

Young Evaluators are key to building a Better World!



To be successful, people-centered policies and programmes have to be based on credible evidence. This is where the evaluation process comes in. Properly done, evaluation spotlights those being left behind and identifies the specific circumstances and why this is happening. Moreover, the process also helps pinpoint what works and does not work when attempting to bring those most in danger of falling behind up to speed.

Laila Baker
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Background

In 2019, the United Nations Population Fund Arab States Regional Office (UNFPA ASRO) Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) unit set up a school for young and emerging evaluators in collaboration with EvalYouthMENA. The Evaluation School was launched in 2019 when 21 young evaluators (12 young women and nine young men) from 11 countries attended a three-day extensive workshop in Jordan.



The initiative came as part of UNFPA ASRO's continuous efforts to empower young and emerging evaluators (YEEs) in the Arab region by supporting their participation in EvalMENA Conferences and the evaluation pre-sessions.

Why?



The Evaluation School aims to empower young people working in the evaluation field in the region by developing their technical capacities, strengthening their role in monitoring and evaluation and their awareness of the inherent value of the process while equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to ensure high-quality evaluations to accurately assess the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

At UNFPA, evaluation is an essential tool to measure its impact, learn from its experiences, and continuously improve its programmes to ensure that they are accountable, evidence-based, and responsive to the needs of women, girls and youth in development and humanitarian contexts. By investing in evaluation, UNFPA can better accelerate the full implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

UNFPA is the UN sexual and reproductive health agency. Our mission is to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

On-the-job training

UNFPA ASRO offers graduates of the Evaluation School the chance to join the Country Programme Evaluations (CPEs) teams. This kind of on-the-job training helps broaden and develop the YEEs' evaluation experience.

In addition, UNFPA ASRO encourages other YEEs those who might not have enrolled in its Evaluation School yet are interested in being part of the evaluation team process to apply to join the teams responsible for Country Programme Evaluations as and when they are announced.

What YEE participants had to say



"I asked myself, how much time and effort does an evaluator need in order to be able to work as a professional evaluator - 10 or 20 years? Now, two years later, after participating in the Evaluation School, I feel proud that I was one of the independent evaluation team members who wrote the first-ever CPE report of the UNFPA Libya country programme in 2021."

Mohamed Eddabar, 29, Libya.

"I had the opportunity to meet with YEEs from the MENA region to discuss the evaluation policies in their countries. I learnt a lot. For me, the four-day workshop was equivalent to two years of learning. I was lucky to have the opportunity and be part of the evaluation team, who conducted the Morocco Country Programme Evaluation (CPE). This experience was a turning point in my career."

Zakaria Nidkazza, 32, Morocco.



"For me, it was always hard to get involved in such big and professional evaluation experiences (the Jordan CPE). But after joining the workshop, I feel confident to work now on high-level evaluation exercises. It helped me shift from the academic field to the professional and practical one."

Abdullah Bataineh, 35, Jordan.



"My participation in the Evaluation School was a turning point in my life. It helped me enrich my skills and expand my network. I got the chance to take part in two assignments: the evaluation of the UNFPA ASRO Regional Intervention Action Plan (RIAP) 2018-2021 and the development of a gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health integrated approach in humanitarian and emergency situations for the Humanitarian Hub for Syria and the Arab States."

Duaa Moslem, 31, Egypt

"This initiative helped me deepen my knowledge of evaluation and its tools in terms of international standards of expertise," said **Zoheir Hadeffi, 31, Algeria**, pronouncing the experience he gained within the Algeria CPE evaluation team 'unique.' Zoheir was an applicant who had not previously participated in the UNFPA Evaluation School.



"It was not easy at all to join a big exercise such as the development of the CPE of Palestine but thanks to the workshop I was able to make it. I truly believe that the initiative taken by UNFPA ASRO to involve young and emerging evaluators was spot on. I can speak from my own perspective since given my lack of experience, I had a very hard time getting into this field in the local market."

Arein Awad, 32, Palestine, recently recruited by WHO.



Want to become a YEE?

If you believe in the role of evaluation and are interested in becoming one of our YEEs, please follow UNFPA ASRO on social media and stay tuned for announcements about the next cycle of our Evaluation School.



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