



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Evaluation Service



UNHCR Evaluation Policy revision (2022)

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Overview

01. Rationale for revision

02. Main changes

03. Q&A



01. Rationale and inputs for revision

- **Scheduled review** of the previous policy.
- Major **organizational changes** – SD 2022-2026, regionalization and decentralization; results-based management (COMPASS) and multi-year planning.
- Inputs included from an **independent peer review** of the Evaluation Function and extensive internal consultation.
- Reviewed by IAOC and SET.



02. Main changes



Vision and principles

- The **vision** is that evaluation informs choices made at all levels of the organization in strategic planning, programming and decision-making based on timely, credible and impartial evidence.
- Integrated, **whole-of-organization approach**. Evaluation an integral part of the organization's results-based management culture and practice at all levels.
- **Alignment with organizational reforms**, new policies (e.g. Oversight Coordination), regionalization and associated roles, accountabilities and authorities.
- **Working with others**. In line with the GCR, UNHCR looks to increasingly strengthen its partnerships across and beyond the UN system. Evaluations are conducted jointly to look at collective results and systemwide learning.
- Clarifies the **role of persons of concern** in the evaluation process, from selection of topics to design, implementation and use.



New operational model

- Establishes a **clear theory of change** for evaluation in UNHCR and defines how evaluation will **contribute to improvements in strategic planning** and management.
- Outlines a **clear operational model** for the evaluation function:
 - Global policy, strategic / thematic evaluations and evaluation of large-scale emergency responses carried out by the Evaluation Office in HQ.
 - Global programme evaluations carried out by HQ Divisions.
 - Regional, multi-country and country-level evaluations carried out by bureaus and country offices with HR capacities to support.
- Simplified **typologies of evaluation** and clarifying responsibilities at global, regional and country levels.



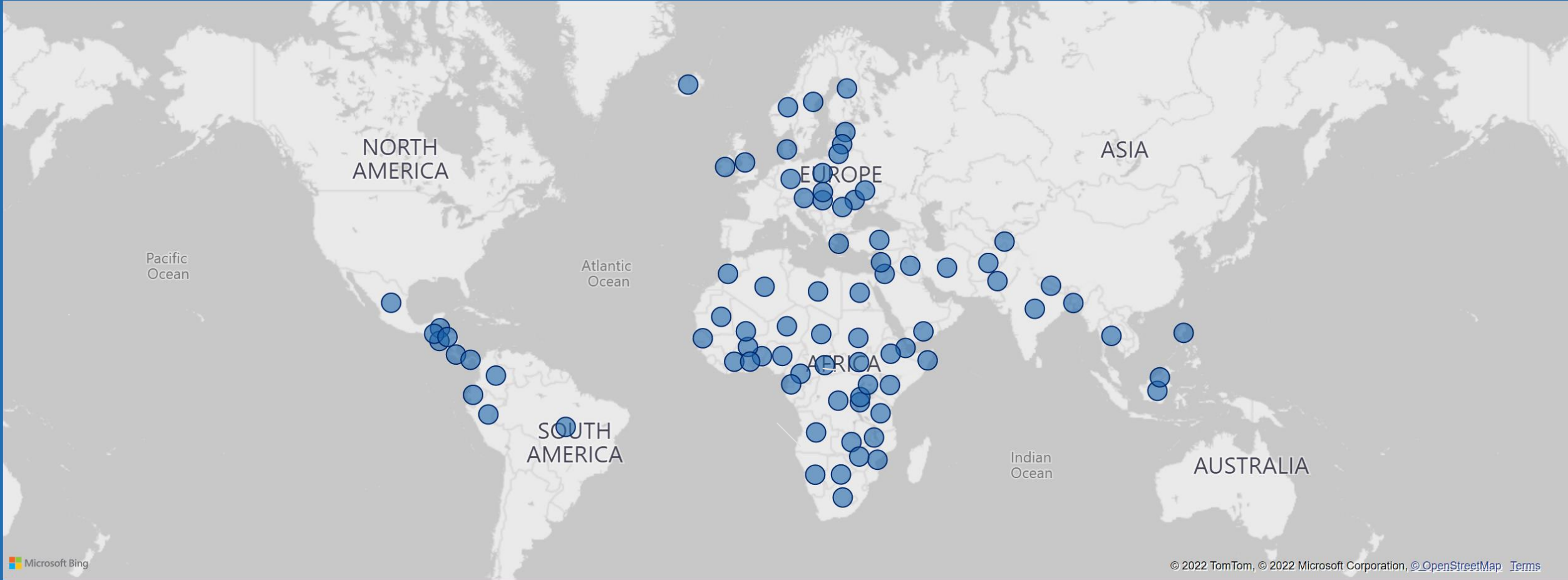
New operational model continued...

Establishes coverage norms for evaluation at global, regional and country levels:

- major policies to be evaluated once every two cycles or every 10 years;
 - country operations to be covered by some form of evaluation over a strategic planning cycle or every five years.
 - Specifies that evaluations of L3 emergencies should be initiated **within 15 months** of the declaration of the emergency, down from 18 months in the previous policy.
- Outlines **the potential sources of funding** for evaluation for different types of evaluation.
 - Specifically considers how evaluation can enable cross-fertilization, the **validation of good practices and the scale up of innovation.**



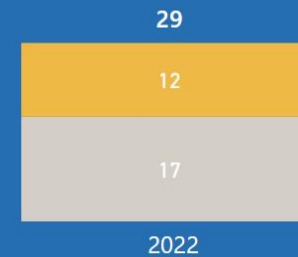
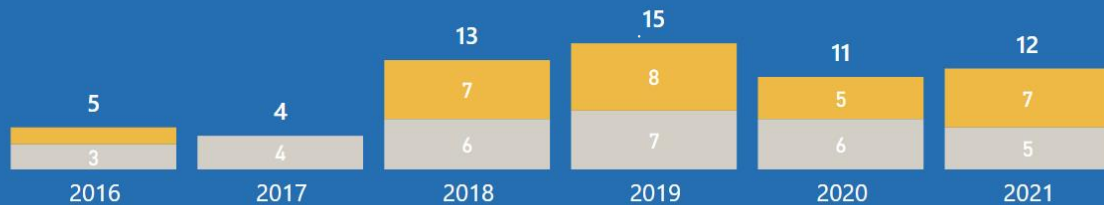
Geographic Coverage 2016-2021



Completed evaluations per year 2016 - 2021

Projection of completed evaluations in 2022

Type ● Centralized ● Decentralized



Roles, accountabilities and authorities

- Clarifies **the role, accountabilities and authorities** of the HC, SET, Directors of Divisions, Bureaux and Representatives to advocate for, resource, use and follow-up on evaluations.
- Outlines the contribution and relationships between evaluation and other related functions – results management, oversight, knowledge management, statistics & data.

Independence/Objectivity

- Defines **recruitment/termination of the Head of the Evaluation Office**. Limits the tenure to a 5-year term, renewable only once with no re-entry (e.g. in another position) possible in line with industry standard.
- Establishes an external technical **evaluation quality assessment** facility that provides independent benchmarking and time-series data.



Contributing to greater accountability

- Clarifies **how evaluation supports the accountability framework**.
- Clarifies and strengthens issues around **data access, protection, management and disclosure**.
- Incorporates **risk management concepts** and processes into evaluation.
- Extends the time period for **a management response** from two to three months to reflect the time needed to consult and agree on new strategic directions, particularly for more complex global evaluations.
- Includes a requirement to **report on implementation** of agreed management actions after 1 and then 2 years.



03. QUESTIONS





Thank you!