



The global partnership to promote the demand, supply and use of Equity Focused and Gender Responsive Evaluations



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WHY EVALGENDER+

Gender equality and social equity are central to ensure the realization of sustainable and equitable development, including in emergency and humanitarian contexts. The persistence of social inequity and significant gender inequalities in the world, including in low, middle and high income countries, presents a major barrier to development, negating fundamental human rights and the expansion of human freedoms. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) include gender-equality and reducing inequalities as two stand-alone goals (SDG 5 and SDG 10). These are also mainstreamed within all goals. Given that the SDGs will be “localized” in national development goals and strategies, gender equality and social equity are expected to be among the key strategies and outcomes mainstreamed in global and national development strategies.

In addition, the recent UN General Assembly resolution on national evaluation capacity development, co-sponsored by 48 countries, reiterates the importance of strengthening national capacity for evaluation, recognizes the designation of [2015 as the International Year of Evaluation](#), and invites for a more coordinated support in strengthening national capacity for the evaluation of national development policies and programmes.

In this context, the global evaluation community is facing an overall challenge:

How the global evaluation community can strengthen national evaluation systems, with the aim of contributing to the achievement of global and localized SDGs, by providing relevant and good-quality equity focused and gender-responsive evidence?

In line with the UN Resolution, and to address the challenge above, a global multi-stakeholder partnership to leverage existing initiatives to strengthen the demand, supply and use of equity focused and gender responsive evaluations is paramount. Stronger coordination and networking among governments, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), including Voluntary Organizations of Professional Evaluators (VOPEs), UN agencies, international organizations, , academia, think tanks and private foundations could maximize existing experiences by creating effective synergies among these stakeholders and ultimately bigger impact.

WHY NOW

As the world transitions into the post-2015 sustainable development agenda with a new set of SDGs, with an increased emphasis on gender equality and reducing inequalities, and the General Assembly adopts a new resolution reaffirming the importance of strengthening national evaluation capacity recognizing 2015 as the International Year of Evaluation, there is an unprecedented opportunity to better inform the SDGs at the global, regional and national level with credible equity focused and gender responsive evaluative evidence. Channeling this evidence into the post-2015 agenda will be achieved through mainstreaming social equity and gender responsiveness into the evaluability of the SDGs and engendering evaluation systems and policies, requiring the full coordinated participation of all interested stakeholders.



WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

EvalGender+ wants to contribute to achieving social equity and gender equality by

1. Enhance the implementation of social equity and gender responsive strategies within SDGs and local national development plans by providing a framework to evaluate the SDGs with equity focused and gender responsive lens, and enhance related national evaluation capacities. A roadmap is provided in the [Annex A](#).
2. Engendering development policies through equity focused and gender responsive evaluation.

HOW WE WILL ACHIEVE IT

EvalGender+ intends to coordinate and maximize efforts in strengthening equity focused and gender responsive evaluation, through a) social mobilization of key actors; b) promotion of practical innovation; and c) facilitation of learning and sharing of experiences.

MOBILIZE AND ADVOCATE

Impact through social mobilization

Through social mobilization, EvalGender + will enable policy makers, members of parliaments, government official, evaluators, civil society representatives and advocates, and other interested actors to coordinate efforts to better engender national evaluation systems and policies.

Proposed actions

Engender:

- 2015 International Year of Evaluation, by advocating equity-focused and gender responsive evaluation will be one of the four main themes to be discussed at the 22 international events that will host the "[evaluation torch](#)"

- The [2016-2020 Global Evaluation Agenda](#), by advocating equity-focused and gender-responsive evaluation will be included
- Global SDGs and national development strategies, by advocating they will be evaluated with an equity focused and gender responsive approach
- Parliamentarian Forums for evaluations, by advocating equity focused and gender responsive evaluation are included in their mission and workplans
- National Evaluation Systems, by supporting the institutionalization of equity focused and gender responsive evaluation at the national level
- Voluntary Organizations of Professional Evaluators, by encouraging inclusion of equity focused and gender responsive evaluation principles in their mission, standards and activities
- Evaluation functions or policies of UN agencies, by encouraging they comply with the UNEG guidance on integrating human rights and gender equality in evaluation



INNOVATE
Impact through innovation in practice

EvalGender+ will facilitate innovation in equity focused and gender responsive evaluation by engaging the community of policy makers and evaluators to advance and promote the demand, supply and use of new approaches, strategies and methodologies that can respond to achieving gender equality and social equity.

Proposed actions

- Promote and continue developing equity focused and gender equality e-learning courses using public platforms such as [EvalPartners](#) and upcoming [UNEG](#) e-learning
- Publish papers on equity focused and gender equality evaluation in scientific journals
- Nurture a global repository of gender-responsive evaluations and evaluation of gender equality initiatives, expanding the existing [Gender Equality Evaluation Portal](#)
- Promote the development and use of systemic reviews on gender issues through joint initiatives such as the on-going UN Women/UNEG/EvalPartners one
- Document Good Practices, including through the systematization of the Evaluation Performance Indicator of the UN System Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality



SHARE

Impact through learning and knowledge sharing

EvalGender+ will serve as a platform to share knowledge, learning and experiences on the best ways to strengthen the demand, supply and use of equity focused and gender responsive evaluations.

Proposed actions

- Organize webinars and short (15') virtual coffee-breaks to share knowledge on equity focused and gender responsive evaluation
- Develop a 2.0 webpage, including crowdsourced interactive map for initiatives relevant to equity focused and gender-responsive evaluations
- Expand the Gender and Evaluation Community of Practice/Blog [Gender and Evaluation](#)
- Promote equity focused and gender equality evaluation thought social media (twitter; LinkedIn; YouTube)
- Organize a consultation in February 2016 among EvalGender+ stakeholders and networks on lessons and experiences with the integration of equity focused and gender responsive approached into national evaluation policies and systems. The results of the e-consultation will be systematized and feed into a High level and a Technical Meetings¹ on national, regional and global capabilities to evaluate social equity and gender equality within SDGs, including SDG5 and SDG 10.

WHAT'S NEXT

The shaping and launch of EvalGender+ will be participatory in nature, and will leverage existing processes within the International Year of Evaluation, by taking advantage of the existing events organized by several stakeholders within the framework of the year of evaluation.

EvalGender+ will be formally launched at the [2015 Global Evaluation Week](#) to be held at the Parliament of Nepal in Kathmandu on 24 November.

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¹ UNEG, EvalGender+ and the UN Women Independent Evaluation Office are planning two seminars to enhance the evaluability of the SDGs: a technical workshop on the evaluability of social equity and gender dimensions in the SDGs including SDG 5 and SDG10, and a High Level event on enhancing the enabling environment for the evaluability of social equity and gender mainstreaming within the SDGs.

Annex A: Towards an equity-focused and gender-responsive evaluation framework for the Sustainable Development Goals

Background

The Rio+20 Conference - the Future We Want - generated new momentum for achieving sustainable development. Member States agreed to start developing the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) building on the millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and converging with the post-2015 Development Agenda. The SDGs will be adopted during the high-level plenary meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015.

In his report "A life of dignity for all" (A/68/202), the UN Secretary General highlighted the crucial importance of developing a comprehensive monitoring framework and robust accountability mechanisms for monitoring the post-2015 Development agenda. The report emphasizes the urgent need to further improve data collection, dissemination and analysis as well as improving baseline data and statistics. Furthermore, the new post-2015 agenda will need to measure a broad range of indicators that require disaggregated data to capture gaps within and between population groups.

A Follow-up and Review Mechanism will accompany the SDGs to ensure that evidence informs SDG implementation. The framework will be country-led, inclusive and participatory. Evaluation will play a crucial role to support effective and efficient SDG implementation. Evaluation will offer evidence-based learning on how policies and programmes delivered results and what needs to be done differently.

Rationale

As 2015 is the confluence of the International Year of Evaluation and the year in which the SDGs will be adopted, it is important for the global evaluation community to facilitate the development of a framework to evaluate progress towards the achievement of the SDGs. Different UN agencies are starting to think on how to enhance the evaluability of the SDGs, and in particular those that pertain to their areas of work².

Progress on social equity and gender equality is fundamental for realizing human rights for all, creating and sustaining peaceful societies, and building socially inclusive and sustainable development trajectories where the benefits of development are equitably shared. The on-going intergovernmental discussions on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide an important opportunity to build on the lessons learnt from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in order to tackle social inequity and gender inequality in all its dimensions, promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, and realize the full spectrum of human rights as set out in international human rights norms and global agreements. The global evaluation community has an important role to play in supporting evaluation of progress towards achieving social equity and gender equality within all SDGs and in SDG 5 and 10 in particular.

² Evaluation offices of the Rome-based agencies are organizing a technical seminar on enhancing the evaluability of SDG 2 – How to evaluate progress towards SDG 2 – end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture? To take place in Rome on 17-18 November 2015.

A multi-stakeholder movement to facilitate evaluation of social equity and gender equality within SDGs, including SDG5 and SDG 10

For the above-mentioned reasons, UNEG, EvalGender+ and the UN Women Independent Evaluation Office are starting a multi-stakeholder movement to enhance national, regional and global capabilities to evaluate social equity and gender equality within SDGs, including SDG5 and SDG 10, as well as related national and regional development goals.

In order to attain the overall outcome of enhancing capacity to evaluate social equity and gender equality within the SDGs including SDG 5 and SDG 10, an equity-focused and gender-responsive framework to evaluate the SDGs will be developed.

The process to develop it will be a participatory one in which several stakeholders will be engaged. In addition to a global on-line consultation, UNEG, EvalGender+ and the UN Women Independent Evaluation Office are planning two seminars to enhance the evaluability of the SDGs: a technical workshop on the evaluability of social equity and gender dimensions in the SDGs including SDG 5 and SDG10, and a High Level event on enhancing the enabling environment for the evaluability of social equity and gender mainstreaming within the SDGs. The Technical Workshop is proposed to take place in April 2016 in Geneva. The High Level event is proposed to take place at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women in March in New York. The outcomes of these two seminars will identify issues affecting the evaluability of mainstreaming social equity and gender equality in the SDGs and of SDG 5 and SDG 10 at global, regional and country levels and a set of broad actions for civil society and governments to take into consideration to enhance the enabling environment to evaluate progress towards social equity and gender equality in the SDGs.

Technical workshop, Geneva, 25-29 April 2016 (TBC): Evaluability of social equity and gender dimensions in the SDGs: How can we evaluate progress towards the results of mainstreaming social equity and gender equality in the SDGs?

This technical workshop will provide an opportunity to reflect and discuss on the lessons learned from previous attempts to evaluate progress of the MDGs. It will identify the factors to take into consideration to effectively evaluate the progress towards mainstreaming social equity and gender equality in the SDGs, including the sound monitoring of the SDGs. The workshop will also focus on the conditions that will make progress of SDG 5 and SDG 10 evaluable. The workshop will contribute to a shared understanding of how social equity and gender equality could be evaluated within the SDGs, and how to evaluate progress of SDG 5 and SDG 10 in particular.

Stakeholders: Technical staff from Evaluation Offices from UN agencies, multilateral and bilateral development agencies, academic institutions, including specialized research centers and think tanks, private foundations, private sector, voluntary organizations of professional evaluators (VOPES).

High Level event, New York, March 2016, during CSW 60 (TBC): Enhancing the enabling environment for the evaluability of social equity and gender mainstreaming within the SDGs.

The High Level event will focus on the role of evaluation in the post-2015 agenda, and how to enhance the enabling environment to better position United Nations system, international organizations and

countries themselves to evaluate progress towards social equity and gender equality. The objective of the High Level event is to engage delegates from member countries, representatives from women's organizations and private foundations as well as UN agencies in a global discussion to identify concrete action points for building an enabling environment to evaluate the SDGs with equity-focused and gender-responsive lens. The focus will be in all SDGs but primarily in SDG 5 and SDG 10 which looks at social equity and gender equality.

Stakeholders: Delegates from Member States at the UN in NY, Representatives from Women's Organizations, Private Foundations, UN Agencies, multilateral and bilateral development agencies, academic institutions, including specialized research centers and think tanks, private sector, voluntary organizations of professional evaluators (VOPES).