

GEROS Evaluation Quality Assurance Tool

Version 2018.1

Reviewers: complete all cells highlighted in Yellow

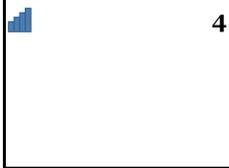
		Notes for QA
Title of the Evaluation Report	Evaluation of Adolescent Life Skills Education Programme in Maharashtra	
Report sequence number	2018/010	
Region	ROSA	
Year of Report	2018	
Office	India	
Coverage (countries)	India	
ToRs present	Yes	
Date of Review	10/1/2018	
Name of reviewer	ImpactReady	
Classification of Evaluation Report		
Management of Evaluation (<i>Managerial control and oversight of evaluation decisions</i>)		UNICEF managed
SPOA Correspondence <i>(Alignment with SPOA focus area priorities)</i>	Health	Yes
	HIV/AIDS	Yes
	WASH	Yes
	Nutrition	Yes
	Education	Yes
	Child protection	No
	Social inclusion	Yes
	Gender equality (cross-cutting)	Yes
	Humanitarian action (cross-cutting)	No
Evaluation object		Programme
Evaluation type		Summative and formative
Evaluation strategy		Mixed methods
Evaluation design		Quasi-experimental

Evaluation level		Outcome
Geographic Scope		National
SECTION A: BACKGROUND (weight 5%)		100%
Question 1.	Is the object of the evaluation clearly described?	100%
	Clear and relevant description of the intervention, including: location(s), timelines, cost/budget, and implementation status	Yes
	Clear and relevant description of intended beneficiaries by type (i.e., institutions/organizations; communities; individuals...), by geographic location(s) (i.e., urban, rural, particular neighbourhoods, town/cities, sub-regions...) and in terms of numbers reached (as appropriate to the purpose of the evaluation)	Yes
	Description of the relative importance of the object to UNICEF (e.g. in terms of size, influence, or positioning)	Yes
Question 2.	Is the context of the intervention clearly described?	100%
	Clear and relevant description of the context of the intervention (policy, socio-economic, political, institutional, international factors relevant to the implementation of the intervention)	Yes
	Clear and relevant description (where appropriate) of the status and needs of the target groups for the intervention	Yes
	Explanation of how the context relates to the implementation of the intervention	Yes
Question 3.	Is the results chain or logic well articulated?	100%
	Clear and complete description of the intervention's intended results	Yes
	Intervention logic presented as a coherent theory of change, logic chain or logic framework	Yes
Question 4.	Are key stakeholders and their contributions clearly identified?	100%
	Identification of implementing agency(ies), development partners, primary duty bearers, secondary duty bearers, and rights holders	Yes
	Identification of the specific contributions and roles of key stakeholders (financial or otherwise), including UNICEF	Yes
••••	Executive Feedback on Section A	Overall rating for Section
The rater will briefly (3-5 sentences) assess top line issues for this section relevant for feedback to senior management (positive and negative), summarizing here how the evaluation report meets or fails to meet the criteria above (judgement). As relevant, the rater will highlight best practice/added value elements		Highly Satisfactory
<p>The report does a good job at clearly describing the object of the evaluation as well as the country's economic, social and political context surrounding the implementation of the programme. The importance of the programme within the work done by UNICEF in India and globally in the area of LSE is also discussed in detail and the roles and responsibilities of UNICEF and the other key stakeholders in the implementation of the object of the evaluation are duly explained. The intended results of the programme are clearly outlined in the report and the evaluators reconstructed a Theory of Change that was validated by all relevant stakeholders.</p>		 4
Additional comments for Section A (recommendations for improvement)		Weighting
This section observes good practices. No further improvement is required.		0.05
SECTION B: EVALUATION PURPOSE, OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE (weight 5%)		100%

Question 5.	Is the purpose of the evaluation clearly described?	100%
	Specific identification of how the evaluation is intended to be used and to what this use is expected to achieve	Yes
	Identification of appropriate primary intended users of the evaluation	Yes
Question 6.	Are the objectives and scope of the evaluation clear and realistic?	100%
	Clear and complete description of what the evaluation seeks to achieve by the end of the process with reference to any changes made to the objectives included in the ToR	Yes
	Clear and relevant description of the scope of the evaluation: what will and will not be covered (thematically, chronologically, geographically with key terms defined), as well as the reasons for this scope (e.g., specifications by the ToRs, lack of access to particular geographic areas for political or safety reasons at the time of the evaluation, lack of data/evidence on particular elements of the intervention)	Yes
••••	Executive Feedback on Section B	Overall rating for Section
	The rater will briefly (3-5 sentences) assess top line issues for this section relevant for feedback to senior management (positive and negative), summarizing here how the evaluation report meets or fails to meet the criteria above (judgement). As relevant, the rater will highlight best practice/added value elements	Highly Satisfactory
	The report clearly states the purpose of the evaluation as assessing the LSE programme implemented from April 2014 to March 2016 in selected schools of Chandrapur district in Maharashtra and to understand the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the programme. The intended use of the evaluation is described as informing UNICEF and the Government of Maharashtra, specifically the Education Department, of key issues that need to be considered in the programming of LSE in secondary schools. Similarly, the report does a good job at describing what the evaluation intended to accomplish and at explaining its geographic and time period coverage.	 4
	Additional comments for Section B (recommendations for improvement)	Weighting
	This section observes good practices. No further improvement is required.	0.05
SECTION C: EVALUATION METHODOLOGY (weight 15%)		83%
Question 7.	Does the evaluation provide a relevant list of evaluation criteria that are explicitly justified as appropriate for the purpose of the evaluation? UNICEF evaluation standards refer to the OECD/DAC criteria. Not all OECD/DAC criteria are relevant to all evaluation objectives and scopes. Standard OECD DAC Criteria include: Relevance; Effectiveness; Efficiency; Sustainability; Impact. Evaluations should also consider equity, gender and human rights (these can be mainstreamed into other criteria). Humanitarian evaluations should consider Coverage; Connectedness; Coordination; Protection; Security.	83%
	Clear and relevant presentation of the evaluation framework including clear evaluation questions used to guide the evaluation	Yes
	If the framework is OTHER than UNICEF standard criteria, or if not all standard criteria of the chosen framework are included, the reasons for this are clearly explained and the chosen framework is clearly described	Mostly
Question 8.	Does the report specify methods for data collection, analysis, and sampling?	100%
	Clear and complete description of a relevant design and set of methods that are suitable for the evaluation's purpose, objectives and scope	Yes

	Clear and complete description of the data sources, rationale for their selection and sampling strategy. This should include a description of how diverse perspectives are captured (or if not, provide reasons for this), how accuracy is ensured, and the extent to which data limitations are mitigated	Yes
	Clear and complete description of the methods of analysis, including triangulation of multiple lines and levels of evidence (if relevant)?	Yes
	Clear and complete description of limitations and constraints faced by the evaluation, including gaps in the evidence that was generated and mitigation of bias?	Yes
Question 9.	Are ethical issues and considerations described? The evaluation should be guided by the UNEG ethical standards for evaluation. As such, the evaluation report should include:	67%
	Explicit reference to the obligations of evaluators (independence, impartiality, credibility, conflicts of interest, accountability)	No
	Description of ethical safeguards for participants appropriate for the issues described (respect for dignity and diversity, right to self-determination, fair representation, compliance with codes for vulnerable groups, confidentiality, and avoidance of harm)	Yes
	ONLY FOR THOSE CASES WHERE THE EVALUATION INVOLVES INTERVIEWING CHILDREN: explicit reference is made to the UNICEF procedures for Ethical Research Involving Children	Yes
•••-	Executive Feedback on Section C	Overall rating for Section
	The rater will briefly (3-5 sentences) assess top line issues for this section relevant for feedback to senior management (positive and negative), summarizing here how the evaluation report meets or fails to meet the criteria above (judgement). As relevant, the rater will highlight best practice/added value elements	Satisfactory
	The report presents a complete description of the evaluation framework, including a discussion around the evaluation criteria and key evaluation questions. An evaluation matrix is presented in annex B. However, even though the evaluation mentions that the impact criterion was discarded from the framework, it does not discuss the rationale for this. Conversely, the report does a good job at describing the evaluation design and methodological approach and discusses in detail the data collection methods and tools as well as data analysis methods. Furthermore, the report discusses the sampling techniques used in every case and provides a rationale for the choices made in this regard. Similarly, methodological limitations are presented along with mitigation strategies proposed. Ethical safeguards, including UNICEF ethical procedures for research involving children, are described. However, the report does not discuss the ethical obligations of the evaluators.	 3
	Additional comments for Section C (recommendations for improvement)	Weighting
	Even if already mentioned in the ToRs, it is important to explicitly discuss in the body of the report the rationale for the exclusion of any standard OECD/DAC criteria, in this case, that of impact. Also, when discussing the ethical safeguards applied during the conduct of the evaluation, good practices recommend that the obligations of the evaluators, (i.e. credibility, impartiality, absence of conflict of interest, etc.), be specified.	0.15
SECTION D: EVALUATION FINDINGS (weight 20%)		97%
Question 10.	Do the findings clearly address all evaluation objectives and scope?	100%
	Findings marshal sufficient levels of evidence to systematically address all of the evaluation's questions and criteria	Yes
	Reference to the intervention's results framework in the formulation of the findings	Yes
Question 11.	Are evaluation findings derived from the conscientious, explicit and judicious use of the best available, objective, reliable and valid data and by accurate quantitative and qualitative analysis of evidence.	92%

	The evaluation clearly presents multiple lines (including multiple time series) and levels (output, outcome, and appropriate disaggregation) of credible evidence.	Yes
	Findings are clearly supported by and respond to the evidence presented, including both positive and negative. Findings are based on clear performance indicators, standards, benchmarks, or other means of comparison.	Yes
	Unexpected effects (positive and negative) are identified and analysed	Mostly
	The causal factors (contextual, organizational, managerial, etc.) leading to achievement or non-achievement of results are clearly identified. For theory-based evaluations, findings analyse the logical chain (progression -or not- from implementation to results).	Yes
Question 12.	Does the evaluation assess and use the intervention's Results Based Management elements?	100%
	Clear and comprehensive assessment of the intervention's monitoring system (including completeness and appropriateness of results/performance framework -including vertical and horizontal logic; M&E tools and their usage)	Yes
	Clear and complete assessment of the use of monitoring data in decision making	Yes
•••-	Executive Feedback on Section D	Overall rating for Section
	The rater will briefly (3-5 sentences) assess top line issues for this section relevant for feedback to senior management (positive and negative), summarizing here how the evaluation report meets or fails to meet the criteria above (judgement). As relevant, the rater will highlight best practice/added value elements	Satisfactory
	The report presents findings that are based on several levels of evidence and address both successes of the implementation as well as areas for improvement. Findings are clearly presented making reference to the initiative's logical results framework and address the evaluation criteria that guided the evaluation process. The report addresses the causal factors for successes and shortcomings and also presents an analysis of unintended outcomes. Finally, the report provides an assessment of the LSE initiative's M&E system which is described as largely absent and recommendations are provided on how to strengthen this aspect of the initiative. On the other hand, even if the evaluation includes questions on unexpected positive and negative effects of the initiative, only the former are discussed.	 3
	Additional comments for Section D (recommendations for improvement)	Weighting
	This section generally observes good practices. However, it is recommended that not only positive unintended effects be discussed in the report, but also any undesired ones in order to objectively contribute to programme strengthening in the future.	0.2
SECTION E: EVALUATION CONCLUSIONS & LESSONS LEARNED (weight 15%)		100%
Question 13.	Do the conclusions present an objective overall assessment of the intervention?	100%
	Clear and complete description of the strengths and weaknesses of the intervention that adds insight and analysis beyond the findings	Yes
	Description of the foreseeable implications of the findings for the future of the intervention (if formative evaluation or if the implementation is expected to continue or have additional phase)	Yes
	The conclusions are derived appropriately from findings	Yes
Question 14.	Are lessons learned correctly identified?	100%
	Correctly identified lessons that stem logically from the findings, presents an analysis of how they can be applied to different contexts and/or different sectors, and takes into account evidential limitations such as generalizing from single point observations.	Yes
••••	Executive Feedback on Section E	Overall rating for Section

The rater will briefly (3-5 sentences) assess top line issues for this section relevant for feedback to senior management (positive and negative), summarizing here how the evaluation report meets or fails to meet the criteria above (judgement). As relevant, the rater will highlight best practice/added value elements	Highly Satisfactory
<p>The report presents conclusions that are forward-looking and that are correctly drawn from the information presented in the findings section. Conclusions are balanced as they highlight both the strengths and weaknesses of the initiative and are conveniently presented according to the evaluation criteria. Finally, the evaluation correctly identifies lessons learned and presents them in a way that ensures their wider relevance and usefulness for similar initiatives in other contexts.</p>	
Additional comments for Section E (recommendations for improvement)	
<p>This section observes good practices. No further improvement is required.</p>	<p>Weighting</p> <p>0.15</p>

SECTION F: RECOMMENDATIONS (weight 15%)	83%
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Question 15.	Are recommendations well grounded in the evaluation?	67%
	Recommendations are logically derived from the findings and/or conclusions	Yes
	Recommendations are useful to primary intended users and uses (relevant to the intervention and provide realistic description of how they can be made operational in the context of the evaluation)	Yes
	Clear description of the process for developing recommendations, including a relevant explanation if the level of participation of stakeholders at this stage is not in proportion with the level of participation in the intervention and/or in the conduct of the evaluation	No
Question 16.	Are recommendations clearly presented?	100%
	Clear identification of target group for action for each recommendation (or clearly clustered group of recommendations)	Yes
	Clear prioritization and/or classification of recommendations to support use	Yes

••••	Executive Feedback on Section F	Overall rating for Section
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The rater will briefly (3-5 sentences) assess top line issues for this section relevant for feedback to senior management (positive and negative), summarizing here how the evaluation report meets or fails to meet the criteria above (judgement). As relevant, the rater will highlight best practice/added value elements	Satisfactory
<p>The report presents recommendations that are useful to end users as they clearly specify the target group for action in each case as well as the area to which the recommendations belong, (i.e. capacity-building, social norm, advocacy, etc.). Also, the report provides recommendations on the prospects for scale-up and on ways to improve the M&E system of the initiative in the future. Conversely, the report does not discuss the process through which the recommendations were developed or the level of stakeholder involvement in this process.</p>	
Additional comments for Section F (recommendations for improvement)	
	Weighting

<p>It is important that the report discuss the process followed in developing the recommendations as well as the level of stakeholder involvement in this process as this provides assurance that the recommendations were adequately validated and enriched with the input of those directly involved in the LSE roll out.</p>		0.15
<p>SECTION G: EVALUATION STRUCTURE/PRESENTATION (weight 5%)</p>		100%
Question 17.	Does the evaluation report include all relevant information?	100%
	Opening pages include: Name of evaluated object, timeframe of the evaluation, date of report, location of evaluated object, names and/or organization(s) of the evaluator(s), name of organization commissioning the evaluation, table of contents -including, as relevant, tables, graphs, figures, annexes-; list of acronyms/abbreviations, page numbers	Yes
	Annexes should include, when not present in the body of the report: Terms of Reference, Evaluation matrix, list of interviewees, list of site visits, data collection instruments (such as survey or interview questionnaires), list of documentary evidence Other appropriate annexes could include: additional details on methodology, copy of the results chain, information about the evaluator(s)	Yes
Question 18.	Is the report logically structured?	100%
	The structure is easy to identify and navigate (for instance, with numbered sections, clear titles and sub-titles	Yes
	Context, purpose and methodology would normally precede findings, which would normally be followed by conclusions, lessons learned and recommendations	Yes
••••	Executive Feedback on Section G	Overall rating for Section
	The rater will briefly (3-5 sentences) assess top line issues for this section relevant for feedback to senior management (positive and negative), summarizing here how the evaluation report meets or fails to meet the criteria above (judgement). As relevant, the rater will highlight best practice/added value elements	Highly Satisfactory
	The report follows a particularly clear structure, uses straightforward and simple language, and facilitates a very easy read. All of the sections of the report are presented in the standard order for this type of evaluation. The opening pages contain all necessary elements to readily inform the reader about the object of the evaluation, the time period and geographic scope covered, the commissioning organisation, the evaluation team, etc. Furthermore, the annexes are complete, i.e. including the ToRs, the evaluation matrix, additional information on methodological tools, etc.	 4
Additional comments for Section G (recommendations for improvement)		Weighting
	The structure of the report observes good practices. No further improvement is required.	0.05
<p>SECTION H: EVALUATION PRINCIPLES (weight 15%)</p>		93%
Question 19.	Did the evaluation design and style consider incorporation of the UN and UNICEF's commitment to a human rights-based approach to programming, to gender equality, and to equity?	89%

	Reference and use of rights-based framework, and/or CRC, and/or CCC, and/or CEDAW and/or other rights related benchmarks in the design of the evaluation	Yes
	Clear description of the level of participation of key stakeholders in the conduct of the evaluation, and description of the rationale for the chosen level of participation (for example, a reference group is established, stakeholders are involved as informants or in data gathering)	Mostly
	Stylistic evidence of the inclusion of these considerations can include: using human-rights language; gender-sensitive and child-sensitive writing; disaggregating data by gender, age and disability groups; disaggregating data by socially excluded groups.	Yes
Question 20.	Does the evaluation assess the extent to which the implementation of the intervention addressed gender, equity & child rights?	100%
	Identification and assessment of the presence or absence of equity considerations in the design and implementation of the intervention	Yes
	Identification and assessment of the presence or absence of gender in the design and implementation of the intervention	Yes
	Explicit analysis of the involvement in the object of right holders, duty bearers, and socially marginalized groups, and the differential benefits received by different groups of children	Yes
	Clear proportionality between the level of participation in the intervention and in the evaluation, or clear explanation of deviation from this principle (this may be related to specifications of the ToRs, inaccessibility of stakeholders at the time of the evaluation, budgetary constraints, etc.)	Yes
Question 21.	Does the evaluation meet UN SWAP evaluation performance indicators?	Meets requirements
Note: this question will be rated according to UN SWAP standards		8
UN-SWAP criterion 1:	GEEW is integrated in the evaluation scope of analysis and evaluation criteria and questions are designed in a way that ensures GEEW related data will be collected	Fully integrated 3 points
UN-SWAP criterion 2:	A gender responsive methodology, methods and tools, and data analysis techniques are selected.	Fully integrated 3 points
UN-SWAP criterion 3:	The evaluation findings, conclusions and recommendations reflect a gender analysis.	Satisfactorily integrated 2 points
• • • -	Executive Feedback on Section H	Overall rating for Section
The rater will briefly assess top line issues for this section relevant for feedback to senior management (positive and negative), summarizing here how the evaluation report meets or fails to meet the criteria above (judgement). The rater should include one labelled sentence for each of the UN-SWAP criteria.		Satisfactory
The evaluation does a good job at making reference to the usage of a rights-based approach in the design and implementation of the intervention as well as the place that equity and gender-equality occupied within these. Whereas the evaluation provides in general a good account of the ways that stakeholders participated in both the intervention and the evaluation process, there is no reference to the way they participated in developing the recommendations. Finally, while the evaluation uses a gender-sensitive approach by ensuring the collection of disaggregated data and by using gender-sensitive data collection tools, the gender analysis does not cascade through the report as gender is not reflected in the conclusions or recommendations.		 3
Additional justifications for UN-SWAP ratings		
UN-SWAP criterion 1:	The evaluation includes specific questions and analysis methods on the ways that gender was addressed by the LSE programme.	
UN-SWAP criterion 2:	The report does a good job at using data collection methods and analysis methods that are gender-sensitive and by ensuring that all data presented is sex-disaggregated and analysed through a gender analysis.	

UN-SWAP criterion 3:	Although the report presents a consistent gender-sensitive approach and most of the data is presented with an analysis of the way the initiative affected girls as compared to boys, there are no references made to gender in the conclusions or recommendations.	
Additional comments for Section H (recommendations for improvement)		Weighting
Good practices recommend that a gender analysis be used throughout all sections of the report, including the conclusions and recommendations. Stakeholders should also be consulted during the development of the recommendations in order to provide validation.		0.15
SECTION I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (weight 5%)		100%
Question 22.	Can the executive summary inform decision-making?	100%
	An executive summary is provided that is of relevant conciseness and depth for primary intended users	Yes
	Includes all necessary elements (overview of the intervention, evaluation purpose, objectives and intended audience, evaluation methodology, key findings, key conclusions, key recommendations)	Yes
	Includes all the necessary information to understand the intervention and the evaluation AND does not contain information not already included in the rest of the report	Yes
••••	Executive Feedback on Section I	Overall rating for Section
The rater will briefly (3-5 sentences) assess top line issues for this section relevant for feedback to senior management (positive and negative), summarizing here how the evaluation report meets or fails to meet the criteria above (judgement). As relevant, the rater will highlight best practice/added value elements		Highly Satisfactory
The executive summary is concise and adequately informs end users about the object of the evaluation and the evaluation process itself, including key findings, conclusions and recommendations. The executive summary only includes information that is developed in greater detail in the body of the report.		 4
Additional comments for Section I (recommendations for improvement)		Weighting
The executive summary observes good practices. No further improvement is required.		0.05
<i>Weighting checksum (should equal 1) 1</i>		
OVERALL SCORE (max=4, min=0)		
••••-	Satisfactory	 3.35
Meets UNICEF/UNEG standards for evaluation reports and decision makers may use the evaluation with confidence		
Lessons for improving the management and performance of future evaluations		

This report can be used with confidence by decision-makers as it presents high quality findings, conclusions, lessons learned and recommendations that are based on the sound use of robust analysis of credible evidence. In the future, the evaluation manager(s) may wish to consider organising a findings and recommendations stakeholder validation workshop to discuss draft evaluation findings with key stakeholders and to ask them for their input when developing the recommendations. This is a useful process to ensure that the evaluation findings are factual and accurate and to develop useful recommendations with buy-in from key stakeholders.