

Independent Evaluation Office Newsletter – Issue #7 – January 2015

Happy New International Year of Evaluation 2015!

As the New Year starts, we are happy to officially enter into the 2015 Year of Evaluation! Twenty one events have been scheduled all over the world to celebrate 2015 International Year of Evaluation (EvalYear). Throughout the events, an "evaluation torch" will be carried, linking discussions from one event to the next around the following four themes:

- Identifying the key future priorities for the global evaluation community to launch the 2016-2020 Global Evaluation Agenda
- Bridging the gap between the evaluation community (supply side) and the policy makers community (demand side), including parliamentarians, to ensure good quality, equity-focused and gender-responsive evaluations are demanded and used in policy making
- Mainstreaming equity-focused and gender-responsive evaluations in Sustainable Development Goals at the international level and in national development strategies at national level
- Developing equity-focused and gender-responsive national evaluation policies.

EvalYear will culminate with the Global Evaluation Week organized by EvalPartners at the Parliament of Nepal in November 2015. This will be the first time that the Global Evaluation Community and policy makers, including parliamentarians from all over the world, will meet in a national parliament to discuss how to ensure evaluation is fit for purpose. For additional information, you may want to watch this 6 minute video.

In addition, EvalGender+, the new global partnership to strengthen the demand, supply and use of equity-focused and gender-responsive evaluation, will be launched.

2015 will definitely be a year where gender equality and evaluation will make a leap forward. Together, we will make 2015 a memorable year!

Marco Segone, Director, UN Women Independent Evaluation Office



Lighting the Torch of the 2015 International Year of Evaluation

On 17 December 2014, Ambassador Thomson of Fiji Mission to the United Nations (sponsor of the UN resolution on National Capacity Development endorsed by 48 Members States), Deborah Rugg (UNEG Chair and OIOS Evaluation Director) and Marco Segone (EvalPartners co-chair and UN Women Evaluation Director) lighted the 2015 International Year Evaluation Torch. The torch was then passed on to Indran Naidoo (UNDP Evaluation Director), Colin Kirk (UNICEF Evaluation Director), Scott Green (OCHA Evaluation Director), Navis Hanif (UN DESA), Andrea Cook (UNFPA Evaluation Director), Vincent Herlihy (Mission of Ireland), Rafael Lourenço Beleboni (Mission of Brazil) and Peni Suveinakama (Mission of Fiji).

The torch will be symbolically passed on to the global evaluation community throughout the 21 events scheduled all over the world to celebrate the International Year of Evaluation, starting with the Indian Evaluation Week scheduled in New Delhi on 19-23 January and organized by the Planning Commission, Government of India and the Institute of Applied Manpower Research. Representatives from the Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Russia and USA (Washington Evaluators) also lit 5 small torches in Bishkek.

Follow #EvalYear and the Torch on Twitter.

First stand-alone UN General Assembly resolution on national evaluation capacities development

On 19 December 2014, the UN General Assembly issued a new resolution proposed by Fiji and co-sponsored by another 48 countries: "Building capacity for the evaluation of development activities at the country level". The resolution reiterated and reaffirmed the importance of building national capacity for evaluation, recognized the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) and other actors' designation of 2015 as the International Year of Evaluation, and called for more multi-stakeholder coordinated support in developing national capacity for evaluation. The resolution requested the Secretary-General to provide an update on progress as part of the 2016 Quadrennial Policy Review.

To read the resolution A/C.2/69/L.35, please click here
To watch the video featuring Deborah Rugg, UNEG Chair, discussing the UN
Resolution, please click here.

EvalGender+: A new global partnership for gender-responsive evaluation

More than 30 organizations have come together in a new partnership proposed by UN Women, EvalPartners and International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE) to promote the use of gender-responsive and equity-focused evaluations. EvalGender+ seeks to leverage existing initiatives addressing social equity and gender-responsive evaluation to maximize existing experiences by creating effective synergies among existing actors already working on these issues and aligning parallel agendas to improve policy coherence.

For more information on EvalGender+, including joining the partnership, please contact marco.segone@unwomen.org and florencia.tateossian@unwomen.org.

Global consultation on the 2016-2020 Global Evaluation Agenda

As part of the 2015 Year of Evaluation, EvalPartners, in partnership with the International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS), IOCE, UNEG, Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of UN Women and the Global Environment Facility, facilitated a networked global multi-stakeholder consultative process to brainstorm about the priorities and key areas of a global evaluation agenda for 2016-2020. The consultative process started in September 2014 and will culminate in November 2015, where the 2016-2020 Global Evaluation Agenda will be officially launched at the EvalPartners Global Forum, to be held at the Parliament of Nepal. The consultation started with live webinar and was followed by an online consultation on EvalPartners LinkedIn group. The eight-week long online consultation was facilitated by UNEG, IOCE, IDEAS and EvalPartners.

For more information, please click here.

To read the preliminary outcome of the consultation, please click here.

If you have completed a new evaluation related to gender equality and/or women's empowerment, please send it to genderevaluation@unwomen.org to be considered for inclusion in the UN Women Gender Equality Evaluation Portal.

About the Independent Evaluation Office

The UN Women Independent Evaluation Office main purpose is to enhance accountability, inform decision-making and contribute to learning on the best ways to achieve women's empowerment and gender equality through normative, operational and coordination work. UN Women Independent Evaluation Office also strengthens capacities for gender responsive evaluation within UN entities. governments and civil society organizations.

UN Women is the UN entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women, focusing on five priority areas: increasing women's leadership and participation; ending violence against women; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and making gender central to national development planning and budgeting. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.

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