



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

Review of policies and practices to promote gender-responsive evaluation systems



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Call for accelerating progress towards Gender equality

- 20th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the landmark Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
 - Implementation hampered by absence of strong evaluation mechanisms
 - Call for accelerating its implementation including by strengthening evaluation systems for gender equality
- Gender equality integrated in post-2015 agenda
- The UNGA adopted a resolution reiterating the importance of building national capacity for evaluation

- To what extent are existing evaluation systems - within the United Nations and national governments - gender-responsive?
- Is the United Nations prepared to further strengthen the gender-responsiveness of its evaluation systems?
- When requested to do so, how can the United Nations best engage with national governments and stakeholders to strengthen capacity for gender responsive evaluation systems?
- What have we learned from developing and implementing gender-responsive evaluation systems to date?

- Take stock of current gender-responsiveness of evaluation systems and propose a way forward
- In partnership with the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), EvalPartners and EvalGender+

Three-fold approach:

- strengthening normative frameworks
- institutional systems and
- individual capacities

- Normative frameworks, institutional systems and initiatives to strengthen individual capacities are in place
- The system-wide frameworks and guidance for gender-responsive evaluation provide a foundation for both guiding and harmonizing UN entities' initiatives in this area. However, at present, the systems in place for gender-responsive evaluation are less robust and inconsistent at the entity level
- The UN system is poised to capitalize on a number of opportunities to further strengthen gender-responsive evaluation

1. Inclusion of GEEW as a specific evaluation norm, in the peer review assessment, and in the job descriptions for evaluators
2. Assess the gender-responsiveness of all phases of the evaluation process (beyond the reporting phase) to provide a more comprehensive and consistent assessment
3. At the entity level, continued internalization of system-wide gender-responsive evaluation policies and guidance to strengthen internal systems
4. Track the results of employing gender-responsive approach to fully understand how and in what ways this approach is serving as an agent of change

- National evaluation policies and systems (NEPSs)
- Evaluation Associations
- Parliamentarians' forums for evaluation

- In many countries the NEPS is still at a relatively early stage of development
- Importance of integration of gender-responsive evaluation within NEPS has been highlighted
- Only a small minority of NEPSs include direct references to GEEW

- Number of Evaluation Associations has been increasing significantly
- Trend towards greater inclusion of gender-responsive evaluation as a priority issue within Evaluation Associations
- Evaluation Associations have concentrated their efforts mainly in:
 - Mainstreaming gender-responsive evaluation within VOPEs
 - Gender-responsive evaluation capacity development
 - Advocacy among commissioners of evaluation

- Increase in the demand for evaluative evidence by policymakers is needed
- Parliamentarians' forums for development evaluation in Africa, South Asia and Arab States
- Remarkable openness and engagement on gender-responsive evaluation issues:
 - commitments in formal declarations and statements
 - integration in constitutional documents
 - developing tailored resources

1. Document NEPSs development processes
2. Coordinated and multi-stakeholder strategies to support the integration of GEEW in national evaluation policies and systems, targeting evaluators, parliamentarians, Evaluation Associations and gender advocates
3. Evaluation of national gender policies, strategies and plans
4. Integration among national Evaluation Associations, whose prospects of influencing NEPSs and national evaluation may be the most tangible.
5. Parliamentarians' forums to be made more robust

- Strengthening gender-responsive evaluation systems critical to enhance capacity to achieve gender equality
- In recent years, significant efforts to strengthen capacities to demand for, supply and use of gender responsive evaluation to inform policy-making
- Increased attention in gender-responsive evaluation, coupled with a growing number of different actors working on this issue, is a welcome and needed change
- However, much more needs to be done if evaluation is to support the Beijing and post-2015 agendas

- Cross collaboration and learning on gender-responsive evaluation should be multi-fold
- Additional coordination and collaboration of efforts is needed to avoid unnecessary duplications and maximize potential impacts
- UN Women has a specific role in promoting and supporting gender-responsive evaluation within the UN system and among national evaluation systems