

# Quick Facts

## ► Annual Evaluation Report 2020-21

► October 2021

### Introduction

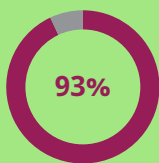
The ILO's [annual evaluation report](#) spans two calendar years, covering the last quarter of 2020 and the first three quarters of 2021. Part 1 of the report reflects on the progress made in implementing the [ILO's evaluation strategy \(2018-21\)](#). A total of 18 biennial milestones have been fully or partially achieved, while 1 has registered modest progress and was therefore not achieved. Overall, EVAL managed to meet its operational targets and maintain quality standards despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

Part II of the report provides EVAL's annual rating-based assessment of the ILO's development effectiveness against the background of the pandemic. It is informed by [a meta-analysis of independent project evaluations](#) from 2020 and a sample of reports from 2021. This reporting period shows that, while the ILO performed remarkably well despite the pandemic during 2020, its performance dropped slightly during the first half of 2021. This year, the report also includes findings from synthesis reviews, with more qualitative findings on what is being learned in terms of the [ILO's response to the COVID-19 crisis](#) and its contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

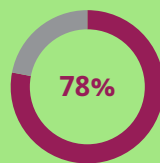


### General data

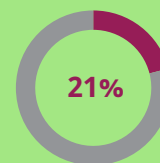
2020



of management responses to recommendations were received for independent evaluations that required follow-up



of recommendations were completed or partially completed



of recommendations involve low resource implications, indicating the recommendations' high degree of attainability

2020-21

**148** Lessons learned

**92** Good practices

**133** ILO staff members have been certified as evaluation managers and 27 have been certified as internal evaluators

**297** Representatives from governments and employers' and workers' organizations were trained since the start of the evaluation strategy

**12** New knowledge products were produced:

- 4 synthesis reviews of evaluation reports
- 2 think pieces
- 1 meta-study
- 1 In-Focus learning series
- 4 joint evaluation-related reports

► A new *i-eval* In-Focus series report launched on [ILO's response to the impact of COVID-19 on the world of work: Evaluative lessons on how to build a better future of work after the pandemic.](#)

**3** High-level independent evaluations presented to the Governing Body:

► [ILO's Decent Work Programme of Work in Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan, 2018-21](#)

► [ILO's strategy and actions for promoting fair and effective labour migration policies, 2016-20](#)

► [ILO's gender equality and mainstreaming efforts, 2016-21](#)

## PART I: IMPLEMENTATION OF ILO'S EVALUATION STRATEGY



Evaluations increasingly provide performance information that is relevant to the ILO's specific mandate. In 2020, 95% of project evaluations yielded evidence on normative work and standards promotion, and 100% did so with respect to tripartism, social dialogue and the SDGs.



Since 2018, 21 independent clustered evaluations have been conducted, covering the evaluation requirements for close to 80 projects. As the number of large programmes with integrated logical frameworks and multiple-donor funding increases, clustered evaluations are expected to become the default option.



There continues to be a lack of adequate incentives for certified evaluation managers to perform evaluation-related tasks, in addition to their existing work. To enhance incentives, EVAL will review cost-recovery options to compensate managers for the time staff devote to these tasks.



100% of independent evaluation reports completed in 2019 received a rating equal to or above "somewhat satisfactory". For reports completed in 2020, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of reports that received the same rating was 98%.



EVAL worked with the regions to integrate targeted evaluability assessments into reviews of DWCPs to improve monitoring, evaluation and reporting. Since 2020, a slow but positive trend has been observed in the number of new DWCPs that have conducted evaluability assessments.



There continues to be strong potential in the regions and departments to integrate initiatives other than mandatory evaluations. These initiatives include comprehensive monitoring and evaluation frameworks, the application of EVAL's evaluability diagnostic instrument and thematic evaluations to name a few. Some of these initiatives are the result of required follow-up to recommendations presented in high-level and other evaluations

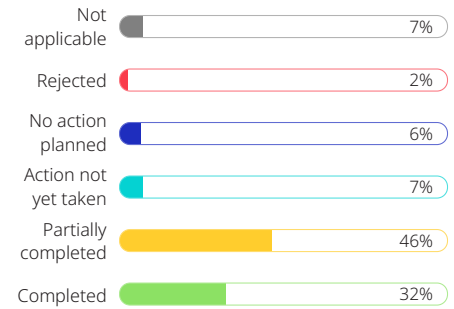


There is a lack of progress on reducing oversight by EVAL of regional evaluations through changed reporting lines.



The quality of impact evaluations and studies was not assessed. The updated impact evaluation inventory will be used in the upcoming ex post quality control exercise to establish a baseline for credible impact evaluation.

### ► Management responses to evaluation recommendations, 2020



## PART II: ASSESSING THE ILO'S EFFECTIVENESS



Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020 there was improvement in the relevance and cost-efficiency of ILO interventions, reaching a "successful" score. Preliminary results for 2021 show some decline in the overall performance of ILO interventions, notably for the criteria of strategic relevance, efficiency and sustainability.



The [synthesis review of evaluations on the effects of the COVID-19 crisis](#) on the ILO's performance showed that, when faced by crisis, the ILO strengthened its internal collaboration and developed new collaborative approaches. Furthermore, innovation in communications led to the use of creative virtual/remote delivery methods and collaborative technology that optimized the ILO's efficiency in delivery.



Weaker performance areas related to the involvement of constituents in projects, and validity of design/approaches, adequacy of resources to deliver project objectives and with respect to monitoring and reporting. Based on a small sample of reports, a drop in ratings for 2021 was found for the promotion of international labour standards and normative work, policy influence, knowledge development and capacity-building, which can possibly be attributed to the effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

### ► Types of adjustments made to enhance relevance of ILO response to the pandemic

