SDG/AGENDA 2030: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVALUATION

Outline

- Architecture of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Major challenges and opportunities of evaluation in the SDGs era
  - Review arrangements and principles
  - Goals and indicators
  - VNR
- Opportunities for Evaluation
- UNEG, UNDP and IEO role and contribution
- SG’s proposal to reposition UN development system for 2030 Agenda
Agenda structure

DECLARATION
Vision, shared Principles and Commitments, A Call for Action to Change Our World

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
17 SDGs and 169 Targets

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW
National, Regional and Global

IMPLEMENTATION
Means of Implementation and Global Partnership

‘Ecosystem’ of SDG Follow-up and Review

Key
- Reviewing body
- Reporting mechanism
- Lead / convening institution
- Strategic direction/guidance

General Assembly
- ECOSOC
- High Level Political Forum (HLPF)
- Voluntary National Reviews
- National SDG Reports
- National Statistical Services
- Member States

Annual Global Sustainable Development Report
- Annual SDGs Global Progress Report
- UN DESA

Regional Reviews
- UN Regional Commissions?

Thematic Reviews
- UN Agencies?

Inter-agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG)
- High-Level Group for partnership, coordination and capacity building for statistics (HLG)

UN Statistical Commission

Source: OIOS - IED
Challenges of Evaluation in the SDGs era

Current state of SDG goals

Source: Projecting Progress: Reaching the SDGs by 2030; ODI 2015

Independent Evaluation Office
Complexity, interconnectedness of the goals

- Dynamic nature of development and SDGs
- Measurement challenges
- Conceptual and definitional challenges
- Operationalization challenges

Goal 1
1. End poverty in all its forms
   - **Target 1.5**: Build the resilience of the poor and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other disasters

Goal 11
1. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
   - **Target 11.5**: By 2030, reduce the number of deaths and of people affected and decrease the direct economic losses ... caused by disasters...

Goal 13
1. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
   - **Target 13.1**: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

Indicator 1.5.1 & 11.5.1 & 13.2
Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people

Interrelatedness of SDGs
Monitoring and evaluability of progress is constrained by both definitional and data issues

TARGETS ARE BROAD IN SCOPE
- Measurement challenges
- Conceptual and definitional challenges
- Operationalization challenges

Status of SDG indicator data sets
Opportunities for evaluation in the SDGs era

SDGs follow-up and review principles

- Stakeholder participation
- Build and invest in M&E capacities
- Transparency, accountability
- Evaluation as a principle for good governance
- New data; but tools need to go beyond numbers and watch bias
To reflect on progress the Voluntary National Reviews

Agenda 2030 encourages member states to “conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national level”

Building Blocks of National ‘review’

- Inclusive national policy dialogue
- Fostering mutual accountability
- Preparation of a national SDG report
- Opportunities for capacity development
- Coordination by the national statistical office
- Cooperation and collaboration among government agencies and ministries
- Facilitating comparability across and within countries

Source: SDG country reporting guidelines, January 2017
UNDP: knowledge production and sharing

Advancing SDGs through the ICPEs

Independent Evaluation Office

ERC: Publicly accessible repository and management responses

ERC = an integral part of UNDP’s knowledge management system

Promotes evidence-based decision-making

ERI: an online repository & databank of all UNDP evaluations

Managed by the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO)

2018

Afghanistan  Angola  Bosnia and Herzegovina  Colombia  Comoros

Cuba  Guatemala  Madagascar  Mali  Paraguay  Sierra Leone

Timor-Leste  Tunisia  Venezuela

2019

Algeria  Argentina  Armenia  Azerbaijan  Bahrain  Bangladesh  Belarus  Burkina Faso  Cameroon  China  Côte d’Ivoire  El Salvador  Ethiopia

Georgia  Guinea-Bissau  Indonesia  Iraq  Kazakhstan  Kosovo*  Lebanon  Former Yugoslav  Republic of Macedonia  Malaysia  Maldives  Mauritius  Mozambique

Panama  Serbia  Seychelles  Somalia  Swaziland  Tajikistan  Turkey  Turkmenistan  Uganda  Uruguay  Uzbekistan  Zimbabwe

Recommendations made

244

Recommendations with management response

244

Key actions planned

482

Key actions completed

61%

Key actions overdue

11%

42 ADRs Complete since 2012

6 ADRs Complete in 2016

8 ICPEs Conducted in 2017

15 ICPEs 2018 (81 of new CPDs)

Toward 100% new CPD coverage in 2019/2020
National evaluation diagnostic guidance aims to facilitate institutional self-assessment

Enables unpack evaluation requirements

Outlines a series of steps to assess key evaluation bottlenecks and needs

For use by government entities primarily and other evaluation actors who will support government

Flexible to use by the federal government, regional/state government as well as local levels

The Guidance recognizes the complexity of national evaluations

- Complex set of coordination of actors and actions that interact in repeated, evolving, and sometimes unpredictable ways
- Evaluation capacities cannot be developed with an output-oriented linear approach
- Evaluation system needs to be integrated with existing societal practices and values, and evolve with them
Global conferences on National evaluation capacity

- **2009**: Morocco, 1st NEC conference
- **2013**: Brazil
  - Theme: Independence, Credibility & Use of Evaluation
  - 18 Commitments
- **2017**: Turkey
  - Theme: People, Planet & Progress in the SDG Era
  - In partnership with EES
- **2011**: South Africa
  - Theme: Use of Evaluation in Decision Making for Public Policies & Programme
- **2015**: Thailand
  - Theme: Blending Evaluation Principles with Development Practices to Change People’s Lives
  - Bangkok Declaration
  - In partnership with IDEAS
The Bangkok declaration: Ways of supporting Evaluation

- Conduct of country-level ‘SDG evaluation needs’ reviews and diagnostic studies
- Evaluability assessments pertaining to individual country or sector SDG goals and targets
- Fostering of evaluation as component of national governance and public sector management reform
- Establishing national evaluation legal frameworks - legislation and policies
- Developing national and sub-national mechanism for independent evaluation of SDG progress
- Assigning resources (a percentage of the initiatives’ costs) for the conduct of evaluations when designing/approving projects/programmes/policies
- Strengthening national and local data systems to monitor SDG progress
- Establishment of frameworks of formal competencies and professional evaluation standards
- Establishing evaluation training programmes within academic and public sector training institutions
- Creating opportunities for local, young and emerging evaluators
- Developing systems to promote transparent follow-up of evaluations recommendation
- Support to national, regional and global evaluation professional organizations
- Support for forums of exchange between users and producers of evaluation, via the right of access to information, including regional workshops and web-based platforms for knowledge management.

UN Evaluation Group (UNEG): 46 UN system members

- Revised Norms and Standards adopted at UNEG AGM, April 2016 (Geneva)
- Operating manual for all UN evaluation offices
- Responding to:
  - 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs
  - International Year of Evaluation (2015)
  - UN GA adopted resolution 69/237 on “Building Capacity for the Evaluation of Development Activities at the Country Level
Repositioning UN development system to deliver 2030 Agenda

“we need a culture of evaluation, independent and real-time evaluation with full transparency.”
– UN Secretary General, Gutteres

- UNDG & UNRC
- UNDAF
- ISWE

Download through links

- Independent Evaluation Office UNDP
- United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG)
- Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda, Reference Guide
- IEO’s Evaluation of the Role of UNDP in Supporting National Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals
- Bangkok Declaration
- NEC 2017 Conference
Thank you!