

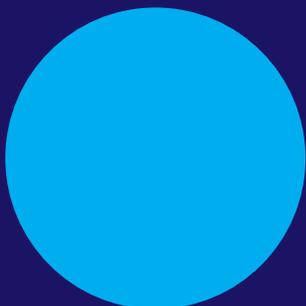
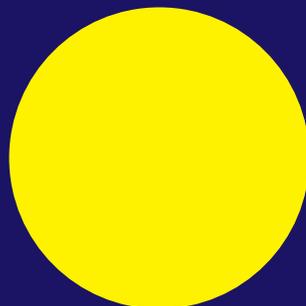
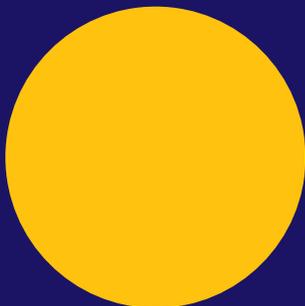
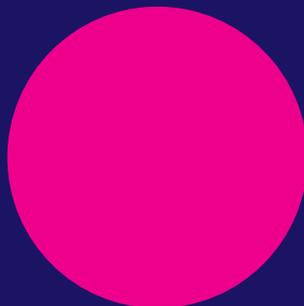


United Nations Evaluation Development Group for Asia and the Pacific

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 undertaking¹ 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

¹ 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)

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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 MOODS

China
Legislative
Framework

China
Social
Protection

THAILAND
Decentralization
Impact on provision
of BSS

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
social protection

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)

