receive two thirds of the voluntary core funding for development activities.

After several years of consistent growth, funding to inter-agency pooled funds<sup>8</sup> decreased by 4 per cent in 2022. Contributions to inter-agency development pooled funds declined by 22 per cent, accounting only for 8.9 per cent (from 12.3 per cent) of total earmarked funding for development (see Figure 4). Funding for the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund and the Peacebuilding Fund remained well below their targets. Meanwhile, funding for single-agency thematic funds increased, reaching a record USD 2 billion, or 4.3 per cent of total earmarked funding in 2022.

Donor diversification continues to be a challenge. Between 2020 and 2022, the five largest contributing countries<sup>9</sup> contributed an average of 49 per cent of all government funding. The top ten donors account for nearly three quarters of total government funding, highlighting the system's significant dependence on a small pool of donors and its vulnerability to funding fluctuations. However, funding from programme countries, the private sector and international financial institutions have seen a positive trend. Non-governmental donors now account for one third of all United Nations development system funding, representing a key segment of the donor base.

The 2024 Secretary-General's report on the QCPR noted that high dependence on a limited donor base and on earmarked resources hindered effective and strategic long-term planning, led to resource fragmentation and promoted a culture of United Nations entities competing for donor resources.

**Figure 4: Contributions to inter-agency pooled funds**



Source: Statistical Annex on 2018-2022 UNDS funding data.

## Insights from United Nations evaluations

The following summary of evidence on the quality of funding to the United Nations development system draws on 51 United Nations evaluations (see bibliography). The majority of these evaluations (34) focused on pooled funding, joint programmes, joint programming and collaboration, coordination and coherence across entities at global, regional and country levels (they include United Nations development assistance and cooperation framework evaluations and global system-wide evaluations). The sample also includes entity-specific evaluations at the global level, evaluations of entity country programmes and emergency responses, and a small number of existing summaries and syntheses of evaluation evidence.

### 1 Flexible core funding fuels innovation and responsiveness.

The majority of evaluations highlighted the availability of flexible core funding as a crucial factor in the success of various interventions and an enabler of innovation. It allowed for swift reallocation to address the most pressing needs, particularly during crises or emergencies. It also facilitated the ability of the United Nations to convene, innovate and support inter-agency collaboration and strategic long-term planning.

When core resources were available, joint programmes, trust funds and interventions benefited from more catalytic ideas and innovation. This allowed entities to explore new approaches, create knowledge and corporate learning, move into areas where they had traditionally been absent and achieve broader impacts beyond their immediate objectives.



The growing number of conditions tied to donor funds and the increased reliance on earmarked contributions often resulted in reduced capacity to: plan strategically; engage with partners long term; innovate; adequately resource for cross-cutting issues; and strengthen coordinated action in line with the United Nations development system reform.

Global evaluations, both system-wide and entity-specific, as well as those focused on joint programmes and pooled funds, indicated that interventions and programmes, whether pooled or not, were subject to increased earmarking, undermining quality funding. Even within inter-agency pooled funds, donors often restricted allocations to dedicated issues, limiting the agency's flexibility to reallocate funds between programmes or pillars. This limited the ability of the United Nations to adapt to changing circumstances or shift in response to evolving national priorities or maintain critical and skilled technical staff. It also hindered effective recruitment and undermined full control of strategic planning. This inflexibility was particularly challenging for demand-driven programmes, whose legitimacy and sustainability relied heavily on national ownership. It led to a disconnect between programme activities and the evolving needs of the communities they were designed to serve, resulting in less effective outcomes (see Box 1 for an example of a successful outcome-based funding initiative).

When entities lacked predictability and flexibility, they experienced funding volatility. Global evaluations, both system-wide and entity-specific, consistently underlined that multi-year commitments were largely absent, despite continuous appeals from entities in their strategy planning documents. The typical one-to-two-year funding timeframes were insufficient to sustain results, creating significant long-term planning and sustainability challenges. This often led to planning and service delivery disruptions, ultimately reducing the programme's effectiveness and affecting results.

The evaluations recommend: ensuring that long-term goals (strategic vision) are closely matched with sustained and predictable support (multi-year commitments); improving the tracking of unearmarked funds; and increasing the visibility of core and lightly earmarked funding and its contribution to innovation.

## **BOX 1: SIDA-ILO PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME 2018–2021**

The Swedish International Cooperation Agency and International Labour Organization (SIDA-ILO) Partnership Programme 2018–2021 (SIPP)<sup>10</sup> was established as an outcome-based funding initiative, with specific themes receiving lightly earmarked financial support alongside a fully unearmarked, core, voluntary contribution to ILO. This outcome-based funding model contributed to strengthening the ILO's work in key areas identified in its programme and budget for a given period, allowing for resources to be grouped to achieve these outcomes. The decentralization of funds further facilitated adapting activities to the needs and contexts of each country. The flexible funding allowed programming to adjust to various needs: supporting policy discussions and studies on informality, gender, and labour market inclusion in Vietnam; developing a Youth Employment Roadmap in El Salvador; and conducting rapid labour force surveys during the COVID-19 pandemic in Ethiopia.

### **2 A growing disconnect is evident between donor advocacy for, and action on, quality funding.**

Donor support for quality funding was found to be not as strong or coherent in practice as donor advocacy implied. Evaluations consistently highlighted that donor funding appeared to dictate strategy rather than strategy guiding the allocation of funding. Advocacy from donors for greater United Nations coherence and coordination and a demand for programmes tailored to national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) did not necessarily manifest in flexible, predictable, multi-year and core funding.

Limited evaluation evidence was found regarding the benefits and challenges of lightly earmarking, even though donors increasingly opt for this modality over core funding. The majority of evaluations, however, highlighted that overall development funding to the

United Nations remained disproportionate to the emphasis the donors placed on it, with a high portion of funding being earmarked, not flexible and short term. The evolving development landscape, including the reduction in development space, changing donor priorities and budgets, shifts in developing countries' income status, and the narrowing donor base, was emphasized as having a significant impact on the ability of entities to secure long-term, flexible and predictable donor support to deliver against the SDGs.

A growing number of interventions continue to be impacted by specific donor requirements and guidelines, such as fund disbursements, allocations, or results reporting. Prescriptive conditions made it difficult for programmes to implement necessary adjustments in response to the local context. Pooled fund evaluations and those with a focus on joint programming commonly cited that donors' support for joint programming varied. While some donors at the country level encouraged joint programming to reduce transaction costs and increase inter-agency collaboration in line with the United Nations development system reform, others preferred to maintain bilateral cooperation, hindering effective inter-agency collaboration.

Amid the evolving development landscape, entity country offices have become more affected by limited funding quality and volume and prone to competition for funds. Pooled fund, country, and programme evaluations pointed out that, despite their increased openness to coordinate and engage in joint programming and programmes, they are driven to secure funds to meet their corporate targets, confronted with little to no core funding to maintain country office operations and have a limited donor base to draw on (see Box 2). Consequently, entity responses tended to be, at times, opportunistic, resulting in small-scale projects and short-term funding cycles becoming the norm, offering little flexibility to allocate funding beyond immediate priorities.

Some evaluations recommend clearer communication and engagement strategies with donors in shifting from project- to programme-based funding approaches and encouraged a more proactive role of development partners and donors to address the undercapitalization of pooled funds, trust funds, and other joint programmes if they are to realize their full potential.

## **BOX 2: THE EVALUATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI AND THE UNICEF COUNTRY PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION**

The evaluation noted that in Malawi, the sustainability of many results remained heavily dependent on international development funding, raising concerns due to shifting donor priorities, where bilateral donors have reduced and refocused their priorities, partly due to the impact of COVID-19. Inconsistent funding has resulted in successful pilot programmes not being scaled up or being discontinued, limiting their potential for sustainability. For UNICEF, the education sector, in particular, has faced funding shortages due to the reallocation of donor priorities, largely linked to donor funding models that are sector specific.

### **3 Early and targeted resource mobilization strategies secure quality funding.**

Early development and strategic multipronged resource mobilization targeting diverse donors, such as private, individual, corporate and government, were crucial for securing quality funding, ensuring programme sustainability and closing funding gaps. Programmes that employed coordinated and strategic approaches to resource mobilization early in the project (design stage) increased their probability of securing the necessary funds. Entities that used innovative resource mobilization strategies to attract flexible funding have been more financially sustainable. This approach made them more adaptable, less dependent on restricted funds, and quicker to respond to new needs.

The consultative nature of strategic reviews and country strategic planning has offered increased opportunities for joint resource mobilization and joint programming, particularly where they align well with the SDGs. Joint resource mobilization initiatives enabled the leveraging of existing partnerships and programmes, especially under constrained funding environments.

While some pooled fund, programme and country evaluations pointed to success stories in resource mobilization beyond the traditional base, efforts to secure flexible, lightly earmarked, or core funding were largely shaped by donor priorities, the broader context, the thematic focus of the intervention, and the specific United Nations country offices involved. There was a clear donor preference for funding emergencies over preparedness and prevention efforts, limiting the ability to mobilize resources for development interventions. Similar to donor contributions, private sector funding varied and was largely influenced by the intervention's thematic focus, the country's existing private sector environment, staff experience with private sector resource mobilization and specific personal connections.

Furthermore, it was found that (joint) interventions developed a resource mobilization strategy late in the project timeline, or did not track or utilize it sufficiently or had no sufficient human resources to perform this responsibility due to a lack of dedicated funding for targeted resource mobilization positions. Those resource mobilization strategies in place were highly dependent on traditional donors, with few entry points for expansion to increase in-kind contributions from development partners or funding from the private sector or individual giving.



Economic and Social Council Forum on Financing for Development  
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United Nations country offices were increasingly under pressure to mobilize additional resources on top of their regular responsibilities and find innovative ways to do so without the adequate skill set. However, Box 3 provides an example of resource mobilization efforts that went beyond the traditional donor base. Some evaluations recommend: increased professionalization of the partnerships and resource mobilization function; stronger investment in early and joint resource mobilization to avoid overlaps; encouraging innovative resource mobilization campaigns; enhancing national commitments where feasible to increase ownership; greater outreach to non-traditional donors; a closer working relationship with international financial institutions; and linking resource targets to multi-year results frameworks.

### **BOX 3: THE COVID-19 SOLIDARITY RESPONSE FUND**

The Solidarity Response Fund (SRF)<sup>11</sup> was jointly launched in March 2020 by the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Foundation and Swiss Philanthropy Foundation. It was intended to facilitate direct (core) financial contributions from a diverse range of donors (private, individuals, and organizations or foundations). In 2021, SRF partners raised and received pledges for over USD 256 million of flexible funding from over 675,700 donors and contributors. Alone, USD 30 million could be mobilized through digital platforms. One of the unique factors that accounted for the Fund's early achievements was the high degree of flexibility of the funds mobilized and the resource mobilization efforts that went beyond the traditional donor base. By design, the Fund was maintained as a single pooled fund with no earmarking of contributions – not even at the pillar level. This design feature allowed funds to be quickly directed to the most urgent needs identified by the dedicated allocation committee, filling gaps left by traditional donors and supporting some of the Fund's essential life-saving activities in supply chain development and procurement.



#### 4 Committed senior leadership and sponsorship drive quality funding and impact.

Programmes with strong and committed leadership were more likely to be prioritized within their organizations and secure the necessary resources to meet their objectives. Global entity-level, pooled fund and system-wide evaluations highlighted that United Nations senior sponsorship with a clear corporate funding strategy, a dedicated governance board, and an empowered resident coordinator who actively prioritized joint programming and resource mobilization were essential for maintaining quality funding.

In the case of joint programming, the resident coordinator role was found to be particularly vital in linking upstream work with national policies and strategies, determining the required investment to implement these policies effectively, ensuring programme relevance and alignment with national priorities and pivoting joint resource mobilization. The majority of evaluations consistently highlighted that an engaged and impartial resident coordinator, who effectively mobilized joint resources for joint programming and coordinated the efforts of entities, was key in fostering joint collaboration that would not have occurred otherwise.

The impact of United Nations senior sponsorship on funding quality varied depending on the consistency and visibility of the leadership and on the existence of clear corporate funding strategy. Challenges were particularly pronounced in programmes where senior sponsorship and corporate strategy on funding was weak or inconsistent. Evaluations noted that programmes struggled to gain the visibility and resources needed to maintain their operations in such cases. The decline in leadership visibility often reduced programme momentum, making it harder to secure ongoing support and resources.

Some evaluations recommend articulating how donors can be better engaged and participate in governance structures and strategic decision-making, and establishing stronger senior sponsorship and leadership, strategic support and endorsements to enhance the credibility and visibility of United Nations interventions (see Box 4).

#### BOX 4: LEADERSHIP ROLES FOR QUALITY FUNDING

The evaluations of the Joint SDG Fund<sup>12</sup>, the Cooperation Framework in the Philippines<sup>13</sup>, and Lesotho's UNDAF<sup>14</sup> consistently highlighted the vital role of the resident coordinator and the resident coordinator's office (RCO) in coordinating United Nations efforts. The resident coordinator's leadership and strategic coordination were pivotal in leading joint programmes, engaging government counterparts, and supporting the technical work of participating United Nations organizations (PUNOs). Strong and proactive coordination and resource mobilization by the resident coordinator and their office led to positive outcomes, improved partnerships, and greater recognition within the United Nations country team (UNCT) and the donor community. In Lesotho, the resident coordinator's office effectively coordinated responses to emergencies like droughts, floods and COVID-19 through joint resource mobilization, work plan adjustments and collaborative implementation of humanitarian activities. In the case of the Solidarity Response Fund,<sup>15</sup> senior sponsorship and leadership visibility from fiduciary and beneficiary partners played an essential role in the Fund's success. A strong commitment from senior managers across partner entities fostered a shared sense of accountability, urgency, ownership and visibility in the Fund's activities.

#### 5 Enhancing joint programming requires flexible, predictable funding.

Joint programmes were regarded as highly relevant and aligned with national priorities and SDGs. They also added value in areas requiring diverse competencies, specialties and joint efforts. When backed up with adequate, predictable and flexible funding, the key niche and added value of a joint programme or trust fund lay in: its capacity for early initiation; its ability to draw on expertise from multiple partners, in order to capitalize on complementary roles and mandates; and its support for activities that might otherwise be underfunded or under prioritized.

The UNDAF and cooperation framework pooled fund and joint programme evaluations consistently found that joint programming provided significant benefits to United Nations country teams by: harnessing the strengths of multiple stakeholders; promoting multisectoral approaches; combining the resources and expertise of different entities; strengthening inter-agency coordination and advocacy; and providing more comprehensive support to countries. However, it was also observed that joint programming is more likely to be incentivized and successful when quality funding is readily available.

Despite its recognized benefits, joint programming was found to not significantly reduce transaction costs or achieve operational efficiency gains. Joint programmes were, to some degree, still associated with high transaction costs in their development, implementation and resource mobilization, coupled with conflicting reporting lines, differing operational procedures and limited human resource capacities.

### **BOX 5: MULTI-YEAR FUNDING AND JOINT PROGRAMMING FOR RESILIENCE BUILDING<sup>16</sup>**

WFP and FAO have collaborated on an innovative, integrated approach in North and South Ubangi in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to increase agricultural production, improve livelihoods, promote gender equality and support social cohesion and peacebuilding at the community level. The programme began in 2016 with multi-year funding from the Swedish Government. It was followed by multi-annual grants from Canada and Germany in 2017, which allowed the expansion of the programme to new zones, including North and South Kivu. WFP acted as the lead entity for the programme, but planning and operational coordination were done through a joint WFP-FAO team based in Kinshasa. Both organizations sought to capitalize on their complementarity where possible in order to achieve greater impact and work closely with technical departments of the Ministries of Agricultural and Rural Development and non-governmental organization partners.

These challenges were often exacerbated by the small size of available pooled funds, which were insufficient to influence broader agency resource mobilization strategies or behaviours, resulting in parallel efforts rather than truly integrated initiatives.

System-wide, pooled fund and joint programmes evaluations noted that joint programmes served as a mechanism for joint resource mobilization, although their impact on overall resource generation was not always successful. Funding allocations under pooled funds remained small in comparison to the level of effort required to propose, implement and report on joint programming. The sustainability of joint programmes was highly contingent on donor support, leadership and trust and on the ability of governments to continue the benefits that were harnessed. Challenges have also been encountered in obtaining fundraising support from participating United Nations entities for joint programmes, as these funds would go towards inter-agency work as

### **BOX 6: HUMAN RIGHTS MAINSTREAMING FUND<sup>17</sup>**

The Human Rights Mainstreaming Fund provided significant added value to inter-agency coordination and cooperation around human rights by multiple United Nations entities agencies and facilitated a space for entities to work together to mainstream human rights. This space has facilitated synergies across entities based on their comparative advantages, which have provided added value to the UNDG and UNSDG. Over the past decade, among the most important contributions the Fund has made to strengthen national human rights protection systems has been through its support for improved human rights reporting to treaty bodies, its engagement with special procedures, and its support for the universal periodic reviews (UPRs). By operating through its current pooled funding format, the Fund is able to directly engage a variety of United Nations entities in human rights mainstreaming efforts, leverage the comparative advantages of these entities, and pursue a diversified portfolio that links global- to country-level efforts.

opposed to the dedicated interventions of entities. A number of evaluations recommend clearly defining the catalytic role of United Nations pooled funds and programmes, encouraging donors to continue channelling their funds through inter-agency pooled funds and trust fund modalities and promoting joint programming by establishing and institutionalizing incentives for entities to participate in collaborative initiatives (see boxes 5 and 6).

## Approach and methodology

This summary, produced between June and September 2024, brings together evidence from 51 evaluations completed across the United Nations between 2020 and 2024. The sample was purposively selected to include the most relevant evaluation evidence, as well as balance across geographic regions and United Nations entities. An initial longlist of 184 evaluations was screened for potential relevance, providing an eventual sample of 51 evaluations<sup>18</sup>. Evidence was extracted and coded against an analytical framework (based on the objectives of the Funding Compact) in two phases: (i) manually on

31 reports with the greatest potential relevance; and (ii) with the assistance of a large language model, on a supplementary sample of 20 country-level evaluations (to expand the evidence base and identify further specific examples).

An inter-agency reference group with representatives from the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat<sup>19</sup>, the United Nations Multi Partner Trust Fund Office<sup>20</sup> and the independent evaluation offices of UNFPA and UNDP reviewed the sampling strategy, methodological approach and draft report.

**Limitations:** Analysis of funding quality was a common feature of the sampled evaluations. However, the quality and depth of this analysis varied, limiting the findings of this summary. There was limited in-depth analysis of: (i) the value proposition and value for money of the inter-agency pooled funding modality; (ii) donor behaviour at the country level; (iii) efforts to secure core and flexible funding; (iv) the use of and differences between light and tight earmarking; and (v) implementation of the Funding Compact. These topics may warrant greater attention in future evaluations.



Special Event on SDG Acceleration during High-level Political Forum © UN Photo/Loey Felipe

## UNSDG SYSTEM-WIDE EVALUATION OFFICE

The United Nations Sustainable Development Group System-Wide Evaluation Office (SWEO) has been established by the Secretary-General to provide independent evaluation evidence to strengthen learning, transparency and accountability in order to incentivize joint work and collective learning and conduct and advance system-wide evaluation evidence on the United Nations development system's contribution towards implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the SDGs. It aims to work with United Nations evaluation offices to draw on and augment their contributions and capacities, to fill critical gaps, to promote collaboration on joint and system-wide evaluations, and to improve the quality and usability of United Nations evaluation evidence in relation to the SDGs, 2030 Agenda, and United Nations reform priorities.

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> 2019: A/74/73/Add.1–E/2019/14/Add. 2024 update: A/79/72/Add.2.

<sup>2</sup> A/RES/75/233

<sup>3</sup> A/RES/72/279

<sup>4</sup> E/2024/L.12

<sup>5</sup> A/78/72/Add.1-E/2023/59/Add.1.

<sup>6</sup> A/79/72/Add.1-E/2024/12/Add.1.

<sup>7</sup> UN-Women, United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA), UNDP and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

<sup>8</sup> For definitions of key UN pooled funding concepts and terms: <https://mptf.undp.org/page/un-pooled-funding-key-concepts-and-terms>.

<sup>9</sup> Germany, Japan, Sweden, UK, USA.

## UTILIZING UNITED NATIONS EVALUATION EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF THE 2024 QCPR

This initiative is a collaboration between SWEO and evaluation offices across the United Nations. It provides user-friendly mapping and summary products of United Nations evaluation evidence to support engagement in the 2024 QCPR. The initiative is coordinated by SWEO, with substantive contributions from the following entities:

### FUNDING



### MANAGEMENT GROUP



- <sup>10</sup> ILO. 2022. Final independent clustered evaluation of outcome-based funding support to ILO projects in the field of employment and skills, social dialogue and labour relations, protection for all at work, gender equality and equal opportunities, and just transition to the green economy for the period 2020–21.
- <sup>11</sup> WHO. 2021. UNF-WHO | COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund Joint Evaluation.
- <sup>12</sup> UN Joint SDG Fund. 2024. Thematic Global Evaluation of the Joint SDG Fund’s SDG financing enabling environmental portfolio.
- <sup>13</sup> UN Philippines. 2023. Evaluation of the United Nations Philippines Cooperation Framework (2019-2023).
- <sup>14</sup> UN Lesotho. 2023. Lesotho United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF 2019-2023) Evaluation.
- <sup>15</sup> WHO. 2021. UNF-WHO | COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund Joint Evaluation.
- <sup>16</sup> WFP. 2020. Strategic Evaluation of Funding WFP’s Work.
- <sup>17</sup> UNDP MPTFO. 2021. Evaluation of the UNSDG Human Rights Mainstreaming Multi-Donor Trust Fund 2011- 2019.
- <sup>18</sup> For full list see Bibliography.
- <sup>19</sup> The Joint SDG Fund Secretariat is hosted by UN DCO. The fund is administered by the MPTF Office.
- <sup>20</sup> The MPTF Office is a system-wide asset hosted by UNDP.

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The following evaluations were analysed to produce this summary:

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### Evaluations of joint programmes/programming

[ILO. 2021. Mid-Term Evaluation: Towards a Holistic Approach to Labour Migration Governance and Labour Mobility in North Africa \(THAMM\)” Project.](#)

[UNDP. 2023. End-of-Programme Evaluation Strengthening Resilience of Pacific Islands States through Universal Social Protection.](#)

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