

Embedding Evaluation in VNRs

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What is the value evaluation brings

- CSO data will give you status data if you have it, eg where are you at on specific SDG indicators/targets
- Monitoring draws from that and admin data to track progress against plans
- But it doesn't judge whether you are doing well, why results have occurred or indicate what you need to do differently to change course
- That needs evaluation

Evaluation defined by UN as:

Systematic assessment of an activity, project, programme, strategy, policy, topic, theme, sector, operational area or institutional performance to analyse the **level of achievement** of both expected and unexpected results and **causality** using appropriate **criteria** such as relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability to **provide recommendations** and lessons for decision-making.

Evaluation in the VNR

- Most of the African VNRs in the past have used data extensively (eg to report on progress), but with little use of research or evaluations to unpack why things are working or not and what needs to be done differently
- Using evaluations in the VNR enables you to:
 - Have rigorous evidence on whether policies/programmes are working or not and why
 - Understand the barriers
 - Understand what you need to do differently
 - So gives a much more solid evidence based for action
- UNICEF/UNECA and CLEAR-AA been working together to strengthen use of evaluation in VNRs.
- Not much time left, but in most countries many evaluations have been done already – you can draw on this data

Evaluative work where you have little time left

- Synthesising existing evaluations (4 weeks)
- Rapid evaluations (8-12 weeks)
- Evaluative workshops (3-4 weeks calendar time including preparation, running it and writing up)

Synthesising existing evaluations (p42)

- **Search** for existing evaluations starting with UN, 3ie, AFRED databases
- Supplement with Google Scholar searches to pick up others including NGO evaluations
- Decide which are **relevant** and of sufficient quality
- **Summarise** what is emerging from them particularly around:
 - Which interventions are working/not and why
 - Barriers
 - Suggestions for improvement
- Can be standalone exercise to be provided to the consultants as a set of evidence to draw from

Evaluative workshops (p34)

- Bring together stakeholders with a 360 degree view of the programme, national regional, local, implementors, policy people, beneficiaries
- Likely to be a process for evaluative thinking around implementation
- 1-2 day workshop either based on prepared report on the topic or not
 - Cover how things are working in that sector/theme
 - Why
 - What could be strengthened
- Could be done early to provide suggestions
- Or later to test findings and recommendations

Some suggestions in Guide p 50-53

Table 7: Possible sequence of activities for 2020 VNR, drawing on evaluative evidence

ACTIVITY	2019						2020						
	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL
Stakeholders meet to agree on priority areas for reporting and develop an action plan (including a schedule like this)													
Commission evidence maps on these areas, including searching for existing evaluations													
Decide on where rapid evaluative activities should be undertaken in gaps													
Commission rapid evaluations:													
Commission syntheses drawing from reports identified in the evidence map													
Workshop with stakeholders emerging findings and the implications of these													
Develop a draft outline report and draw out the key areas of action needed													
Workshop with stakeholders													
Revise report													
Get sign off on report													
High-Level Political Forum													

Key issue now time available

- Can you draw on existing evaluations to synthesise rigorous evidence (donors could fund this)
- Or use expertise in a workshop from those who know the sector/intervention well, eg early in a problematic sector, or late in testing findings/recommendations
- If you are using consultants to draft, include in TORs that they should draw from evaluations and research to inform their reports, above to explain what is working/not and why, and to suggest what needs to be done differently going forward

Thank you/Siyabonga/ Asante sana/Merci beaucoup

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