

Annex 1. EVALUATION TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. INTRODUCTION

The Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) conducts “Independent Country Programme Evaluations (ICPEs)”, formerly called “Assessments of Development Results”, to capture and demonstrate evaluative evidence of UNDP’s contributions to development results at the country level, as well as the effectiveness of UNDP’s strategy in facilitating and leveraging national efforts for achieving development results. The purpose of an ICPE is to:

- Support the development of the next UNDP Country Programme Document;
- Strengthen accountability of UNDP to national stakeholders;
- Strengthen accountability of UNDP to the Executive Board.

ICPEs are independent evaluations carried out within the overall provisions contained in the UNDP Evaluation Policy.¹ The IEO is independent of UNDP management and is headed by a Director who reports to the UNDP Executive Board. The responsibility of the IEO is two-fold: (a) provide the Executive Board with valid and credible information from evaluations for corporate accountability, decision-making and improvement; and (b) enhance the independence, credibility and utility of the evaluation function, and its coherence, harmonization and alignment in support of United Nations reform and national ownership.

An ICPE will be conducted in Kuwait in 2017, as its country programme will end in 2018. This is the first country-level evaluation in Kuwait and the results will feed into the development of the new country programme being developed between 2017 and 2018. The ICPE will be conducted in close collaboration with the Government of the State of Kuwait, UNDP Kuwait country office and UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States (RBAS).

2. NATIONAL CONTEXT

Kuwait is ranked as a high human development country, positioned at 51 out of 188 countries and territories (Human Development Report, 2016).² The country’s human development indicators show very good performance and are comparable to the OECD countries. All but one goal (i.e. ensuring environmental sustainability) of the eight Millennium Development Goals were reported as achieved or on track to be achieved by the Government of Kuwait in 2010.³ The following paragraphs provide an overview of the key development challenges in Kuwait.

¹ See UNDP Evaluation Policy http://web.undp.org/evaluation/documents/policy/2016/Evaluation_policy_EN_2016.pdf. The ADRs, now called as ICPEs, are conducted in adherence to the Norms and the Standards and the ethical Code of Conduct set by the United Nations Evaluation Group (www.uneval.org).

² Kuwait’s human development index (HDI) is 0.800. Human Development Report, Kuwait, 2016

³ UNDP, Country Programme Action Plan between the Government of Kuwait and UNDP 2015-2018, 2015

Economic diversification: The key priority of the Government of Kuwait is diversifying the largely oil-based economy. Kuwait has been highly dependent on hydrocarbons since the 1960s; oil accounts for nearly two thirds of GDP⁴ followed by manufacturing and services. Public sector challenges underlie problems in Kuwait's economy and impact on investment and business environment. The economy has a small private sector base and most the national labour force (76 percent)⁵ is employed by the public sector with its higher wage expectations. Job creation for a growing young population outside of the public sector is a challenge. Improving labour market dynamics, business climate, and other private sector reforms and diversification are key to boosting job creation for nationals.⁶ Kuwait, as in the rest of the GCC countries relies on a large expatriate community to drive the economy, particularly in the private sector. However, the influx of expatriates in recent decades is causing internal tensions. There is growing decline in the ratio of Kuwaitis to the total population with imbalances in the economy, labour force and social structure.

Public administration and governance: Kuwait is the first Arab country in the Gulf to create an elected parliament and enjoys a relatively open political system. The relative openness of the Kuwaiti political system is characterized by ongoing tension amongst stakeholders which results in frequent turnover in government and impacts the functioning of institutions and implementation of national development plans. Regarding public administration, the Kuwait National Development Plan identifies several areas for improvement including institutional capacities, strategic planning and enhancement and alignment of development policies, coordination among different government entities and promoting transparency and anti-corruption.

Environmental sustainability: Kuwait contends with environmental challenges such as climate change, the destruction of biodiversity, desertification, degradation of arable lands and freshwater supplies, and proliferation of hazardous chemicals. Kuwait's average carbon footprint per person is estimated to be the second highest in the world, and 3.5 times higher than the global average. The country is targeting to have 13 percent of its energy to be from renewable sources by 2020.⁷ Rapid economic and population growth are the immediate causes placing pressure on Kuwait's environment and leaving it lagging other areas of progress, while unclear policy and regulatory framework, low institutional capacities; inadequate information and lack of awareness are among the underlying causes.

Gender equality: The State of Kuwait is committed to achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. The Kuwaiti Constitution stipulates equality of all people though gender is not specifically mentioned as a category for distinction. Kuwait has also ratified important international women's human rights instruments such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which it ratified in 1994. Despite this progress, there are

⁴ World Bank, Kuwait's Economic Outlook – Spring 2016

⁵ Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI), 2013 as cited by UNDP

⁶ IMF, Country Report No. 17/15. Kuwait. January 2017

discriminatory articles in some national laws. For example, Kuwait's nationality law prevents Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaiti men from passing their nationality on to their spouses and children, while allowing Kuwaiti men married to foreign spouses to do so. Various other laws regulating marriage, divorce, child custody, housing rights, women's property, such as the Personal Status Law, Civil Law and Penal Code also contain discriminatory articles.⁸ Consequently Kuwait does not score well on the 2016 global gender gap index (0.624) and is ranked at 128 out of 144 countries. However, on UNDP's 2015 gender inequality index it is ranked 70 out of 159 countries (with a score of 0.335).

Currently, there is only one woman in the 50-seat National Assembly (two percent),⁹ compared to 4 women (eight percent) in 2009. Women's political representation has been declining due to cultural, institutional, and structural barriers. Despite higher educational attainment at the tertiary level (women ranked significantly higher in terms of enrollment; 31 percent compared to 15 percent for men in 2004),¹⁰ the labour force participation rate for women aged 15 and above is 44 per cent compared to 83 per cent for men.¹¹ Among factors restricting women's participation in employment are traditional social norms, which still prevail in Kuwaiti society and constrain the type of employment and duration of work

⁸ Kuwait Society for Human Rights, "A Report on Women's Rights in Kuwait Submitted to the Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women during the Session 68." 2017

⁹ UNDP Kuwait, Results-oriented annual report (ROAR). 2016

¹⁰ United Nations Statistics Division, "The World's Women." 2015

¹¹ UNDP,