National evaluation and Agenda 2030
Session 1: Evaluation of SDGs and the National Development Policy

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Outline

▪ Evaluation role in the implementation of the SDGs
  o Reporting arrangements of the follow-up mechanism
  o Conditions for the follow-up and review processes
  o Implications of the follow-up and review process

▪ Poor evaluation capacity, a constraint for improvement and decision-making

▪ IEO’s contribution to evaluation capacity development for the SDGs
  o Improving quality and relevance of UNDP-led evaluations
  o Strengthening national evaluation capacities and systems through NEC
  o Developing new tools to facilitate diagnostics of evaluation systems
  o Enhancing the global evaluation culture through knowledge sharing

▪ Looking forward
Evaluation has a key role to play in the implementation of the SDGs and in UNDP support to them

Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

72. We commit to engaging in systematic follow-up and review of the implementation of this Agenda over the next 15 years.

A/RES/70/1
Agenda 2030 has changed the focus to the national level

Evaluation as a tool in tracking SDG progress is yet to be internalized

The linkages with evaluation in SDG tracking and progress are weak
74. Follow-up and review processes at all levels will be guided by the following principles:

▪ [...]  

▪ They will be rigorous and based on evidence, informed by country-led evaluations and data which is high-quality, accessible, timely, reliable and disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.

▪ They will require enhanced capacity-building support for developing countries, including the strengthening of national data systems and evaluation programmes, particularly in African countries, least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and middle-income countries.
Implications of the follow-up and review process

Gathering data and developing the statistical information to measure progress towards the goals

Assessing whether governmental policies, programmes and projects are responding to the national development needs and working effectively

Evidence-based decisions

Improved policies, programmes and projects

Better lives
Poor evaluation capacity, a constraint for improvement and decision-making

- Countries have put more emphasis on data gathering than evaluation.
- Many countries lack the appropriate institutional capacity, knowledge and resources to operate evaluation systems.
- Some countries, for example South Africa and Uganda, have specific provisions of evaluation in their national constitution while others do not.
- Such a provision makes it easy to build evaluation systems, this by itself is not a sufficient requirement for building national evaluation capacities.
Independent Evaluation Office’s contribution to evaluation capacity development for the SDGs

Through interrelated capacity development activities and interventions, and in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, IEO aims to:

- Improve quality and relevance of UNDP-led evaluations
- Strengthen national evaluation capacities and systems (through NEC and news tools)
- Enhance the global evaluation culture

Evaluations inform programmes and policies designed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

National government and UNDP programmes that are more relevant, effective and efficient, and that produce sustainable results – thus leading to the final intended result, achievement of the SDGs

Immediate outcomes

Intermediate outcome

Long-term outcome
Improving quality and relevance of UNDP-led evaluations

1st UNDP Handbook on Planning, Monitoring & Evaluating for Development Results was developed in 1997

Used globally

The handbook reached over 1 million downloads & has been used in more than 170 countries

Revised 10 years ago

It was revised 10 years ago & since then significant changes have taken place:

- Adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- New UNDP Evaluation Policy
- New Norms & Standards by the UN Evaluation Group
- New UNDP Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

Collective impact

To address these changes, opportunities & challenges IEO drafted the new Evaluation Guidelines working together with UNDP colleagues from headquarters, regional bureaux & country offices

New UNDP Evaluation Guidelines launched in 2019 advancing UNDP’s evaluation function & they:

- Encapsulate the role & use of evaluation
- Make it easier to implement evaluation
- Improve the quality, credibility & usability of evaluation results
- Clarify the evaluation management & oversight processes

New UNDP Evaluation Guidelines launched!
Strengthening national evaluation capacities and systems through NEC

History & Evolution of NEC CONFERENCES

2009
MOROCCO
1st NEC conference

2011
SOUTH AFRICA
Theme: Use of Evaluation in Decision Making for Public Policies & Programme

2013
BRAZIL
• Theme: Independence, Credibility & Use of Evaluation
• 18 Commitments

2017
TURKEY
• Theme: People, Planet & Progress in the SDG Era
• In partnership with EES

2019
ARAB STATES

IEO contributes to strengthening national evaluation capacities through its flagship national evaluation capacities (NEC) conferences
Developing new tools to facilitate diagnostics of evaluation systems

National Evaluation Capacity Diagnostic Online System

4 Modules to be used by countries at different level of evaluation systems and processes and capacities

A first interactive workshop in Kigali

Piloted in 3 countries • Nepal • Senegal • Uganda
Enhancing the global evaluation culture through knowledge sharing

- IEO promotes global knowledge-sharing and partnership building focusing on the Sustainable Development Goals, independent oversight, and related challenges.

- IEO engages on global thought leadership by participating in forums, giving keynote presentations across the globe and promoting critical debate.
Looking forward

UN Reforms

Need for accelerating SDG mainstreaming momentum at the national level

- A stronger link between the SDGs follow-up and review process at the different levels and across sectors is essential for the realization of Goals.
- Given the complexity and cross-sectoral nature of the SDGs, evaluation needs to spend more time investigating systemic issues; also, with implications for the scope of the national evaluation.
- Moving forward, evaluation capacity efforts would require stronger national ownership of evaluation, to define the evaluation agenda, systems and processes, and learning loops.
THANK YOU!