



Independent Evaluation Office

Newsletter – Issue # 15 – September 2016

The [Independent Evaluation Office \(IEO\)](#) is pleased to update you on topics important to both the evaluation and the feminist communities. Supporting UN Women’s longstanding message that gender equality is everyone’s business, these past months have seen the adoption of the revised UNEG Norms and Standards, including a norm on human rights and gender equality. The norm reiterates that human rights and gender equality values should be respected and upheld in any evaluation process to ensure that “no one is left behind”. This aligns with the promise of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and the [High-level Political Forum discussions](#) organized in July 2016.

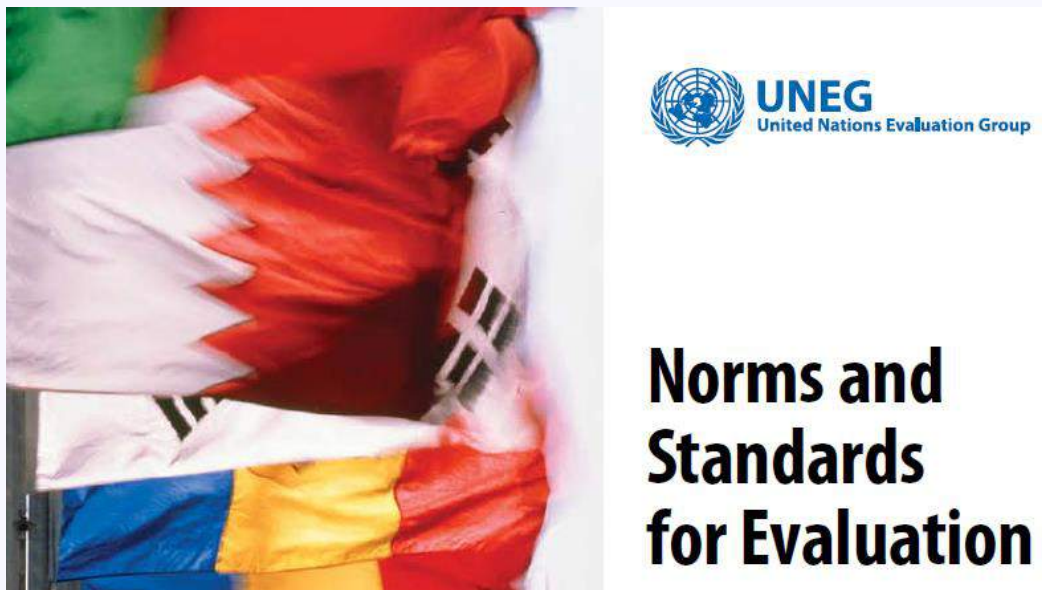
To uphold these values, UN Women’s coordination role on gender equality and the empowerment of women (GEEW) for the UN system is crucial - not only for achieving gender equality, but also for the overall development of a more coherent and fit for purpose United Nations. In this regard, IEO presented to its September [Executive Board](#) the [corporate evaluation](#) of [UN Women’s contribution to UN system coordination on GEEW](#). The evaluation provides evidence-based information on how well UN Women is performing in terms of its coordination mandate.

As part of its continuous effort to promote learning and accountability, IEO undertakes an annual meta-analysis to ensure that the body of evidence produced by corporate and decentralized evaluations are synthesized and used to inform corporate-level and decentralized policies and strategies. IEO presented this year’s meta-analysis to its Executive Board in September.

I wish you an enjoyable reading.

Marco Segone,
Director, Independent Evaluation Office, UN Women
Chair, United Nations Evaluation Group

News



Human rights and gender equality take center stage in revised UNEG foundational document

At the 2016 Annual General Meeting, [UNEG](#) endorsed the [updated UNEG Norms and Standards for Evaluation](#). This foundational document combines Norms and Standards into one document and responds to the evolving global, regional and national contexts, as well as the increasing demand for accountability and national ownership in evaluation.

In addition to **norm 9 and 10 respectively on national evaluation capacities and professionalism**, UN Women is particularly proud to announce the inclusion of a **norm on human rights and gender equality**: *“It is the responsibility of evaluators and evaluation managers to ensure that these values are respected, addressed and promoted, underpinning the commitment to the principle of ‘no-one left behind’”*.

It is our hope that this document, like its predecessor ([2005 UNEG Norms and Standards](#)), will not only strengthen and harmonize evaluation in the UN system, but also provide a useful framework for the global evaluation community.

A High-level Political Forum serving gender equality and social equity



Left to right: Marco Segone, Hon Olfa Cherif, Hon Natalia Nikitenko, HE Rachid Benmokhtar Benabdellah, Gonzalo Hernández Licona, Felipe Castro Pachon

The High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development is United Nations central platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. This year the central theme of the HLPF was “Ensuring that no one is left behind”, which is also a central promise of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

To commit to this promise, representatives from the evaluation and development community organized two official side events of HLPF on 13 July 2016. These events featured lively panel discussions and Q&A with Ministers, Parliamentarians and other stakeholders on evaluation in the service of the SDGs. The talks focused on how evaluation can support effective national follow-up and review of progress to achieve the SDGs and how to develop equity-focused and gender-responsive evaluation frameworks to ensure that “no one is left behind”. Gender equality and social equity featured prominently in the discussion, and comments from the panel and audience echoed the sentiment that gender equality is everyone's business.

Participants and audience left the vibrant discussion with five key takeaways:

- ≡ Gender equality, equity and the “no one left behind” principle is most important.
- 📈 The SDGs can only succeed if guided by evidence.
- 🤝 Partnerships are crucial to move forward.
- 🌐 Not all targets are relevant for all countries- an integrated approach linking goals is key.
- 📊 Evaluation identifies what progress means, what works, how and why.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Click [here](#) to read the report.



Strengthening national reviews and M&E systems for the SDGs

On Friday 15 July, the [United Nations Institute for Training and Research \(UNITAR\)](#) learning session “strengthening national reviews and M&E systems for the SDGs” during the High Level Political Forum filled the room with participants even standing and sitting on the ground.

A key focus of the speakers was on the need for better quality statistical data in order to truly “leave no one behind”. Francesca Perucci, Chief Statistical Services Branch, [United Nations Statistics Division](#) noted that the driving their plan of action is the three I’s: inclusiveness, integration and innovation. She highlighted that while strengthening basic data collection is necessary, we must move beyond and **think about new indicators for finding and measuring progress for those that have**

been “**left the furthest behind,**” these are the “invisible populations,” she noted, and this requires innovative solutions. All speakers identified the need to modernize both the collection and communication of data with the aim of making it more user-friendly. Another key message was the need to work across disciplines and ministries – as the SDGs require an integrated and holistic approach.

Marco Segone spoke as Chair of the [United Nations Evaluation Group](#), highlighting the need for stronger and gender-responsive national evaluation systems in the context of the SDGs. He also advocated for **looking at the structural causes of inequalities** in order to truly address the inequities that exist within societies if we want to truly address the “no one left behind” mantra of the SDGs. He noted that the General Assembly resolution on strengthening national evaluation capacities will be key moving forward in order to ensure demand and supply of good quality and gender-responsive evaluations that can contribute to the national review process with credible data.

For more information on UNITAR learning event, click [here](#)

UN Women IEO continues to support the International Programme for Development Evaluation Training (IPDET)

To enhance the professionalization of evaluation, IEO continued to support professional evaluation associations and professional events. In his capacity as Chair of UNEG and UN Women IEO Director, Marco Segone was invited as a guest speaker at the prestigious [International Programme for Development Evaluation Training \(IPDET\)](#) in Ottawa, Canada in June 2016. The presentation focused on “Evaluation in the SDG era” with great accentuation on the need to respond to the SDG’s focus on gender equality and the principle of ‘no one left behind’. It was emphasized the need to enhance national evaluation systems through an inclusive approach and gender responsive lens to realizing the transformative action of SDGs. Over 100 participants from over 59 countries attended the session.

How to Manage Gender-responsive Evaluation



Learning Modality: Self-paced



Duration: Approximately 9 hours



Language: English



Cost: Free

[Click Here to Register!](#)

Have you registered to become a gender-responsive evaluation manager?

Register today for the [e-learning course: “How to manage gender-responsive evaluation”](#). The course is open to the public- 800 individuals have enrolled from international organizations, academia, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and government organizations, including 113 staff members from UN Women alone!

Participants see the many benefits the course have for career development: knowledge and awareness about applying a gender lens to evaluation practice; enhanced opportunities for an M&E career path; the opportunity to apply theory in practice; enhanced career development, evaluation capacity and credibility; and recognition of your office or unit.

We encourage you to find out how to become a “gender-responsive evaluation manager” by checking out our new [sharepoint page for UN Women staff](#) or enrolling in the eLearning course by clicking [here](#).



Follow @unwomenEval on Twitter, and participate with the hashtags #Evaluation and #Eval2030

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

For any other information on IEO communications and knowledge management, kindly contact Alexandra Capello (alexandra.capello@unwomen.org)



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.

[UN Women Evaluation Governance and Policy](#)

[Corporate Evaluations](#)

[Decentralized Evaluation Systems](#)

[UN Coherence](#)

[National Evaluation Capacities](#)

[Resources and Tools](#)

[News, Transform magazines and past newsletters](#)



©2016 UN Women | 220 East 42nd Street Suite 21 | ieo@unwomen.org |
<http://www.unwomen.org/en/about-us/evaluation>

[Web Version](#)

[Forward](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)