

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND PROPOSED APPROACH FOR THE INITIAL EVALUATION OF THE FRAMEWORK OF ENGAGEMENT WITH NON-STATE ACTORS

Context

The sixty-ninth World Health Assembly, in resolution WHA69.10 (2016), adopted the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors. Further, the Health Assembly requested the Director-General to conduct an initial evaluation in 2019 of the implementation of the Framework and its impact on the work of WHO, with a view to submitting the results, together with any proposals for revisions of the Framework, to the Executive Board in January 2020, through its Programme, Budget and Administration Committee. The biennial evaluation workplan, approved by the Executive Board at its 142nd session, thus included an initial evaluation of the implementation of the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors as one of the corporate evaluations to be conducted in 2018–2019. These terms of reference set forth the objective, scope and overall approach of this initial evaluation.

Objective

The objective of the initial evaluation is to assess the status of implementation of the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors and its impact on the work of the Organization. The evaluation will: (a) document key achievements, best practices, challenges, gaps, and areas for improvement in the implementation of the Framework since its adoption in May 2016; and (b) make recommendations as appropriate on the way forward to enable the full, coherent and consistent implementation of the Framework.

Scope and approach

The evaluation will cover the implementation of the Framework across all levels of the Organization¹ in interactions with the various groups of non-State actors covered by the Framework.²

The evaluation exercise will be guided by considerations of the main evaluation criteria of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability and impact, and provide information on:

- the implementation of the Framework, including the requirements set forth in resolution WHA69.10;
- the processes put in place and the products generated;
- enabling factors and challenges encountered; and
- the overall impact of the Framework on the work of the Organization.

The informed opinion of Member States and non-State actors, as primary stakeholders, is crucially important. This could be sought by means of key informant interviews and/or an online survey.

¹ Headquarters, regional offices and country offices, entities established under WHO, as well as hosted partnerships.

² Nongovernmental organizations, private sector entities, philanthropic foundations and academic institutions.

The evaluation will be conducted using a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods, including:

- a desk review of available documentation, including governing body documents such as Secretariat and Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee reports to the Executive Board, and of Secretariat materials related to the processes and products associated with its implementation of the Framework; and
- key informant interviews and/or online surveys (the latter available in the six official languages of the Organization) of key stakeholders, including Member States, non-State actors, the secretariat from the Department of Partnerships and Non-State Actors (PNA), WHO senior management and other relevant technical staff within the Secretariat, such as designated focal points for the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors.

The overall process and methodological approach will follow the principles set forth in the WHO Evaluation Practice Handbook³ and the United Nations Evaluation Group Norms and Standards for Evaluation and Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation.⁴ The review will also adhere to WHO's cross-cutting evaluation strategies on gender, equity, vulnerable populations and human rights, and include, to the extent possible, disaggregated data and analysis.

The evaluation process

The evaluation will be conducted by an external independent evaluation team, selected by the Evaluation Office through an open tender. The evaluation team will have appropriate knowledge of the subject of the evaluation and skills mix, as well as relevant experience in performing similar evaluations in multilateral or United Nations organizations. The evaluation team will develop the evaluation methodology, conduct the analysis and deliver a report of the findings, including recommendations.

The Evaluation Office will provide the necessary support to the evaluation team during the evaluation exercise (finalization of methodology, facilitation of the evaluation process, identification of relevant documentation and data).

The Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee will play a critical advisory role. It will be kept informed throughout the evaluation process and consulted on the evaluation at key junctures, which will include consideration of the terms of reference and of the findings and recommendations.

Proposed timeline

- Consideration of the terms of reference and proposed approach at the 145th session of the Executive Board: May 2019
- Issuance of the open tender (request for proposals): June 2019
- Selection of the evaluation team: July/August 2019
- Presentation of the final report for consideration by the Executive Board, through the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee: January 2020

³ WHO Evaluation Practice Handbook. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2013. (https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/96311/9789241548687_eng.pdf?sequence=1, accessed 12 April 2019).

⁴ Norms and Standards for Evaluation. New York: United Nations Evaluation Group; 2016 and UNEG Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation, United Nations Evaluation Group Foundation Document, UNEG/FN/ETH(2008) (<http://www.unevaluation.org/document/detail/102>) (both accessed 12 April 2019).