

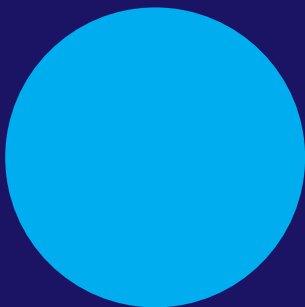
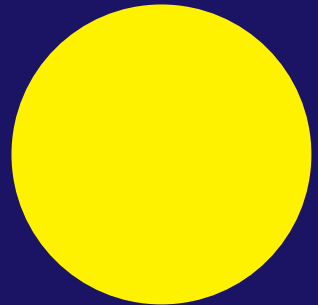
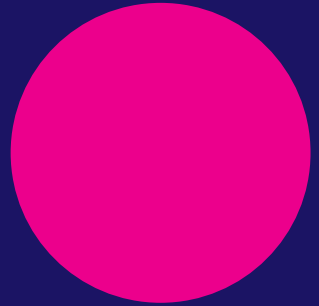


# United Nations Evaluation Development Group for Asia and the Pacific

Strengthen capacity and create an evaluation culture  
in Asia and the Pacific

# Why we exist

As the United Nations and other organizations set ambitious goals and benchmarks for human development in Asia and Pacific in the 21st century, steps must be taken to determine progress towards those goals and the results of policies designed to achieve them. Accordingly, both public and private groups have been created throughout the region to facilitate evaluation. To coordinate these growing efforts – as well as to ensure professionalism and consistency across borders – a pioneering network has been created: the United Nations Evaluation Development Group for Asia Pacific (UNEDAP).



# What we do

UNEDAP's purpose is two-fold:

- To promote an evaluation culture in the Asia and Pacific region and
- To strengthen regional evaluation capacities.

First, UNEDAP understands “evaluation culture” to mean the inculcation of the systematic assessment of results into all levels of an undertaking<sup>1</sup> and creating an atmosphere where such assessment – and the expertise needed for it – is recognized and valued. While many UN organizations and other institutions in this region are engaged in evaluation and monitoring activities, UNEDAP, through networking, can provide mutual opportunities for further enhancing and growing this vital component of human development policy. UNEDAP is firmly committed to contributing to develop a culture of evaluation among UN staff, governments and other partners.

Second, as a regional network, UNEDAP is expected to become a catalyst in the region for positioning evaluation as a strategic function for the achievement of development goals. In line with the UN Reform process, UNEDAP intends to contribute to harmonize sub-regional evaluation efforts and simplify across the board concepts, methodologies, processes, indicators, etc. Harmonizing and simplifying will in turn improve the calibre of evaluation standards in the region, as well as enhance capacities at the individual country and institutional levels.

In keeping with its purpose, UNEDAP has formulated three main goals:

- Strengthen the evaluation capacity of regional and sub-regional UN offices and partners
- Contribute to further development of national evaluation capacities
- Improve the quality of evaluation in Asia and the Pacific

These goals will guide UNEDAP's efforts to serve the region's key target groups:

- Decision-makers and staff of the UN
- National counterparts such as government organizations, academic institutions, non-government organization (NGOs), and civil society (i.e. professional bodies)
- Professional evaluation organizations/associations/networks

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<sup>1</sup> Policy, strategy, programme, project or activity

# Who we are

UNEDAP membership will be open to regional, sub-regional and national UN offices in Asia and Pacific, while non-UN organizations can apply to be institutional partners or observers. Thus, membership has four levels:

- Core members: member UN offices that take the lead in planning and implementing activities
- Members: UN offices that are involved in and support UNEDAP but do not directly plan or implement activities
- Institutional partners: non-UN organizations, such as international NGOs, academic institutions, or evaluation professionals – to name a few – with whom UNEDAP will actively seek to establish partnerships
- Observers: development banks, other donors and individuals with extensive expertise in evaluation

Currently, UNEDAP is operating under an interim structure, with a core group acting as the coordination body. In the future, however, the organization of UNEDAP will consist of a coordinator – elected by its members – and a secretariat, to be rotated among members.



# Expected results

Four potential results are expected to contribute to the pursuit of UNEDAP's goals to strengthen and improve evaluation capacity in the region.

- 1. Support the use of common evaluation frameworks**
- 2. Educate about Evaluation**
- 3. Contribute to the creation of mechanisms for evaluation capacity development**
- 4. Support networking for profession development in evaluation**

At the most fundamental level, UNEDAP will work to ensure that regional and sub-regional UN offices in Asia and Pacific are not only aware of but also put into practice a common framework for evaluation, based on standards of the greater UN system. In order to maintain such a framework, organizations – UN and otherwise – must gain a better understanding of the strategic role of evaluation. To this end, UNEDAP will educate those it serves about the role of evaluation, particularly in the context of certain benchmark policies like the UN's Millennium Development Goals.

In addition, UNEDAP intends to contribute to the development of organizational capacity for evaluation, particularly at the national level. Without the capacity to plan, execute and utilize evaluation, frameworks will not be implemented and education will not be grounded in actionable results. Similarly, implementation and education can flounder without steps being taken to make them sustainable.

One key strategic aim is the development of a corps of professional evaluators. By supporting networking on evaluation as a profession in the region, UNEDAP intends to facilitate the growth and professionalism of evaluators, allowing them to learn from each other across national borders.

Several strategies have been devised to achieve these expected results, including:

- Promoting the use of global evaluation norms and standards in Asia and the Pacific;
- Advocating for the institutionalization of evaluation with relevant decision makers;
- Using professional development activities to assess evaluation skills among UN members in the region;
- Encouraging joint evaluations – including the establishment of criteria for joint evaluations – in coordination with central evaluation offices; and
- Helping national evaluation forums to network in the region in their search for tools for capacity building and in the achievement of development goals.

# How we will do it

Representatives from nine UN regional offices developed a draft action plan, as seen below:

1. Support the use of common evaluation frameworks
  - a. Mapping the evaluation function of network members
  - b. Further developing and populating the UN common database of evaluation expertise
  - c. Promoting awareness and use of the UNEG Norms and Standards for Evaluation in the UN System among senior managers and evaluation practitioners
  - d. Promoting joint regional initiatives
  - e. Fostering the organization of joint capacity building exercises for evaluation
  - f. Sharing major evaluation plans in order to identify opportunities for joint evaluations
2. Educate about Evaluation
  - a. Publishing and disseminating information about evaluation in Asia and Pacific
  - b. Setting up a website either using an existing website or a new one
  - c. Systematically involving relevant professionals in meetings, workshops and conferences – including senior management – on evaluations in Asia and Pacific
3. Contribute to the creation of mechanisms for evaluation capacity development
  - a. Mapping existing institutions offering services on evaluation
  - b. Preparing for studies on the evaluation capacity gaps in Asia and Pacific
  - c. Participating in the review of reports on evaluation capacity gaps in Asia and Pacific
4. Support networking for professional development in evaluation
  - a. Establishing a portal for connecting networks and hosting evaluation resource materials
  - b. Promoting new national evaluation associations and sub-regional networks of evaluation associations

# Membership

UNEDAP MEMBERSHIP (as of July 2009)

## **ESCAP**

Rikke Munk Hansen

*Programme Evaluation Officer*

[hansenrm@un.org](mailto:hansenrm@un.org)

Sabrina Lenoir

*Associate Programme Evaluation Officer*

[Lenoir@un.org](mailto:Lenoir@un.org)

## **UNDP**

Anthony Wood

*Regional Project Management Advisor*

[Anthony.wood@undp.org](mailto:Anthony.wood@undp.org)

Sergelen Dambadarjaa

*Team Leader,*

*Regional Programme Support Services*

[Sergelen.dambadarjaa@undp.org](mailto:Sergelen.dambadarjaa@undp.org)

## **UNICEF**

Chris Davids

*Regional Chief of Programme  
and Planning (UNICEF/EAPRO)*

[cdavids@unicef.org](mailto:cdavids@unicef.org)

Suleiman Braimoh

*Planning Officer (UNICEF/ROSA)*

[sbraimoh@unicef.org](mailto:sbraimoh@unicef.org)

Ada Ocampo

*Regional Adviser (UNICEF/  
Asia-Pacific Shared Services Centre)*

[aocampo@unicef.org](mailto:aocampo@unicef.org)

## **ILO**

Pamornrat Pringsulaka

*Evaluation Officer*

[pamornrat@ilo.org](mailto:pamornrat@ilo.org)

## **UNESCO**

Mami Umayahara

*Programme Cycle Management Specialist*

[m.umayahara@unesco.org](mailto:m.umayahara@unesco.org)

Leotes Lugo Helin

*Assistant Programme Specialist*

[l.lugo-helin@unescobbk.org](mailto:l.lugo-helin@unescobbk.org)

## **UNFPA**

Jayanti Tuladhar

*Adviser on RH/ FP Management*

*Information Systems and Logistics*

[tuladhar@unfpa.org](mailto:tuladhar@unfpa.org)

## **UNAIDS**

Bob Verbruggen

*Regional Programme Advisor*

[vrbruggenb@unaids.org](mailto:vrbruggenb@unaids.org)

Amala Reddy

*Strategic Information Advisor*

[redhya@unaids.org](mailto:redhya@unaids.org)

# Contact information

## **Ms. Ada Ocampo**

Interim UNEDAP Coordinator

Tel: +66 2 356 9272

Fax: +66 2 280 5941

Email: [aocampo@unicef.org](mailto:aocampo@unicef.org)

## **Ms. Kanpirom Wiboonpanich**

Assistant to the Interim Coordinator

Email: [kwiboonpanich@unicef.org](mailto:kwiboonpanich@unicef.org)



THAILAND  
Social protection -  
food price crisis

INDONESIA  
DECENTRALI  
ZATION

THAILAND  
Proposed work on  
budgeting for  
children

Social security  
& social finance  
development plan

INDONESIA  
SRENG PANG  
POLICY MODES

China  
Legislative  
Framework

China  
Social  
Protection

THAILAND  
Decentralization  
Impact on provision  
of SSS

China  
Social  
Budgeting

Social policy  
Advocacy & Policy

Social Policy  
Cap Building  
- Advocacy on Budget  
for children

Friendly  
Budgeting

Development of  
a Social Policy and  
Finance Development Plan  
(in consultation with  
donors)

Policy  
Advocacy  
Legislative  
Framework

MIE  
SYSTEM

Analysis  
of Study

(Vulnerability  
Analysis)

Poverty Reduction  
- Child Poverty  
- Social protection

Childhood and  
social development in  
low income settings, with  
special focus on children and  
adolescents

Law 700  
Sector wide  
approaches - plan  
(Education)

Strategic  
Communication  
Advocacy

Support  
Macro-level  
Economic & Social  
policy (SUSDP)

Law 700  
Research  
and policy  
analysis  
(Food price impacts)

