



Global Evaluation Week at the Parliament of Nepal

In November 2015, [EvalPartners](#), the global multi-stakeholder partnership co-led by the [UN Women Independent Evaluation Office](#) and the [International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation \(IOCE\)](#), organized the [Global Evaluation Week in Nepal](#) as the culmination of the [International Year of Evaluation](#). The Right Honorable Onsari Gharti Magar—the first-ever female Speaker of the Parliament—chaired a session in Parliament with approximately 100 parliamentarians from Nepal and abroad. During the session, parliamentarians committed to demanding and using evaluation, including gender-responsive ones, to inform decision-making for national policies aimed at achieving equitable development. The Nepali Prime Minister, ministers from Nepal and other countries, and 450 participants from all over the world pledged to use evaluation to inform [Sustainable Development Goals](#) and national equitable policies, including gender-responsive ones.

The week consisted of four separate, but highly related, events:

(1). The [EvalPartners Global Evaluation Forum II](#) was essentially two full days of roll-up-the-sleeves work to further clarify the “what” and “how” of the [Global Evaluation Agenda 2016-2020](#) (“[EvalAgenda2020](#)”). More than 130 leaders from voluntary organizations for professional evaluation, national governments, parliaments, civil society organizations, young and emerging evaluators, UN agencies, and funders congregated at this important event. Together, they reviewed, discussed and endorsed the draft [EvalAgenda2020](#), then planned concrete steps to strengthen: (a) the enabling environment, (b)

institutional capacities, (c) individual capabilities for evaluation, and (d) the interlinkages among these three components.

(2). The [Community of Evaluators – South Asia \(CoE-SA\)](#) deliberately held its 2015 evaluation conference at the same time and venue so that its participants and those at the [EvalPartners](#) Forum could interact and share special events. The conference was inaugurated by none other than the Prime Minister of Nepal, and more than 300 persons from over 100 countries enjoyed 16 skills-development workshops, 26 panel sessions, and 3 plenary sessions featuring 10 eminent evaluators.

This event ended with the launch of the [Second Edition of the Annual UN Women Publication on Gender and Evaluation 2014](#).

(3). [EvalYear2015](#) officially ended with a final event held at the Parliament of Nepal. Several ministers were present from Nepal and Sri Lanka, and the chief guest was the Right Honorable Onsari Gharti Magar, recently elected by the people of Nepal to be their first-ever female Speaker of Parliament. This event ended with the formal launching of the Global Evaluation Agenda 2016-2020 (“[EvalAgenda2020](#)”) and several [EvalPartners](#) initiatives, including the launch of [EvalGender+](#).



I wish you an enjoyable reading.

Marco Segone,
Director, Independent Evaluation Office, UN Women

Chair, United Nations Evaluation Group
Co-Chair, EvalGender+

News

Welcome EvalGender+: Placing gender and evaluation at the top of the agenda

[EvalGender+](#) was launched during the [EvalPartners Global Evaluation Week](#) at the Parliament of Nepal on



25 November 2015 in front of more than 450 development professionals and policymakers, including almost 100 parliamentarians from all over the world. [EvalGender+](#), a new initiative by [EvalPartners](#) co-led by UN Women IEO, is the global partnership to strengthen national capacities for gender-responsive and equity-focused evaluations. [EvalGender+](#) stands for the [Sustainable Development Goals](#)' principle of "No one left behind" and is especially concerned with gender equality and social equity. It advocates that no one should be discriminated against on the basis of gender, race, age, origin, caste or class, ethnicity, location, income or property, language, religion, convictions, opinions, health or disability. Participants from more than 30 countries contributed to shaping [EvalGender+](#). They shared their dreams for [EvalGender+](#) through an [online discussion on gender and evaluation](#) followed by a face-to-face meeting during the [EvalPartners Global Evaluation Week](#). The three priorities for [EvalGender+](#) in the coming year are: (1) developing an equity-focused and gender-responsive framework for the [Sustainable Development Goals](#); (2) promoting equity-focused and gender-responsive national evaluation systems; and (3) listening to the voice of the communities and taking action accordingly.

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News From the Field

East and South Africa: Building gender-responsive national evaluation capacity

The first regional training for building gender-responsive national evaluation capacity took place from 2-6 November 2015.



The [Africa Centre for Transformative and Inclusive Leadership \(ACTIL\)](#) in cooperation with [UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa Region \(ESARO\)](#) designed, planned and delivered this course, which served as a pilot case study to inform the design of future courses.

Attended by 13 participants from 7 countries across the Africa region (Egypt, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda and Uganda), participants learned how to establish and implement a gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation system at the national level; looked at key actors and steps involved in developing national evaluation policies and systems; and discussed issues around advocacy for gender-responsive evaluation at the national level and strategies for stakeholder engagement, along with overcoming potential barriers.

The training came at an opportune time in the context of the recently endorsed UN resolution in 2014 “Building capacity for the evaluation of development activities at the country level” as well as the [International Year of Evaluation \(EvalYear\)](#), which aims to further strengthen the enabling environment for evaluation at national and local levels. The training initiative also responds to the new [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), which calls for effective and inclusive monitoring and evaluation systems at the national level that help countries measure progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda and promote accountability to citizens.

Coming from a mix of organizations (including government representatives, international non-governmental organizations, independent evaluation consultants and UN agencies), participants had lively and well-informed discussions about evaluation as a political activity and the implications of using a gender-responsive lens for evaluation practice. Participants also engaged on the key elements of transformation leadership, including concepts of mindset transformation, personal leadership, paradigm shapers, societal transformation, conflict resolution and negotiation, and results-based leadership and vision.

Gender-responsive engagement did not end there. Following the conclusion of the training, participants developed Personal Action Plans—a key methodology for ensuring that the theory learned is practically applied upon returning to their organizations and home countries.

For further information please contact Caspar Merkle, Regional Evaluation Specialist, East & Southern Africa (caspar.merkle@unwomen.org), and Ilena Paltzer, Programme Analyst, East & Southern Africa (ilena.paltzer@unwomen.org).



Latin America and the Caribbean: Evaluation, Sustainable Development Goals and public policies in the 2030 Agenda



In September 2015, 15 parliamentarians from 10 countries in Latin America (Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Uruguay) convened at the Parliamentarians Forum on Development Evaluation in Latin America to discuss evaluation, [Sustainable Development Goals](#) and public policies in the 2030 Agenda.

Held in the Latin American Parliament (Parlatino) in Panama, the Forum objective was to promote the demand and use of evaluation for good governance, to promote the establishment of national evaluation policies and systems in Latin America, and to contribute to the establishment of a Forum of Parliamentarians for the Evaluation of Latin America.

For the first time, parliamentarians from the region met to address the issue of evaluation. This occurred at a key moment in the international community with the signing of the 2030 Agenda, in which the role of the evaluation will be crucial to measure results both at the country and global level.

This event in the region was organized by the [Global Forum of Parliamentarians for Development Evaluation](#) and the Latin American Parliament, in collaboration with the [United Nations Children's Fund \(UNICEF\)](#), [UN Women](#), [United Nations Evaluation Group \(UNEG\)](#), [United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\)](#), [United Nations Population Fund \(UNFPA\)](#), [Regional Centers for Learning on Evaluation and Results \(CLEAR\)](#),

[ReLAC](#), [EvalPartners](#) and the [International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation \(IOCE\)](#).

For more information, please contact to Laura Gonzalez, UN Women Regional Evaluation Specialist for the Americas and the Caribbean (laura.gonzalez@unwomen.org).



Institutionalizing evaluation

The [Office of the Secretary-General for Development Cooperation \(SGCID\)](#) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, in collaboration with the [Spanish Agency for International](#)

[Cooperation for Development \(AECID\)](#) organized a meeting in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia to reflect on the institutionalization of evaluation in Latin America from 30 September 2015 to 2 October 2015.

The meeting offered attendees the exciting opportunity to share experiences and lessons learned on the institutionalization of evaluation in Latin American countries and encouraged reflection on the major challenges that evaluation faces. Representatives of public institutions in Latin American countries that have currently assigned evaluation functions; international cooperation agencies from Mexico, Colombia and Uruguay; and staff from different Spanish Cooperation Technical Offices in the region attended the meeting.

For more information, please contact to Laura Gonzalez, UN Women Regional Evaluation Specialist for the Americas and the Caribbean (laura.gonzalez@unwomen.org).



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Contact Greta Karris (greta.karris@unwomen.org) with questions or for more information on social media.

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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