



UNAIDS PCB Bureau meeting

DATE: Tuesday 28 June 2022

TIME: 13:30-15:30 (Geneva time)

VENUE: Virtual

PARTICIPANTS:

PCB Bureau: H.E. Mr Rongvudhi Virabutr, Dr Preecha Prempree, Dr Walaiporn Patcharanarumol, Dr Thaksaphon Thammarangsi, Dr Sairat Noknoy, Ms Parichart Chantcharas, Mr Natee Vichitsorasatra, and Dr Cha-aim Pachanee representing the PCB Chair (Thailand); Mr Binod Mahanty representing the PCB Vice-Chair (Germany); Dr Peace Mutuma representing the PCB Rapporteur (Kenya); Dr Chewe Luo and Ms Bettina T. Schunter representing the Chair of the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations; and Ms Dinah Bons representing the PCB NGO Delegation.

UNAIDS Secretariat: Mr Morten Ussing, Director, Governance and Multilateral Affairs ; Ms Samia Lounnas, Senior Governance Advisor, Governance and Multilateral Affairs and Ms Maggie Lemons, Governance Officer, Governance and Multilateral Affairs

MEETING DRAFT AGENDA

- 1. Semi-annual update from the Evaluation Office (13:30-14:00):** *The Bureau will receive an update from the Evaluation Office on the implementation of the Evaluation Plan.*
- 2. Preparation for the upcoming PCB meeting (14:00-14:30):** *The Bureau will receive an update and provide guidance on the preparations for the upcoming PCB meeting, including reviewing proposed agenda items for the December PCB meeting.*
- 3. Establishment of the Multistakeholder Task Team on UNAIDS funding situation (14:30-15:30):** *The Bureau will discuss the follow-up to the decision to establish a multistakeholder task team from the 50th PCB meeting.*
- 4. Any other business**

Introduction

The Chair welcomed participants to the meeting and thanked them for their support in the preparation of the first-ever hybrid PCB meeting, which had taken place on 21-24 June 2022. The Chair also thanked participants for their willingness to meet so quickly following the 50th PCB meeting in view of the time-sensitive discussions on follow-up to decisions from the 50th PCB meeting.

The Chair noted that the agenda included 3 primary items: (1) semiannual update from the Evaluation Office, (2) preparation for the 51st PCB meeting, and (3) establishment of the multistakeholder task team on UNAIDS funding situation (both immediate and sustainable). The Chair added that in response to a request from Bureau members, he agreed to add an agenda item on reflections of the PCB Bureau on the 50th PCB meeting which the Bureau will discuss following the presentation of the semi-annual update from the Evaluation Office.

1. Semi-annual update from the Evaluation Office

The Chair welcomed the Director of the UNAIDS Evaluation Office to provide the update, noting that the report had been circulated to Bureau members in advance of the meeting. The Chair recalled that the PCB was expected to receive the full annual report on implementation of the Evaluation Plan at the 51st PCB meeting. The Chair recalled that the Evaluation Office was an independent function and that this reporting to the PCB was part of the PCB's oversight role.

The Evaluation Office Director, Joel Rehnstrom, presented the semi-annual update on evaluation, which was prepared in accordance with the UNAIDS Evaluation Policy approved by the PCB at its 44th meeting in June 2019. Slides from the presentation are included in Annex D. Mr. Rehnstrom recalled that the PCB approves the evaluation plan and considers annual reports on evaluation. The semi-annual update on evaluation has been provided to the PCB Bureau each July since the approval of the Evaluation Policy. The Expert Advisory Committee on Evaluation provides advice and guidance to the Evaluation Office. The work of the Evaluation Office is also supported by the Cosponsor Evaluation offices, which participate in joint evaluations.

Mr. Rehnstrom recalled the following key points stemming from discussion at the 49th PCB meeting in December 2021 on evaluation: efforts to reinforce independence, credibility and usefulness of evaluations had been appreciated. There was strong interest in the follow-up to the evaluations and a call for more rapid publication of management responses. PCB members had also noted the importance of adequately funding and staffing the Evaluation office in accordance with the policy approved by the Board.

The Director summarized progress from the year to date:

- Evaluations of the work of the Joint Programme with and for key populations as well as on efficiency and sustainability completed and the development of management responses almost completed.

- Evaluations of the work of the Joint Programme in Lesotho and Mali conducted to help the Joint Team on AIDS revisit their role and value added and position the Joint Programme in the UNSDCF's in the countries.
- Evaluations of the work of the Joint Programme on social protection and the country envelopes as well as the Secretariat data hubs initiated and expected to be completed by the end of the year.
- Implementation of the evaluations on UNAIDS policy work and influence and the impact and implications of Covid-19 in the second half of the year would be subject to availability of resources.

The Director provided an update on the budgeting of the office and noted concern regarding the potential impact of the Joint Programme's funding situation. The Director outlined key upcoming milestones:

- Mobilization of resources to enable full implementation of the Evaluation Plan.
- Active engagement in the MOPAN assessment of the evaluation function.
- Preparation and presentation of an annual report to the PCB in December.
- Consideration of PCB guidance in the implementation of the evaluation plan for 2023.
- Consideration of MOPAN conclusions and recommendations on evaluation.
- Independent review of the UNAIDS evaluation policy (as laid out in the terms of reference).
- Semiannual report to the PCB Bureau in July 2023.
- Development of a revised evaluation policy based on the independent review.
- Preparations and consultations for the next evaluation plan.
- PCB Bureau discussion on the annual report, revised evaluation policy, and evaluation plan in December 2023.

The PCB Bureau thanked the Evaluation Office for the update and for the office's significant work over the past year. They looked forward to the substantive discussions at the 51st PCB meeting. Members requested clarification on the impact of alignment and UNAIDS' funding situation on the Evaluation Office and implementation of the Evaluation Plan, stressing the importance of the continuity of the evaluation function. One member noted their interest in the evaluation on efficiency and sustainability.

The Evaluation Office responded that no adjustments had been made to the Evaluation Plan as a result of alignment but appreciated concerns from the Bureau regarding the potential impact. Mr. Rehnstrom recalled that the Evaluation Office was funded through core UBRAF resources with some funding from non-core resources for specific evaluations. Mr. Rehnstrom noted that the Evaluation Office anticipated remaining at the current level of staffing of two fulltime staff members, in lieu of the three originally previewed in the Evaluation Policy. Should the alignment and Joint Programme financial situation impact the current level of funding, the Evaluation office would need to scale down the ambition and scale of evaluation activities to adapt to a resource-constrained environment. He noted that the evaluation on efficiency and sustainability was posted on the evaluation website and the management response was expected later in 2022.

2. Reflections on the 50th PCB meeting

As agreed in the introduction of the meeting and in response to a request from some Bureau members, the Chair welcomed PCB Bureau members to provide any feedback from the 50th PCB meeting, which had been held from 21-24 June 2022.

Members of the Bureau, in particular those who requested this additional agenda item, highlighted that while the 50th PCB meeting delivered strong and important decisions, some important considerations and discussions held by the Board are not necessarily reflected in the final decision points, which is an expression of consensus. It would therefore be key for the Bureau to record during this meeting some reflections and a way forward for following-up on these with UNAIDS leadership, as well as during the 51st PCB meeting.

The Bureau discussed that two key issues required the Bureau's attention, including UNAIDS difficult funding situation and the staff wellbeing and morale, as reported by UNAIDS Secretariat Staff Association (USSA) and also reflected in the Ethics report. Some Bureau members underscored that the 30 million USD shortfall will have major consequences on the quality and impact of the work of the Joint Programme in delivering on the UBRAF 2022-2026 and the Global AIDS Strategy, in particular at the country level and advised that a discussion at the 51st PCB meeting is required to address these matters.

Bureau members congratulated the Chair on a successful first hybrid meeting. Each member of the Bureau, at the request of the Chair, provided feedback on key issues from the 50th PCB meeting discussions. They noted concerns regarding the current funding situation and the importance of shaping the discussions on this topic at the December PCB meeting, as well as other subjects raised during the 50th PCB meeting, including alignment and staff morale and wellbeing.

Members of the Bureau agreed that the informal multistakeholder task team on UNAIDS funding will provide guidance and recommendations for the PCB in December. They also agreed that the June PCB meeting in 2023 would be an opportunity to receive an overall update on the situation of the UNAIDS Secretariat staff morale and wellbeing as by that point the alignment process would be close to completion, including clarification on management's response to the recommendations included in the statement by the representative of the USSA from the 50th PCB meeting and the results of a Global Staff survey that will be launched in November 2022. In the meantime, Senior management committed to provide through the PCB Bureau regular updates on the recommendations in the report of the UNAIDS Secretariat Staff Association.

3. Agenda for the 51st PCB meeting

The Chair introduced the agenda item by recalling that, at the 50th PCB meeting, the PCB had agreed to hold its upcoming 51st PCB meeting in Thailand during the week of 13 December 2022. The December meeting would follow the [modalities and procedures approved by the PCB for all 2022 PCB meetings](#), including the delegation to the PCB Bureau of the final decision on holding the meeting virtually, as a hybrid meeting or fully in-person based on the health situation.

The Chair invited the Secretariat to provide an update on possible agenda items for the 51st PCB meeting for the Bureau to discuss the potential agenda items for the upcoming PCB meeting. Prior to the meeting, the Bureau members had received a table of follow-up agenda items for the 51st PCB meeting to support the discussion, which captured all decision points and specific requests made by the PCB at previous meetings.

The update was as follows:

Standing Items: The following standing items are common practice for the December meeting of the PCB.

- **Report of the 50th PCB meeting [CONFIRMED]:** The draft report of the 50th PCB meeting would be published ahead of the 51st meeting. This report would be longer than usual as it would also cover the statements that were pre-submitted in addition to those delivered in plenary, as agreed in the PCB intersessional paper on Modalities and Procedures for 2022 PCB meetings.
- **Report of the Executive Director [CONFIRMED]:** The report of the Executive Director is a standing item at all PCBs. The Executive Director traditionally releases an outline of the report in advance of the meeting. The full report is published following her delivery of the speech at the PCB. The report includes the most important achievements in the global AIDS response since the PCB last met, as well as emphasis on remaining challenges.
- **Report by the NGO Representative [CONFIRMED]:** The NGO report is written by the NGO delegation, typically following extensive consultations with civil society globally, on a topic of their choice. At the request of the NGO Delegation, the Bureau postponed this year's report to the 51st PCB meeting.
- **Follow-up to the thematic segment on *Positive Learning: harnessing the power of education to end HIV-related stigma and discrimination, empower young people and provide a comprehensive HIV response* [CONFIRMED]:** Every PCB has a thematic segment on a timely topic selected by the PCB. This thematic segment takes place on the last day of the PCB, following the decision-making segment, and involves panels of speakers. There is no decision-making on the thematic segment at that meeting to give representatives the time and space to really engage with the discussions. At the subsequent PCB, a summary report of the thematic segment's presentations and discussions is provided for potential decision making. This report, the Follow-up to the thematic segment, will be on the topic from the 50th PCB meeting: *Positive Learning: harnessing the power of education to end HIV-related stigma and discrimination, empower young people and provide a comprehensive HIV response*. The summary report is being finalized and will be sent to the Bureau for discussion and clearance.
- **Thematic Segment [CONFIRMED]:** *HIV and men, in all their diversity, how can we get our responses back on track?* The thematic segment is planned by a PCB Working Group. This group will be constituted and begin work in September.
- **Next PCB meetings [CONFIRMED]:** This item is a standing item on the December PCB agenda. It includes a short paper that will indicate the dates for the 56th and 57th PCB meetings as well as the thematic segment themes for 2023. The Secretariat will send an email over this summer calling for nominations of themes for 2023.

- **Election of Officers [CONFIRMED]:** This item is a standing item on the December PCB agenda. It includes the composition of the PCB for the next year as approved by ECOSOC and as submitted by the NGO Delegation. As indicated by its name, it also includes the election of officers in the Bureau.
- **Leadership in the AIDS Response [CONFIRMED]:** This is a standing agenda item for the UNAIDS Executive Director to invite a high-level speaker to provide a keynote speech.

Possible issues to be considered at the 51st PCB meeting

- **Task Team on sustainable funding of the Joint Programme [CONFIRMED]:**
 - The Secretariat recalled decision points 6.7 and 6.8 from the 50th PCB meeting:
 - “Requests the PCB Bureau to urgently convene an informal inclusive task team of interested PCB members, observers, cosponsors, the PCB NGO delegation and other stakeholders on options for resolving the immediate funding crisis for the 2022-2023 biennium and report back to the PCB electronically by 30 July 2022 on outcomes and recommendations of these discussions;”
 - “In advance of the next UNAIDS Structured Financing Dialogue, calls on the PCB Bureau to utilize the informal multistakeholder task team to develop recommendations on voluntarily based sustainable funding of the UBRAF, to be presented and discussed at the December 2022 PCB.”
- **Report of the Task Team on Community-led AIDS responses [CONFIRMED]:**
 - The Secretariat recalled the original decision point from the 43rd PCB, which called for the establishment of this task team:
 - Recalling decision point 10.4, “Requests the Joint Programme to: Convene a task team with diverse donors, implementing countries, and civil society representatives, including representatives of people living with HIV, women and adolescent girls and young women, youth and key populations, to standardize the use of definitions, including, “community-led AIDS response” and “social enablers” and to recommend good practices and improved modalities to ensure access to funding for community-based organizations and constituency-based networks;
 - At the 46th meeting, the PCB took note of the progress report and submitted their comments on this agenda item in replacement of the debate. At the 47th meeting, a report of the Task Team was submitted, and the PCB took *decision point 8.4* “looking forward to receiving the final recommendations at a future PCB meeting.”
- **Evaluation Plan [CONFIRMED]**
 - In 2019, the PCB formally approved the Evaluation Policy, which established the UNAIDS Evaluation Office.
 - Recalling decision 9.2 from the 47th PCB, “Welcomes progress in the implementation of the Evaluation Policy and Evaluation Plan, recognizes the important work done by the Expert Advisory Committee in support of the UNAIDS Evaluation Office and requests the next annual report to be presented to the Programme Coordinating Board in 2021;”
 - The annual reports have subsequently been delivered each December.

- **Report on the progress on action to reduce stigma and discrimination in all its forms [CONFIRMED]**
 - o The Secretariat recalled decision point 8.2 of the 45th PCB, “Requests the UNAIDS Joint Programme to: a) Support Member States, civil society, networks of key population and other partners, including national, regional and international human rights institutions and bodies, to set national targets and programmatic indicators to track progress and report impact of stigma and discrimination reduction programmes in routine monitoring and reporting mechanisms; b) Coordinate and increase technical assistance, and develop synergies between the Global Partnership for action to eliminate all forms of HIV related stigma and discrimination and bilateral and multilateral donors and other stakeholders investing in programmes to eliminate stigma and discrimination in all its forms at national, regional and global level; c) continue to strengthen capacities of civil society, women and adolescent organizations, networks of people living with HIV and key populations at country level to demand discrimination-free services and participate in the design, implementation and tracking of programmes to end discrimination; and d) report back to the Programme Coordinating Board on progress made on reducing HIV-related stigma and discrimination”
 - o The most recent report on stigma and discrimination was given to the 49th PCB in December 2021. Accordingly, the technical team suggested providing a report focused on a specific element of the response in lieu of a more comprehensive report (which would be delivered at a later date).

- **HIV in prisons and other closed settings [POSTPONED]**
 - o The Secretariat recalled decision point 5.3d from the 49th PCB meeting, “Report to the Programme Coordinating Board on progress towards 2025 targets as related to people in prison and other closed settings.”
 - o Given that the most recent report back was only a year ago, the PCB Bureau and technical team agreed to consider this agenda item for the 2023 PCB meetings.

The Chair thanked the Secretariat for the overview and reminded Bureau members that there may be limited time for each of the agenda items (should the meeting be held in virtual or hybrid format). Bureau members agreed to the above agenda items and requested the Secretariat to develop a draft agenda for their approval on this basis.

The PCB Chair and Bureau members stressed the importance of and requested, as required, that the Executive Director ensure that an outline of her report is publicly posted at least a week ahead of the PCB meeting to allow for delegations to prepare their statements.

Members also stressed the need to take into consideration the need for strict time management for PCB meetings, in particular for the thematic segment.

4. Establishment of the multistakeholder Task Team on UNAIDS funding situation

The Chair recalled the decision points agreed at the 50th PCB meeting for the PCB Bureau “to establish an informal inclusive task team of interested PCB members, observers, cosponsors, the PCB NGO delegation and other stakeholders on options for resolving the immediate

funding crisis for the 2022-2023 biennium and to report back to the PCB electronically by 30 July 2022 on outcomes and recommendations of these discussions.”

In view of the short timeframe for the establishment of the task team, the Chair, with the support of the Secretariat, had developed draft terms of reference (TORs) for the multistakeholder task team, which had been circulated to the PCB Bureau members ahead of the meeting.

The TORs included the background from the 50th PCB meeting that led to the establishment of the task team. The task team has two primary responsibilities, as outlined in the decisions from the 50th PCB meeting:

- Requests the PCB Bureau to urgently convene an informal inclusive task team of interested PCB members, observers, cosponsors, the PCB NGO delegation and other stakeholders to utilize the informal multistakeholder task team to develop recommendations on voluntarily based sustainable funding of the UBRAF, to be presented and discussed at the December 2022 PCB.”
- To accomplish these tasks, including in view of the short timeframe, it is recommended that the PCB Bureau urgently move forward with a call for expression of interest for up to 15 members for the task team. This call would be circulated following the Bureau meeting. A final list of nominations would be submitted for the Bureau’s urgent electronic approval by 7 July 2022.

The task team is suggested to meet twice in July to finalize their initial recommends on options to resolve the immediate funding situation. They will submit these to the PCB Bureau by Friday, 22 July 2022. The Bureau will then be expected to submit these electronically to the wider PCB by the end of July.

The task team would then be expected to meet twice during the fall to review their recommendations for the longer-term voluntarily based sustainable funding of the Joint Programme ahead of the Structured Funding Dialogue. The Task Team would submit these recommendations in a final report to the PCB Bureau, who would subsequently submit the report to the 51st PCB meeting on this basis. The scope of the task team would include options for both immediate and long-term funding of the Joint Programme.

It was recommended that the task team consist of no more than 15 members to ensure that it can be operational as soon as possible. The task team would be supported by the PCB Bureau and UNAIDS Resource Mobilization Team. The Governance Team would support the PCB Bureau in this process.

The PCB Bureau thanked the Chair and Secretariat for their quick follow-up to the decision points from the 50th PCB meeting in view of the short timeframe to establish the task team. Members requested clarification on the process for submissions of nominations, which would be sent via email to PCBGovernance@unaids.org. Those on the task team would serve in an individual capacity. Bureau members proposed some revisions to the terms of reference, including emphasizing the importance of experts with a track record in fundraising. The Bureau agreed to provide any further written comments by COB Wednesday, 29 June 2022, at which point, the Chair would move forward with the call for expressions of interest and to support the process as required.

5. AOB

There were no additional items raised and the Chair closed the meeting.

Annex A: Table of follow-up items from PCB meetings - for possible inclusion in the agenda of the 51st PCB Meeting

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE 51st PCB MEETING		
Standing items		Agenda items
		Report of the 50th PCB meeting
		Executive Director (EXD) report
		Report by the NGO representative
		Follow-up to the thematic segment from the 50th Programme Coordinating Board meeting: Positive Learning: harnessing the power of education to end HIV-related stigma and discrimination and empower young people living with HIV
		Thematic segment: <i>HIV and men, in all their diversity, how can we get our responses back on track?</i>
		Next PCB meetings
		Election of Officers
		Leadership in in the AIDS response
Possible items for the 51st PCB meeting	Decision Number	Agenda items
50th	6.7	[Task team on sustainable funding] Requests the PCB Bureau to urgently convene an informal inclusive task team of interested PCB members, observers, cosponsors, the PCB NGO delegation and other stakeholders on options for resolving the immediate funding crisis for the 2022-2023 biennium and report back to the PCB electronically by 30 July 2022 on outcomes and recommendations of these discussions;
	6.8	In advance of the next UNAIDS Structured Financing Dialogue, calls on the PCB Bureau to utilize the informal multistakeholder task team to develop recommendations on voluntarily based sustainable funding of the UBRAF, to be presented and discussed at the December 2022 PCB;
47th	8.4	[Report of the Task Team on Community-led AIDS responses] Looks forward to receiving the final recommendations at a future PCB meeting
	6.2	Previous decision points included for ease of reference <i>Recalling decision point 10.4b of the 43rd Programme Coordinating Board meeting, requests the Joint Programme to convene a geographically balanced multistakeholder task team open to all Member States, and to report back on the process to the Programme Coordinating Board in its 46th Session.</i> <i>Decision 10.4b of the 43rd PCB: Requests the Joint Programme to:</i> <i>Convene a task team with diverse donors, implementing countries, and civil society representatives, including representatives of people living with HIV, women and adolescent girls and young women, youth and key populations, to standardize the use of definitions, including, "community-led AIDS response" and "social enablers" and to recommend good practices and improved modalities to ensure access to funding for community-based organizations and constituency-based networks;</i>
49th	7.4	[Annual Report on Evaluation] Agrees to the composition of the Expert Advisory Committee on evaluation proposed by the PCB Bureau for the period 2022-2023 as mentioned in annex 1 of the 2021 annual report (UNAIDS/PCB (49)/21.28), approves the 2022–2023 Evaluation Plan (UNAIDS/PCB (49)/21.28) endorsed by the Expert Advisory Committee and looks forward to the next annual report on evaluation to be presented to the Programme Coordinating Board in 2022;
49th	9.3e	[Report on progress on actions to reduce stigma and discrimination in all its forms] Report to the Programme Coordinating Board on progress towards reaching the 2025 targets related to HIV-related stigma and discrimination;
49th	5.3d	[HIV in prisons and other closed settings] Report to the Programme Coordinating Board on progress towards 2025 targets as related to people in prisons and other closed settings;

Annex B: Terms of Reference for the Multistakeholder Task team to provide recommendations to the Bureau on UNAIDS funding situation (immediate and sustainable)

Background

1. In her report to the 50th Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) meeting in June 2022, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Executive Director stressed to the Board that, while the PCB had approved the new Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF) in 2021 with the threshold of US\$ 210 million per year, current projections estimate that, due to declining contributions, currency fluctuations and some announced and anticipated Official Development Assistance (ODA) reallocations, a figure of US \$157 million for 2022 is likely. She highlighted that there was already a decrease from the last biennium after a period of flat lined budgets and a consistent drive towards efficiency and cost-containment.

2. The Executive Director stressed that the situation was not sustainable, and the lack of predictable and sustainable funding for the UBRAF is putting the achievements in past decades at risk.

3. For 2022, UNAIDS is facing a gap of US\$ 50 million from the PCB approved higher threshold for the UBRAF of US\$ 210 million, and some US\$ 30 million in relation to UNAIDS investment and expenditure in 2021. While this represents a very small fraction of the US\$ 21 billion that is available annually for the HIV response in low- and middle- income countries, for the Joint Programme and its countries and partners, this gap is extremely significant and threatens the core work of the Joint Programme. Countries and civil society organizations underscored the pivotal role of UNAIDS in bringing together their governments with the Global Fund, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), civil society partners and communities to ensure that their responses are well coordinated, effective, address the epidemic where it has most impact and is evidence based.

4. At this same Board meeting, the UNAIDS Executive Director expressed her gratitude to donors who are working together towards a collective effort in closing this funding gap, including the firm pledges maintaining the level of their 2021 core contributions in local currency from Denmark, Luxembourg, and Norway for a total of US\$ 17.1 million, which brings contributions so far received towards the core budget to US\$ 60.2 million. The United States Government also continued its leadership and generous support for the Joint Programme with an expected increase of US\$5 million for a total of US\$50 million. She underscored that the current economic crisis and UNAIDS' latest resource outlook are deeply concerning. She added that new cuts and the unpredictability that come with them will hamper the Joint Programme's ability to deliver on the goals of the Global AIDS Strategy 2021–2026. The funding deficit will also negatively impact national responses (already off track) and jeopardize attainment of key milestones and goals.

5. At the 50th PCB meeting, the External Auditor, and Independent External Oversight Advisory Committee (IEOAC) also alerted the PCB to the tenuous funding situation and the criticality of sustainable financing for the UNAIDS Joint Programme to continue to operate.

6. At the 50th session of the Programme Coordinating Board¹, the Board took note of the alarming funding situation for the Joint Programme and reiterated the full trust and commitments to UNAIDS work. In view of the pressing funding situation, the PCB requested the PCB Bureau to urgently convene an informal inclusive multistakeholder task team consisting of PCB members, observers, cosponsors, the PCB NGO Delegation and other stakeholders on options for resolving the immediate funding crisis for the 2022-2023 biennium and report back to the PCB electronically by 30 July 2022 on outcomes and recommendations

of these discussions. Furthermore, the PCB called on the Bureau to utilize the informal multistakeholder task team to, in advance of the UNAIDS Structured dialogue at the end of October 2022, develop recommendations on voluntarily based sustainable funding of the UBRAF, to be presented and discussed at the December 2022 PCB meeting.

Composition of the task team

7. Drawing on previous experiences of the Secretariat on establishing working groups and in accordance with decision 6.7 of the 50th meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board, the membership of the task team shall be geographically, and gender balanced and include no more than 15 members. It shall be open to all PCB members, observers, cosponsors, PCB NGO Delegation, and other stakeholders.

Process for the Establishment of the task team

8. The PCB Bureau, supported by the UNAIDS Secretariat, will facilitate the establishment of the informal multistakeholder task team through the development of Terms of Reference (TOR) and an open call for nominations from the different constituencies and external partners with fundraising expertise and experience. Members of the informal multistakeholder task team are recommended to have the following competencies and experience:

- Good understanding of HIV, health and/or related development issues and familiarity with the work of the UNAIDS Secretariat and Cosponsors, at country, regional and/or global levels;
- Excellent knowledge and understanding and/or experience of international and/or national funding architecture for HIV/health responses;
- Expertise and experience in resource mobilization;
- Understanding of the GIPA (Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS) principle and its application in national HIV responses;
- Working knowledge of English and/or French (the two official working languages of UNAIDS – interpretation will be provided if required).

9. The PCB Bureau will select the final composition of the Task Team and communicate this list to PCB stakeholders.

10. The task team shall elect Co-Chairs from within its membership and define the modalities of work.

11. The Task team should be composed of no more than 15 members with variable experience to be efficient in delivering urgent recommendations to the PCB Bureau. The task team is expected to complete their work by the end of 2022.

SCOPE OF WORK

- Discuss on options and actions for resolving the immediate funding crisis for the 2022-2023 and provide recommendations to the PCB Bureau on these discussions. These recommendations will subsequently be communicated to the PCB electronically by the PCB Bureau.

- Develop recommendations, ahead of the Structured Funding Dialogue, on voluntarily based sustainable funding of the UBRAF to be presented and discussed at the December 2022 PCB.

ROLE OF THE INFORMAL MULTISTAKEHOLDER TASK TEAM

- **Proposed modalities of work of the task team**

- Possibility of four hybrid meetings to be held in Geneva, Switzerland (meetings may be held virtually if external circumstances require). In view of the short timeframe, participants present in Geneva will be invited to participate in-person. Those outside of Geneva will be invited to participate virtually.

- Communication via e-mail, video conference, calls
- Meetings of the PCB Bureau

- **Deliverables**

- Report on options for resolving the immediate UNAIDS funding crisis for the 2022-2023 biennium submitted electronically to the PCB by 30 July 2022.

- Develop recommendations on voluntarily based sustainable funding of the UBRAF and submit these to the PCB at the December 2022 PCB meeting.

I. Proposed timeline

Timeline	Actions
28 June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCB Bureau meeting to review and finalize the terms of reference for the Task Team
30 June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call for expression of interests circulated to PCB stakeholders
7 July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressions of interest submitted to the PCB Bureau for consideration and establishment
8 July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCB Bureau meeting to finalize establishment of task team (TBC)
15 July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First meeting of the task team to develop recommendations on options for resolving the immediate funding crisis
21 July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second meeting of the Task Team to develop recommendations on options for resolving the immediate funding crisis
22 July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task Team Co-Chairs submit the recommendations of the Task Team to the PCB Bureau
25 July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCB Bureau meeting to finalize the recommendations to the wider PCB
30 July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final report submitted to the wider PCB electronically by the PCB Bureau
September 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third meeting of the task team ahead of the Structured Funding Dialogue
October 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fourth meeting of the task team with electronic submission of recommendations to the PCB Bureau ahead of the Structured Funding Dialogue
End of October 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structured Funding Dialogue
November 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of the task team’s final report to the December PCB meeting
November 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCB Bureau meeting on the upcoming report of the task team to the PCB (TBC)

II. Estimated budget

Items	Estimated cost (US\$)
4 hybrid meetings (in-person option for Geneva participants and virtual for those outside of Geneva)	Covered by core Secretariat staff
Independent Report Writer (10 days)	\$6,500
Any other costs as required	TBC
Total	\$6,500



IMPLEMENTATION OF UNAIDS 2022-2023 EVALUATION PLAN

SEMI-ANNUAL UPDATE

28 June 2022

UNAIDS Evaluation Office

Prepared by: UNAIDS Independent Evaluation Office for the Bureau of Programme Coordinating Board in accordance with UNAIDS evaluation policy [PCB (44) 19.7; decision 6.6].

Additional documents: Evaluation Policy (UNAIDS/PCB (44)/19.17), Annual Report on Evaluation and 2022–2023 Evaluation Plan (UNAIDS/PCB (49)/21.28).

Action required: The PCB Bureau is invited to review the update and *take note of* progress made and constraints faced in implementing the 2022-2023 evaluation plan, which are proposed to be considered and discussed in-depth at the 51st meeting of the PCB in December 2022 when an annual report on evaluation will be presented to the Board.

Cost implications for the implementation of the decision: None

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Introduction

1. In December 2021, UNAIDS evaluation plan for 2022–2023 was presented to the 49th meeting of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) together with an annual report on evaluation.¹ At the meeting, the PCB approved the evaluation plan for 2022–2023, expressed appreciation for the important work done by the Evaluation Office, and commended efforts to reinforce the independence, credibility and usefulness of evaluations. Moreover, the PCB asked the Secretariat to ensure that 1% of organizational resources are allocated to the evaluation function, as committed to in the PCB-approved evaluation policy (UNAIDS/PCB (49)/21.35).²
2. The evaluation plan for 2022-2023 was developed based on UNAIDS evaluation policy, which was approved by the PCB at its 44th meeting in June 2019. The approval of the policy formalized the establishment of the UNAIDS Evaluation Office as a structurally and functionally independent unit of the UNAIDS Secretariat, positioned independently from management functions and reporting directly to the Board (see Annex 1).
3. The evaluation plan for 2022-2023 draws on inputs from UNAIDS Secretariat and Cosponsor staff and includes feedback from the Cosponsor Evaluation Offices on the most relevant topics for joint evaluations. The evaluation plan was reviewed by UNAIDS Expert Advisory Committee on evaluation before it was presented for approval to the PCB in December 2021. This update is prepared and presented to the PCB Bureau in accordance with the evaluation policy.
4. The PCB Bureau is invited to review the update and take note of progress made and constraints faced in implementing the 2022-2023 evaluation plan. Key challenges are related to the fact that the evaluation function has not been resourced in accordance with the evaluation policy, which calls for 1% of organizational resources to be allocated to the evaluation function – see decisions 7.3 of the 49th meeting and decision 9.3 of the 47th meeting of the PCB. The resourcing and staffing of the evaluation function are expected to be discussed at the 51st meeting of the PCB in December 2022 when an annual report on evaluation will be presented to the Board.

Recent and ongoing evaluations

5. Evaluations and other activities that are expected to be carried out in 2022 and their associated budgets are presented in table 1. Short descriptions of the evaluations are presented in the narrative section following table 1.

Table 1: Evaluations and activities to be carried out in 2022

Evaluations completed	Original budget	Revised budget
Joint Programme evaluations		
Key Populations*	30,000	30,000
Efficient and Sustainable Financing*	38,000	38,000
<i>Total for evaluations initiated in 2021</i>	<i>68,000</i>	<i>68,000</i>
Evaluations initiated	Original budget	Revised budget
Joint Programme evaluations		
Country Envelopes	210,000	210,000
Social Protection**	260,000	120,000
Country Level Work***	100,000	60,000
<i>Total for evaluations initiated in 2022</i>	<i>570,000</i>	<i>390,000</i>
UNAIDS Secretariat evaluations		
UNAIDS Data Hubs	60,000	60,000
The Impact and Implications of COVID-19**	90,000	60,000
UNAIDS Secretariat Policy Influence**	120,000	60,000
Regional and Country-level Work***	40,000	20,000
<i>Total for evaluations initiated in 2022</i>	<i>310,000</i>	<i>200,000</i>
Activities	Original budget	Revised budget
Design, capacity development, management		
Design, management and follow up****	15,000	10,000
Evaluation culture and professionalisation****	10,000	5,000
Quality assessment of evaluation reports	24,000	21,000
<i>Estimated total for activities</i>	<i>49,000</i>	<i>36,000</i>
GRAND TOTAL	997,000	694,000

* initiated in 2021; completed in the first half of 2022; budget refers to funding in 2022

** the scope of the evaluation has been scaled down due to the financial situation

*** the number of evaluations has been reduced due to the financial situation

**** the scope of the activities has been reduced due to the financial situation

Joint Programme evaluations

Recently completed evaluations

6. The Joint Programme's work with and for key populations. The evaluation was managed by UNAIDS, WHO, UNODC and UNESCO Evaluation Offices and conducted by a team of independent evaluators and representatives of key populations. All Cosponsors and the global networks of key populations and people living with HIV engaged in the evaluation as members of a reference group. The evaluation covered the period 2018-2021 and combined a global consultation and document review with six in-depth country case studies, in Cameroon, Kenya, Ukraine, Peru, Thailand, and Tunisia, engaging key populations at all levels through all stages of the evaluation.
7. Despite *people left behind* a central tenet of Agenda 2030, key populations still lack adequate access to HIV services, and are often victims of stigma, discrimination, and other human rights abuses. Accordingly, with half of new HIV infections globally among key populations and their sexual partners, an evaluation of the work of the Joint Programme with and for key populations was deemed a priority to assess the relevance and coherence, effectiveness, and equity of the UNAIDS Joint Programme support to key populations at country level, in the context of broader country responses to HIV.
8. The evaluation concluded that the Joint Programme is recognized and valued for supporting key population responses. However, advocacy to defend the human rights

needs to be stepped up and programming needs prioritizing to address inequalities and pockets of high incidence. Inclusive planning processes are needed to enhance the relevance of Joint Programme activities, as well as a stronger monitoring and reporting system. To ensure financial sustainability, there is need for more investments for key populations as well as integration of HIV services and making Universal Health Coverage work for different key population groups.

9. The evaluation breaks down what support to community-led responses means in practice and shines a light on the extent to which the Joint Programme supports service provision and strategically engages with governments to improve policies and the enabling environment for key populations, and how it brokers space for key population-led groups and networks in decision-making processes. The evaluation analyses how well UN agencies are equipped in terms of human and financial resources to provide the support needed and highlights good practices and lessons learned. See <https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/documents/2022/joint-evaluation-un-joint-programme-aids-work-key-populations>.
10. A joint management response to the evaluation recommendations is being developed under the leadership of UNFPA and UNDP with support from the UNAIDS Secretariat. The response identifies priority actions and clear timelines and responsibilities across Cosponsors and the Secretariat to address the priority challenges identified by the evaluation. A large dissemination event is planned so to increase awareness and ownership at the various levels of the Joint Programme. The evaluation office will track implementation of the Management Response to June 2023.
11. The Joint Programme's work on efficiency and sustainability. The evaluation of the work of the UN Joint Programme on AIDS on efficient and sustainable financing was managed by the UNAIDS and UNFPA Evaluation Offices, in collaboration with WFP. The evaluation combined a global consultation and document review with case studies in Côte d'Ivoire, Kazakhstan, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam. With the world facing its biggest economic crisis in a generation, the funding for the AIDS response plateauing and many countries still coming to grips with the aftereffects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the evidence and lessons from the evaluation come at an opportune time to promote sustainable and efficient resourcing for the AIDS response.
12. The evaluation found that the Joint Programme has made important contributions to improving the allocative and technical efficiency of the AIDS response. At country level, UNAIDS convening power, political advocacy and role as a neutral broker have directly contributed to enhancing Global Fund and PEPFAR funding processes and domestic commitments to HIV. The Joint Programme's inclusiveness of civil society, community-based organizations and key populations has directly contributed to funding key population services and community-led responses.
13. The evaluation recommends improved coordination and integration of HIV financing into Universal Health Coverage and the health financing agenda more broadly. Allocative and technical efficiency, particularly focused on domestic financing, should be a priority for the Joint Programme going forward. More is also needed to strengthen the capacity of civil society, community-based organisations and key populations to engage in the financing agenda. The development of a joint management response is currently led by the Equitable Financing Practice area in the UNAIDS Secretariat.

Ongoing evaluations

14. The Joint Programme country envelopes. An evaluation of the UNAIDS country envelopes is included in UNAIDS evaluation plan for 2022-2023. The country envelopes were introduced in 2017 as part a refined operating model to incentivise joint planning and action and to drive impact as part of UN Joint Plans on HIV and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs). The country envelope funds amount to approximately half of the Cosponsors' total core Unified Budget Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF) funds. The country envelopes are one component of an integrated approach at country level, comprising country capacity assessments and standardised Joint Plans on HIV.
15. The country envelopes were reviewed in 2018 through six country case studies, but there has been no a systematic assessment of the country envelopes as a resource allocation mechanism, or of how funds have been used or of the results achieved. This evaluation is expected to fill this gap by assessing past and present use and results of country envelopes with a view to informing the implementation of ongoing and future activities in the UNAIDS 2022-2026 UBRAF. The evaluation is designed to help the Joint Programme better prioritise, allocate funds more efficiently and enhance evidence-based actions and results towards the Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026 goal of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.
16. The Joint Programme's work on social protection. An evaluation of the work of the UNAIDS Joint Programme on social protection is carried out as part of the 2022-2023 evaluation plan. It is jointly managed by the evaluation offices of UNAIDS, ILO, WFP and UNICEF. Other Cosponsors and external partners are part of a reference group for the evaluation. The evaluation is designed both for accountability and organizational learning purposes. The evaluation covers the work of the Joint Programme to promote HIV sensitive social protection at the global level and across regions and countries over the period 2018-2021. It aims at assessing its relevance, coherence, effectiveness and equity . The evaluation will take stock of the level of HIV (and TB) integration into social protection programmes and how integration has been carried out; what partners are involved; what is the coverage and access to social protection across population groups and epidemic profiles, and who are the people left behind.
17. The evaluation will provide actionable recommendations to the Cosponsors and the Secretariat for maximizing the contribution to HIV sensitive social protection, taking stock of what is working well, what the Joint Programme should stop doing or do less of, and where efforts are needed to address existing gaps. Recommendations for current and future work will indicate clear responsibilities and timelines and expressed in a way that they can be costed. The evaluation will contribute to future planning of social protection interventions to strengthen their reach and inclusion of people living with, at risk of or affected by HIV
18. Country level evaluations. Joint Programme evaluations have been carried out in Lesotho and Mali in the first half of 2022. The purpose of the evaluations was to assess the role and contribution of the Joint Programme in these countries and to help the strategic positioning of HIV and the Joint Programme in UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks. In both countries, there is a clear sense among the UN agencies, government representatives and partners that HIV remains a key area of work for the UN and that the Joint Team is a good mechanism to bring the UN system together to enhance coordination, coherence, effectiveness and efficiency. The support provided by the UNAIDS Country Office and the Cosponsors is much appreciated – with further harmonization and simplification of reporting called for.

19. Promoting and supporting evaluations and reviews by different UNAIDS Secretariat units and offices has proved to be an effective tool to strengthen evaluation culture and capacity. The Evaluation Office stands ready to support decentralised evaluations like the upcoming review of the Fast-Track city programme or reviews in the context of the TSM mechanism. Country evaluations are a way to strengthen evaluation as well as planning and monitoring capacity across the Joint Programme. For instance, the Joint Programme evaluation in Mali included a two-day workshop with the UN Joint Team on AIDS to reconstruct a theory of change for the work of the UN system on ending AIDS as a public health threat in the country.

UNAIDS Secretariat evaluations

20. UNAIDS Secretariat Data Hubs. The evaluation is designed as a formative evaluation, to take stock of efforts to date on establishing data hubs in different regions with a particular emphasis on learning from the experience of the first data hub, which was established in Asia and the Pacific. The evaluation is expected to provide UNAIDS – at the time of considerable organisational changes – insights on the overall role of strategic information and ways of improving data use and data sharing platforms.
21. The evaluation aims to assess the relevance of the data hubs, the purposefulness of the set-up, management arrangements, results and sustainability. It aims to identify critical elements and functions for data hubs to be successful while recognizing that data hubs may take different shapes and perform distinct roles across regions due to different epidemic contexts and organizational needs. In a context of scarce resources, the evaluation should generate recommendations which contribute to making the most out of the data hubs investment in the context of UNAIDS overall information and knowledge management strategies.

Other activities

Enhancing the quality of evaluations

22. While during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic evaluation approaches and methods had to be adjusted and evaluations carried out remotely, it is now again possible to conduct country missions involving in-person interviews, focus group discussions and site visits. This is facilitating and enhancing the quality of the data collection and evaluations more generally at a time of increasing fatigue with virtual meetings and online key informant interviews, which were necessary and worked well at the beginning of the pandemic.
23. In addition to ensuring the quality of evaluations throughout the design and implementation process, UNAIDS Evaluation Office assesses each evaluation once it is completed with the aim of improving the overall quality of evaluations overtime. The assessments are conducted by an independent academic institution (C4ED) using a checklist developed in collaboration with the UNAIDS Expert Advisory Committee on evaluation drawing on the UNEG quality of evaluation checklist and the OECD/DAC quality standards for development evaluations.
24. UNAIDS Evaluation Office is an active member of the UN Evaluation Group (UNEG) and participates in UN system-wide and joint evaluations, working groups and meetings of UNEG. Collaboration and sharing of knowledge, expertise and experience with the Cosponsor Evaluation Offices is particularly close and beneficial.

Follow up to evaluations

25. To ensure that evaluations are used, and evaluation recommendations implemented, the Evaluation Office ensures that managers in UNAIDS Secretariat and the Cosponsors have a chance to contribute to and co-create evaluation recommendations; and then – over a three-month period following the completion of an evaluation – the Evaluation Office supports the development of a management response, with a clear indication of activities to be implemented, responsibilities and timelines. For joint evaluations, a management response is developed jointly by UNAIDS Secretariat and Cosponsors (see paragraphs 10 and 13 above).
26. The Evaluation Office tracks implementation of management responses, which are posted on the UNAIDS website along with the evaluation reports, presenting changes which were prompted by and in response to an evaluation. The status of evaluations and the corresponding management responses is tracked using a dashboard which captures evaluation recommendations that were accepted or partially accepted and progress in implementing these.
27. To enhance communication about findings, conclusions, recommendations as well as follow up to evaluations, the UNAIDS website includes a dedicated page on evaluation which is regularly updated. Webinars are organized with Regional Support Teams and Country Offices as well as other Offices and Departments to share findings, conclusions and recommendations of evaluations. Future plans include identifying, synthesizing and disseminating recurring, systemic or crosscutting issues and lessons learned that are relevant to the UNAIDS Secretariat and the Joint Programme.

Expert Advisory Committee

28. In approving the UNAIDS evaluation policy in June 2019, the PCB approved the establishment of an expert committee as an independent, external body to provide advice and guidance on evaluation. The role of the Expert Advisory Committee within the architecture of UNAIDS evaluation function and the composition of the Committee are presented in Annex 1.
29. Since its establishment, the Expert Advisory Committee has focused on strengthening the utility, credibility and independence of evaluations in UNAIDS, and the importance of the Committee was reiterated by the PCB in December 2021.³ In 2022, the Committee has continued to play a key role by providing advice on the scope and focus of evaluations to ensure the relevance and utility of the evaluations. The Committee has repeatedly expressed concern regarding the resourcing of the evaluation function and called for the Evaluation Office to be funded in accordance with the evaluation policy and decision 7.3 of the 49th meeting of the PCB in December 2021.

Budget implementation

30. Approximately US\$ 2 million per year has been budgeted for the implementation of UNAIDS evaluation plan in 2022–2023. This is based on the UNAIDS evaluation policy, approved by the PCB in June 2019, which established that 1% of resources mobilized by UNAIDS should be allocated to evaluation. As of 28 June approximately 42 per cent of the approved budget has been made available with indications that approximately 60 per cent of the annual budget for evaluation can be made available in 2022. This leaves a funding gap of 40 per cent, or US\$800,000, which if not filled will seriously impact the ability of the Evaluation Office to implement the 2022-2023 evaluation plan. See table 2 below for details.

Table 2: UNAIDS evaluation budget in 2022 (US\$)

Main categories	Original budget*	Funding allocated**	Total funding expected***	Funding gap
Evaluations and activities	997,000	500,000	500,000	497,000
Staff costs	879,000	333,000	666,000	213,000
Emerging needs	90,000	-	0	90,000
Total	1,966,000	833,000	1,166,000	800,000

* Amount representing 1% of operational expenditures as per evaluation UNAIDS policy

** Funding allocated in the first half of 2022 from UNAIDS core budget

*** Total funding allocated and expected in 2022 from UNAIDS core budget

31. As shown in table 2 above, evaluations and activities to strengthen evaluation culture, capacity, stakeholder engagement and management represent 50% of the budget of the Evaluation Office. Staff costs—envisaged as a unit with three staff—represent to 45% of the budget for evaluation. Approximately 5% has been kept as a reserve for evaluations or other emerging needs that could not be envisaged at the time of the development of the evaluation plan.
32. Table 3 below shows actual expenditures as well as firm commitments against the budget for evaluation in 2022 as of 28 June 2022.

Table 3: Implementation against UNAIDS evaluation plan in 2022 (US\$)

Main categories	Original budget*	Total funding expected**	Expenditures***	%
Evaluations and activities	997,000	500,000	485,000	97%
Staff costs	879,000	666,000	333,000	50%
Emerging needs	90,000	0	0	0%
Total	1,996,000	1,166,000	818,000	70%

* Amount representing 1% of operational expenditures as per evaluation UNAIDS policy

** Total funding allocated and expected in 2022 from UNAIDS core budget

*** Actual expenditures and firm commitments as of 28 June 2022

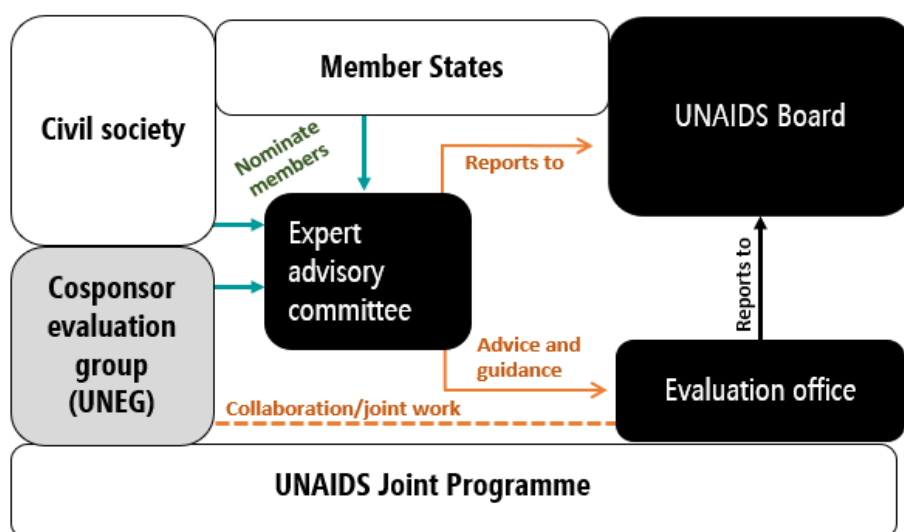
33. As shown in table 3, expenditures against the budget for evaluations and other activities stand at 97 per cent of the total funding currently allocated to evaluation. To take into account the tight funding situation that UNAIDS faces, the Evaluation Office has reduced the number and scope of evaluations to be conducted in 2022 as shown in table 1 above. This means that the effective budget that the Evaluation Office operates with for evaluations and activities has been reduced to US\$ 694,000 from the original budget of US\$ 997,000. Approximately US\$ 200,000 therefore needs to be mobilized from core or non-core resources over and above the US\$500,000 already allocated, without which it will not be possible to implement the PCB-approved evaluation plan.
34. Meanwhile, expenditures for staff costs stand at 50 per cent of the total funding expected for staff costs in 2022. As filling a third position in the Evaluation Office has not been possible and looks unlikely, the effective budget for staff costs that the Evaluation Office operates with has been reduced to US\$ 666,000. However, as a unit with two staff, the Evaluation Office is stretched and completing all evaluations planned for 2022-2023 will be a challenge. No funds kept for unanticipated needs have been utilized.

Looking ahead

Ensuring a robust evaluation function

35. Until 2019, an effective and independent evaluation function was a missing piece in UNAIDS' efforts to strengthen accountability, transparency and organizational learning. UNAIDS evaluation policy was approved by the PCB in June 2019 following a consultative process that involved Member States, Civil Society and the Cosponsors. The policy was extensively discussed by a PCB working group and peer reviewed by the Evaluation Offices of the Cosponsors before it was presented to the PCB for approval.
36. The way in which the policy was developed and moved forward was commended by the Joint Inspection Unit in its 2019 review of UNAIDS (JIU/REP/2019/7).⁴ In 2020, the institutional architecture of the evaluation function was put in place. This included formalizing the Evaluation Office as a structurally and functionally independent unit, positioned independently from management functions and reporting directly to the PCB (see Annex 1).
37. Much progress has been made in establishing a robust evaluation function in UNAIDS over the past few years. To maintain the current momentum, the Evaluation Office needs to be adequately resourced and staffed in accordance with the evaluation policy. This is essential for the UNAIDS Evaluation Office to play a key role in knowledge management, organisational learning and efforts to enhance accountability and transparency.
38. Going forward, it will be important to build on efforts to strengthen evaluation culture and capacity and the Evaluation Office needs to remain positioned and located in a way that it can contribute to improved policies, programmes, processes, decision-making and governance while remaining independent. As a global function reporting directly to the Board, the natural location of the Evaluation Office would seem to be in Geneva. Any weakening the function as part of the alignment of UNAIDS Secretariat could lead to a loss in recent gains whereby staff are increasingly using evaluative evidence in their work and undermine UNAIDS credibility externally.
39. An assessment of the evaluation function is included in the Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN) review of UNAIDS which is currently ongoing. The evaluation function will be reviewed carefully, given that evaluation was one of the weakest areas in the last MOPAN assessment of UNAIDS in 2015-2016. It is therefore important to maintain, if not enhance, the role and capacity of the Evaluation Office so that it can demonstrate effective implementation of the PCB-approved evaluation plan and retain the confidence of Board members and partners.
40. **The PCB Bureau is requested to:**
 - *to review the update and take note of progress made and constraints faced in implementing the 2022-2023 evaluation plan, which are proposed to be considered and discussed in-depth at the 51st meeting of the PCB in December 2022 when an annual report on evaluation will be presented to the Board.*

Annex 1: Overview of UNAIDS evaluation function.



Programme Coordinating Board

Approves the evaluation policy, evaluation plan and budget, considers annual reports on implementation and draws on evaluations for decisions.

Cosponsor Evaluation Group

Brings together and leverages the resources of the Cosponsor evaluation offices for HIV-related evaluations and promotes system-wide and joint evaluations related to HIV.

Expert Advisory Committee

External body which provides advice on evaluation consisting of 7 members, nominated by Member States (5), NGO delegation of UNAIDS Board (1) and Cosponsor evaluation offices (1). Expert advisory committee members are appointed for two years and cannot be reappointed more than once. The committee currently comprises:

1. **Dr. Elizabeth Moreira dos Santos**, researcher and independent consultant (Latin America and Caribbean), Chair;
2. **Mr. Raymond Yekeye**, Chair of the National AIDS Council of Zimbabwe (Africa);
3. **Dr. Zunyou Wu**, Chief Epidemiologist, Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Asia-Pacific);
4. **Ms. Sigrid Vorobjov**, Senior Researcher, National Institute for Health Development, Estonia (Eastern Europe);
5. **Professor Till Bärnighausen**, Director of the Heidelberg Institute of Global Health (Western European and Other Countries);
6. **Ms. San Patten**, independent research and evaluation consultant (NGO Delegation);
7. **Mr. Marco Segone**, Director of the UNFPA Evaluation Office (Cosponsor Evaluation Group).

Endnotes

1. [Annual Report on Evaluation and Evaluation Plan for 2022-2023](#)
2. [UNAIDS Evaluation Policy](#)
3. [Report of the 49th PCB Meeting](#)
4. [Joint Inspection Unit Review of UNAIDS Management and Administration](#)

Annex D: PowerPoint presentation on the Semiannual update on Evaluation



SEMI-ANNUAL UPDATE ON EVALUATION

PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNAIDS EVALUATION POLICY
APPROVED BY THE PCB AT ITS 44TH MEETING IN JUNE 2019

28 JUNE 2022

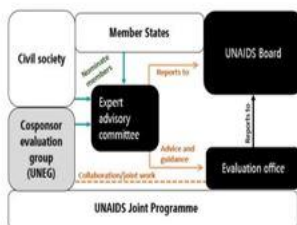
UNAIDS evaluation function - roles and responsibilities

The **Board** approves the evaluation plan and considers annual reports on evaluation.

The **Expert Advisory Committee** provides advice and guidance on design and implementation.

The **Cosponsor Evaluation Offices** provide support and participate in joint evaluations.

The **Evaluation Office** is responsible for conducting all evaluations, follow up and reporting.



Key points from the 49th PCB in December 2021

Efforts to reinforce independence, credibility and usefulness of evaluations commended; appreciation expressed for the important work done

Strong interest expressed in the follow up to evaluations and more rapid publication of management responses requested

1% of organizational resources called for to be allocated to evaluation as committed to in the evaluation policy approved by the Board

Evaluation office to be adequately funded and staffed in accordance with the policy and management requested to fill the third position in the office

Progress to date

Good progress in implementing the evaluation plan.

1. Evaluations of the work of the Joint Programme with and for **key populations** as well as on **efficiency and sustainability** completed and the development of management responses almost completed.
2. Evaluations of the work of the Joint Programme in **Lesotho and Mali** conducted to help the Joint Team on AIDS revisit their role and value added and position the Joint Programme in the UNSDCFs in the countries.
3. Evaluations of the work of the Joint Programme on **social protection** and the **country envelopes** as well as the Secretariat **data hubs** initiated and expected to be completed by the end of the year.
4. Implementation of the evaluations on UNAIDS **policy work and influence** and the **impact and implications of Covid-19** in the second half of the year will be subject to availability of resources.

2030 | Ending the AIDS epidemic



UNAIDS evaluation budget in 2022 (US\$)

Main categories	Original budget*	Funding allocated**	Total funding expected***	Funding gap
Evaluations and activities	997,000	500,000	500,000	497,000
Staff costs	879,000	333,000	666,000	213,000
Emerging needs	90,000	-	0	90,000
Total	1,966,000	833,000	1,166,000	800,000

* Amount representing 1% of operational expenditures as per evaluation policy

** Funding allocated in the first half of 2022 from UNAIDS core budget

*** Total funding allocated and expected in 2022 from UNAIDS core budget

2030 | Ending the AIDS epidemic



Implementation against UNAIDS evaluation plan (US\$)

Main categories	Original budget*	Total funding expected**	Expenditures***	%
Evaluations and activities	997,000	500,000	485,000	97%
Staff costs	879,000	666,000	333,000	50%
Emerging needs	90,000	0	0	0%
Total	1,966,000	1,166,000	818,000	70%

* Amount representing 1% of operational expenditures as per evaluation policy

** Total funding allocated and expected in 2022 from UNAIDS core budget

*** Actual expenditures and firm commitments as of 28 June 2022

2030 | Ending the AIDS epidemic



Way forward – key milestones

July- December 2022

Mobilization of resources to enable the full implementation of the plan
Active engagement in the MOPAN assessment of the evaluation function
Preparation and presentation of an annual report to the PCB in December
PCB discussion on the implementation of the 2022-2023 evaluation plan

2030 | Ending the AIDS epidemic



Way forward – key milestones

January- June 2023

Consideration of PCB guidance in the implementation of the evaluation plan
Consideration of MOPAN conclusions and recommendations on evaluation
Independent review of UNAIDS evaluation policy called for in the policy
Options for UNAIDS evaluation function outlined in the semi-annual update

2030 | Ending the AIDS epidemic



Way forward – key milestones

July- December 2023

Consideration of options for evaluation based on feedback from the PCB Bureau
Development of a revised evaluation policy based on the independent review
Consultations with Cosponsors and Secretariat staff on the next evaluation plan
PCB consideration of annual report, revised evaluation policy and evaluation plan

2030 | Ending the AIDS epidemic

