INTRODUCTION TO THIS ISSUE

This issue focuses on:

1. NEW Evaluation Community of Practice now open!
2. ALNAP-UNICEF e-learning course: Introduction to Evaluating Humanitarian Action NOW OPEN!
3. UNEG Evaluation Week Recap
4. EvalMENA 4th General Assembly
5. “Healthy Village” Sustainability Study
6. What competencies need to be developed amongst evaluation professionals to improve the use of findings by policy-makers?

The issue also includes access to learning opportunities, a number of resources and updates on staff movement.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

NEW Evaluation Community of Practice now open!

The Evaluation Office has created a new Evaluation Community of Practice for UNICEF staff working on or interested in the evaluation function (migrating the existing members of the older community to this new community). This exciting new community is hosted on a new SharePoint/Yammer platform designed to encourage participatory knowledge exchange and innovation. The community unites UNICEF professionals worldwide with a joint commitment to evaluation to share knowledge and learn from each other; and in doing so, to improve their practice and achieve better results for children. All community members are encouraged to share resources, post blogs, ask questions, and discuss their work. To join the SharePoint community, click the “Join Community” button on the right. Please also join the Yammer group, “Evaluation Community of Practice” to achieve full integration in the dual platform. If you were already a member of the old community, you will receive link to join the new community via an email, so look out for this.

ALNAP-UNICEF e-learning course: Introduction to Evaluating Humanitarian Action NOW OPEN!

ALNAP and UNICEF, in collaboration with EvalPartners and UNEG, are pleased to announce the launch of an introductory e-learning course on Evaluating Humanitarian Action (EHA). Expanding on the ALNAP Pilot Guide on ‘Evaluating Humanitarian Action’, this e-learning is the first of its kind.

This course offers an overview of evaluation practice in humanitarian contexts, and features concrete guidance, tips and insights from experienced practitioners. The e-learning is freely available and is now open! Access the course here.
The United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon lit the Evaluation Torch to celebrate 2015 the International year of Evaluation in the context of the UNEG Evaluation Week at the UNEG High-level Panel Event themed “Bridge to a Better World - Evaluation at the service of the Post-2015 Agenda.”

Ban Ki-Moon said “I welcome the designation of 2015 as the International Year of Evaluation -- the same year in which the United Nations marks its 70th anniversary and will take momentous decisions about our future prosperity, safety and well-being. Evaluation everywhere, and at every level, will play a key role in implementing the new development agenda”.

He also added “Evaluation is not easy. Nor is it popular. But it is essential. The current constrained budgetary climate makes it more important than ever. All of us share a responsibility to strengthen this important function. I look forward to working with all of you to strengthen evaluation capacity so that it can play its rightful role in building lives of dignity for all.”

In the same week a new UNEG publication was launched as Evaluation will become more necessary for the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals. In this publication, in 2015 the International Year of Evaluation, UNEG demonstrates how evaluation makes a difference. UNEG launched the report "Evidence Changes Lives: Realizing Evaluation’s Potential to Inform the Global Sustainable Development Goals." From the UN, the centre of global policymaking, UNEG offers a coordination platform for global and country-level evaluation cooperation and learning. UNEG respects country ownership and enables lawmakers, evaluation networks and practitioners to tap into the knowledge they need to build national evaluation capacity.

This year’s UNEG Evaluation Practice Exchange (EPE) was hosted by UNICEF and GEF at UNICEF House. Usually a day and a half event, this year’s EPE was a two and half day affair. Its sought to facilitate learning and exchange of experiences among UNEG members, improve the credibility and utility of UN evaluations and contribute to the advancement of the evaluation function in the UN system. The year’s EPE also celebrated 2015 Year of Evaluation.

The sessions were planned and delivered by several UNEG agencies and included sessions such as Evaluation in Humanitarian Settings, Innovations and Challenges in Designing and Managing Thematic Evaluations, and Performance Measurement of UN Organizations, among many others. In addition to traditional delivery methods this year’s EPE also included talk shows about national evaluation Capacity Development and Integrating gender equality and human rights in evaluation as well as a press conference about Knowledge Management and Communications. Participants could also attend the ‘World Café’ which featured a variety of small discussion groups on several topics.

Details about the EPE and all session materials are available for download on the UNEG website. We intend to do a more detailed write up on the EPE - coming soon.
The fourth General Assembly of EvalMENA, the regional evaluators’ network in MENA region, entitled “The MENA Region Celebrates EvalYear’2015”, was held in Cairo on February 23-26, 2015.

This first regional event in a series of national and regional festivities marking the adoption of the UN Resolution on building capacity for evaluation at country level and the declaration of 2015 as International Year of Evaluation, gathered over 100 evaluation practitioners, government officials, parliamentarians, academicians, development partners from across the region. Bridging the gap between the evaluation community and policy makers, and mainstreaming evaluation in the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals era were among the discussed topics relevant to MENA and beyond. The Assembly served as a first step towards identifying regional priorities for the 2016-2020 evaluation agenda.

The contribution of UNICEF MENARO to the Assembly through participating in the discussions and session-chairing, as well as through funding support to ensure the attendance of young evaluators, was acknowledged and highly appreciated both by organisers and participants.

Supported by the Evaluation Office, one of the six pre-Assembly professional development workshops - on Real Time Evaluation - attracted about 20 participants who acquired better understanding of the specificities of RTE. This is particularly relevant to MENA region, shaken continuously by emergencies, where capacity for RTE is much needed.

“Healthy Village” Sustainability Study

The Villages et Écoles Assainis (Healthy Village and School) programme is the DRC Government’s country-wide programme for rural water, sanitation, and hygiene. It is managed and owned by the Ministries of Health and Education, with technical and financial assistance from UNICEF.

This study assesses the sustainability of the first phase of implementation (2008-2012) with a view to inform the design of the second (2013-2017). 7 norms have been defined for certifying a village as having ‘Healthy Village’ status. The study aimed to determine the extent to which these norms were being maintained by villages over time, and why villages might be retaining or losing these norms. A set of hypotheses were tested by statistical correlation. The study finds that the retention of healthy status is very difficult over time with little or no external support. Upon testing of the 20 hypotheses relating to sustainability factors, a number of strong correlations which reinforced sustainability were identified. Find the full report and executive summaries here.
What competencies need to be developed amongst evaluation professionals to improve the use of findings by policy-makers?

Stimulating demand and promoting the use of evidence are issues for development evaluation professionals (evaluators, evaluation managers and commissioners). Two recent systematic reviews have emphasised the importance of contextual conditions in defining the use of evidence. These reviews highlight that the more supply agents (e.g. evaluators and commissioners) are able to collaborate and form relationships with policy-makers (e.g. programme managers, senior civil servants and politicians), the more likely evidence is to be used. Deficits in the capacities of evaluation professionals to engage with policy-makers were identified in the 2010 Evaluation in Development Agencies report by the OECD. This report stated that the dissemination of evaluation has remained a passive exercise and lessons were not targeted at specific audiences in accessible and usable ways. Read the full article here and read rejoinders to the article here.

**LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

**2015 International Year of Evaluation events**

- [UK Evaluation Society](#) Conference to be held in London, UK on 13 and 14 May 2015 (Click here for more information)
- [Canadian Evaluation Society (CES)](#) conference to be held in Montreal, Canada, from 24-27 May 2015 SEVAL-GEN evaluation conference on 3 and 4 September 2015 (Click here for more information)
- [Australasian Evaluation Society (AES)](#) conference to be held in Melbourne, Australia, in September 2015 (Click here for more information)
- International Programme Evaluation Network (IPEN) conference to be held in the last week of September 2015
- 5th Biennial [South African Monitoring and Evaluation Associate (SAMEA) Conference](#) to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 12-16 October
- [National Evaluation Capacities](#) conference and [IDEAS](#) Global Assembly to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, in October 2015
- [American Evaluation Association (AEA)](#) conference to be held in Chicago, USA, from 7-15 November 2015 (Click here for more information)

**Mosaic Summer Workshops, July 2015, Ottowa Canada**

For 18 years, Mosaic has built an international reputation for offering workshops that build core competencies of participants. They do this by ensuring that every participant has hands-on practical experience through actual field assignments that provide the knowledge, skills and confidence to apply new learning to the workplace. This year’s workshops are:

- Advanced Results Based Management / July 15-17
- Participatory Monitoring & Evaluation / July 20-25
- Gender Training / July 27-31

For more information visit Mosaic’s [website](#) or [email them](#).
Impact Evaluation Webinars for UNICEF led by Office of Research

The third impact evaluation webinar will focus on Theory of Change and take place on Wednesday 15th of April and Thursday 16th of April (repeat session). It is part of a webinar program organized by the Office of Research – Innocenti and presented by evaluation experts from RMIT University, BetterEvaluation and 3ie throughout 2015. The program builds on last year’s Impact Evaluation Series - a user-friendly, introductory package of 13 methodological briefs and four animated videos on impact evaluation written for UNICEF staff who need to know about evaluating impact in the field.

In the April webinar, Professor in Public Sector Evaluation from RMIT University, Patricia Rogers, will discuss the different ways of developing and representing a Theory of Change (ToC) in an impact evaluation. She’ll stress the importance of reviewing and revising the ToC to guide data collection, analysis and reporting.

Like the methodological briefs, the webinars are best suited to UNICEF staff who commission or utilize the results from impact evaluations, but others interested in the topic are more than welcome to attend. The objective is to provide an interactive capacity-building experience to UNICEF staff, which covers common challenges from the field and answers practical questions. There will be a Q&A with the presenter at the end and questions can also be submitted before the webinar on Yammer.

Session 1: Wednesday 15 April: 9am New York, 8am Panama, 10am Sao Paulo, 3pm Florence.
Repeat session: Thursday 16th of April: 11am Florence, 12pm Nairobi, 9am Dakar, 4pm Bangkok, 12pm Moscow, 12pm Amman.

Please note that webinars will be 1 hour long. All webinars are recorded and available on the on the Office of Research – Innocenti Team Site.

l’Université de Wageningen organise l’année prochaine les cours, du 5 au 15 octobre 2015 à Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso et du 7 Septembre 2015 au 18 Septembre 2015, à Wageningen, Pays Bas

Nous avons de plaisir de vous annoncer que l’Université de Wageningen, à travers son Centre du Développement et de l’Innovation (CDI), organise l’année prochaine le cours en « Planification et Suivi-Evaluation Participatifs – gestion orientée vers l’impact » en partenariat avec l’AfrEA et l’ISSP (Cliquez ici pour plus d’informations), ainsi que le cours en «Décentralisation en milieu rural et gouvernance locale » (Cliquez ici pour plus d’informations).

AEA Summer Evaluation Institute, 31 May – 3 June 2015, Atlanta USA

The American Evaluation Association is offering evaluation courses this summer. This event will include three keynote addresses, five rotations of three-hour and forty-minute training sessions, plus two group lunches to allow for networking among conference attendees. Topics range from Qualitative and Quantitative Analyses; to Project Management, Logic Modeling, Reporting, Theory to Practice, Cultural Competence, and more. See the AEA website for more information.

Technology for Monitoring and Evaluation is a highly interactive online course designed for current or aspiring M&E practitioners and technologists to become familiar with the latest technology that is transforming the way we collect, analyze, understand, and report data in international development.

This four week online certificate course will focus on building skills and strategies to better collect, manage, analyze and visualize data using a variety of tech tools. It will feature live interactive guest expert presentations with leading M&E practitioners, software developers, and data scientists. It will also include a unique hands-on learning environment with animated videos, technology demos, practical activities, networking events, immersive simulations and more. The course will take place January 26 - February 20, 2015 (with full course access through July 2015).

Course topics:
1. Intro to Tech for M&E (brief overview of types of M&E and technologies that can be used, data responsibility, and big data)
2. Data collection (SMS, phone apps, data collection for qualitative and quantitative data, and data storage)
3. Data Analysis (Data visualization, mapping, and dashboards)
4. Integrating Technology-Enabled M&E (human centered design, real-time M&E, and impact evaluation)

For more information or to apply, please visit the course page. For group discount rates, please contact info@techchange.org

GRM International Training Opportunities

GRM International offers a full range of courses to meet the needs of those working in international development. GRM runs courses worldwide in conjunction with our sister companies Channel Research, the Effective Development Group, Futures Group, and theIDLgroup. For more information email Derrick or click here.

Upcoming M&E courses:
- Monitoring and Evaluation 20 - 22 Apr 2015 Nadi
- Monitoring Development Projects 26 - 30 Apr 2015 Dubai
- Evaluating Development Projects 10 - 14 May 2015 Dubai
- Monitoring and Evaluation 11 - 13 May 2015 Dar es Salaam
- Certificate in Monitoring and Evaluation 11- 22 May 2015 Bangkok
- M&E for Unstable Environments and Complex Initiatives 12 - 14 May Dubai
- Evaluation Management 18 - 19 May 2015 Bangkok
- Monitoring and Evaluation 18 - 20 May 2015 Abuja
- Monitoring Development Projects 1 - 5 Jun 2015 London
- Evaluating Development Projects 8 - 12 Jun 2015 London
- Monitoring Development Projects 22 - 26 Jun 2015 Bangkok
- Evaluating Development Projects 29 Jun - 3 Jul 2015 Bangkok
SLEvA 5th Biennial International Conference, 15-18 September 2015 – Colombo, Sri Lanka

This year’s conference, hosted by the Sri Lanka Evaluation Association, will be based on the theme, “Response Evaluation.” SLEvA is accepting papers in the following themes:

- Contextualizing Evaluation
- Governance/Institutional aspects
- Capacity

The deadline for abstract submissions is 15 May 2015. For more information please click here or visit SLEvA’s website.

Outcome Mapping (15-17 June) and Outcome Harvesting (18-19 June) Summer Training Programme – University of Bologna

This is the 10th Annual Edition of the joint Bologna Centre for International Development / Department of Economics Summer Training Programme on Monitoring and Evaluation. This year the programme’s focus is on two methods that are increasingly on the cutting-edge for planning, monitoring and evaluation in development situations characterized by a dynamic environment and unpredictable results: Outcome Mapping and Outcome Harvesting. The two hands-on courses present practical steps, examples and participatory exercises in applying these planning, monitoring and evaluation (PM&E) tools to strengthen management for development results. Click here for more information and to register.

“Strengthening National M&E Capacities and Use. Evaluation Societies as driving force” training, 19-31 October, Antwerp, Belgium

The Institute of Development Policy and Management (University of Antwerp, Belgium) will organize a training programme “Strengthening National M&E Capacities and Use. Evaluation societies as driving force”. The two week training programme (19-31/10/2015, in Antwerp, Belgium) aims to bring together leading evaluation experts (members of National Evaluation Societies) to strengthen those evaluation societies in taking up the role of developing national M&E capacities and use. More specifically, this training programme will enable some 25 evaluation experts who are members of different national evaluation societies to become driving forces in strengthening their national M&E systems and use.

The programme wants to attract evaluation experts from the government sector, civil society, parliament, donor agencies, and academia. All participants however should have a university degree in social sciences (or related disciplines) and should have professional expertise in M&E (mid-level to high level professionals in the government sector, civil society, academia, think tanks, donor agencies, and parliament). Applicants must also be proficient in English. To be eligible for a VLIR-UOS scholarship additional requirements apply (aged under 45; member of an evaluation society; national of country on VLIR-UOS country list). For more information on the training programme, please visit the website. There are 19 VLIR-UOS scholarships available for the training programme. Apply by 31/05/2015 through the online application form.
Advocating for Evaluation e-Learning course – EvalPartners, UNWomen and IOCE

EvalPartners, UNWomen and IOCE, in cooperation with UNEG, OECD/DAC EvalNet and Ministry of Foreign affair, Finland, are pleased to announce the launch of its latest e-Learning course on Advocating for Evaluation as part of the broader e-learning programme in Development Evaluation. This course is particularly important to facilitate countries to develop and implement their own context-specific advocacy strategy to strengthen an enabling environment for evaluation in the Year of evaluation.

The course is based on EvalPartners Evaluation Advocacy Toolkit and includes eight units. Six world level specialists in evaluation and advocacy including senior representatives of the international community, a Member of Parliament and senior evaluation managers teach this course.

The e-learning course is free and open to all interested evaluators. You may attend virtually from your personal or work computer anywhere in the world. The course includes on-line lectures, reading material and tests. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in an on-line forum, and on successful completion of the e-learning course will be able to print out a certificate of virtual attendance.

For additional information on the e-learning programme on Development Evaluation, watch the introductory video by Marco Segone (UNWOMEN Evaluation Office and EvalPartners Co-Chair) and Natalia Kosheleva (IOCE President and EvalPartners Co-Chair). Click here for registration.

Registration Open for IPDET 2015, 8 June – 3 July 2015

Registration is now open for IPDET 2015! Established in 2001, the International Program for Development Evaluation Training (IPDET) is an executive training program that aims to provide managers and practitioners the generic tools required to evaluate development policies, programs, and projects at the local, national, regional, and global levels.

The program features a two-week Core Course, followed by two weeks of in-depth workshops, taught by a dynamic group of renowned international faculty drawn from Southern and Northern organizations. An intensive and unique training initiative of the Independent Evaluation Group of the World Bank and Carleton University, it is best known for its flagship training program offered each summer in Ottawa, Canada.

IPDET 2015 is designed to meet the professional development needs of senior and mid-level evaluation and audit professionals working in developed and developing country governments, bilateral and multilateral development agencies, or non-governmental organizations. Click here for more information.

Please note that scholarships are available and UN staff are eligible to apply to PARTIAL scholarships.
Coming up this month:

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**ToC OoR Webinar**

**Tech for M&E Online Course**

**M&E Course, Nadi**

**Tech for M&E Online Course**

**Monitoring Development Projects Course, Dubai**

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**RESOURCES**

**VOPE Toolkit**

This Voluntary Organization of Professional Evaluators (VOPE) Institutional Capacity Toolkit is a collection of curated descriptions, tools, advice, examples, software and toolboxes developed by VOPEs and other organizations working to support non-profit organizations. It was compiled by EvalPartners, the International Evaluation Partnership Initiative, together with the Toolkits Task Force responsible for institutional capacity building of VOPEs.

**Evaluate Issue #34, March-April 2015**

Evaluation and Climate Change is the theme of this issue. The “Evaluation Activities and Highlights” section features UNICEF’s experience in the EAP region of placing a high premium on strengthening the evaluation function by creating a shared international evaluation specialist post for three country offices. The same section highlights the results of a quick survey among country offices in EAP on managing the evaluation function. Read the issue [here](#).

**IEG – Results of Client Survey**

In late 2014 IEG conducted a client survey to better understand how they are perceived by the Board, management and staff of the World Bank Group, as well as outside stakeholders in, for example: government; academia; international organizations; and NGOs. In keeping with their policy on openness and transparency, IEG is now making the full survey results and posted a [blog](#) on the results.
EvalPartners Newsletter #12

This issue of EvalPartners’ newsletter includes an editorial on “Strengthening Evaluation Culture with Evaluation Torch Passing Over to Nations Worldwide” as well as information on global evaluation events and resources. Read the issue here.

UNICEF Procedure for Ethical Standards in Research, Evaluation, Data Collection and Analysis

In March 2015, the Director, Division of Data, Research and Policy approved and actioned the UNICEF Procedure for Quality Assurance in Research and the UNICEF Procedure for Ethical Standards in Research, Evaluation and Data Collection and Analysis. These procedures, as of the 1st April, 2015, are binding on all staff undertaking or commissioning research, and, in the instance of the Ethical Standards Procedure, those undertaking evaluations and data collection and analysis involving human subjects or analyzing sensitive secondary data.

The procedures are designed to guide UNICEF’s evidence generation activities and to support the quality and integrity of our evidence base in order to ensure that our programmes, policy and advocacy activities are grounded in rigorous scientific and ethical principles and practices.

To support the practical implementation of these procedures, the Quality Assurance and Ethics pages on this teamsite provide relevant tools, templates and guidance. These sites will continue to be updated to reflect feedback and questions from the field arising from relevant training, webinars and consultations.

For questions or queries please contact Nikola Balvin, Knowledge Management and Research Facilitation Specialist (nbalvin@unicef.org) or Gabrielle Berman, Research Ethics and Facilitation (gberman@unicef.org).

Evaluation Connections, EES Newsletter – March 2015

This issue of Evaluation Connections, from the European Evaluation Society, provides insights into ethics of evaluation, advocacy evaluation, and Qualitative Comparative Analysis, among other resources. Read the issue here.

Local Ownership in Evaluation: Moving from Participant Inclusion to Ownership in Evaluation Decision Making

This paper, by InterAction, argues that the local ownership agenda must extend to all parts of the program cycle, from design all the way to evaluation, and makes the point that participants (our admittedly imperfect alternative to the word “beneficiary”) should be involved in evaluation activities such as deciding the questions an evaluation will ask, determining the criteria that will be used for judging an intervention’s success, interpreting results, or shaping recommendations based on evaluation findings. Find a blog post on the paper here and the paper itself here.

UN Women Independent Evaluation Office Newsletter Issue #9 – March 2015

This issue of UN Women’s Independent Evaluation Office Newsletter focuses on events and achievements from UNEG Evaluation Week. Read the issue here.
OECD DAC Newsletter Issue #2, March 2015

This biannual ECD Newsletter represents an ongoing opportunity to inform others of ECD initiatives and opportunities for collaboration. It provides information on country, regional and global ECD initiatives, as well as new resources. This issue has been compiled by the ECD Task Team Chair. Read the issue here.

Case Studies on EF&GR M&E Systems

The Parliamentarians Forum for Development Evaluation has recently released, in partnership with SlEvA three case studies on Equity-focused and Gender-responsive M&E systems in Nepal, Australia and the Philippines. Find the case studies here.

Sphere for Monitoring and Evaluation

The Sphere Project office has published Sphere for Monitoring and Evaluation, a short guide to help humanitarian staff identify and implement the sections of the Sphere Handbook that are most relevant to these tasks. Find the full guide in English and Spanish here.

BLOGS & DISCUSSIONS

Evaluation as a Game Changer - IEG

The World Bank Group has set ambitious goals – eradicating poverty by 2030 and boosting shared prosperity – that are rippling through the development community as evident, for example, in the focus and composition of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will be adopted this year. And it has done so amidst many challenging internal changes.

So how do we, as evaluators, take up the gauntlet of change? Read the full IEG post here.

Using Humor to Increase Survey Engagement – Research Access

Here is an important topic that rarely gets much discussion. Why are surveys so humorless? Are we doing something so vital and critically important that we have to ask questions in such serious tones? We’re not performing surgery here; we are having a conversation with our customers via a survey (although I am sure even surgeons tell jokes to one another over the operating table). Don’t you open a conversation with your customers with some light talk and a couple of hardy har hars? Your surveys should follow the same practice. Find out how here.

Real World Participation in Evaluation - ImpactReady

Chris Morris discusses accountability of humanitarian relief organizations through participation. This blog post is based on his recent study, which looked at whether INGOs were using evaluation to provide accountability to affected communities. Read the post here.
10 Ways to Raise Your Monitoring & Evaluation Game

Measuring what we do: fundamental not only because we want to know whether or not what we do makes sense (Duh!) but also as a way to learn from what we are doing and so, doing things better in the long run.

Hence M&E.

Somewhere along the way, however, M&E has become a whole universe with tools (toolkits?), processes, advisers, “matrices”-pushing consultants and the obligatory meetings, coordination committees and global forums, with various degrees of remoteness from the actual operations they are monitoring and evaluating. A very long tail wagging a very small dog. But it doesn't have to be that way. Here are 10 ways to beef up any M&E strategy.

Creating a Global Movement in Evaluation: The Story of EvalPartners

This Exemplars article tells the story of EvalPartners, the international evaluation initiative to strengthen civil society’s evaluation capacities through collaborative partnerships. Highlighted are the strategic roles that dedicated individuals and civil society organizations, notably Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluations (VOPEs), are playing to create a global evaluation movement that promotes the use of evaluation to enhance evidence-based policy making, transparency, and learning. This story is told through the voice of Tessie Catsambas, who for the past 3 years was the American Evaluation Association (AEA) representative to the International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE) and also served as the secretary of the IOCE and a member of the EvalPartners Executive Committee. Read the article here.

A Good Time to Be an Evaluator: Evaluation and Evaluators Meeting the Challenge of Complexity

Caroline Heider’s blog post, derived from a conversation with UNEG, answers the following questions:
1. What strategies can we use to ensure governments and parliaments use evaluation findings to improve policy making and implementation?
2. What strategies can we deploy to make sure institutions and organizations have strong evaluation functions, and that they use evaluation findings?
3. How can evaluators best prepare to meet these challenges?

Read the full post here.

Building Communities While Building Skills

Skills matter. And evaluators who are in the position of determining what works and what doesn’t, and who have the responsibility to help guide the institutions must work for toward practices that will yield the best results, so professional competency is a must. Yet, the evaluation family has struggled for years now with the challenge of establishing a broadly agreed upon professional profile for evaluation practitioners. Read the full IEG blog post here.
Somalia: What has the money achieved?

In 2013, £1.6 bn of international aid was pledged to Somalia: more than double the country’s gross domestic product. In the capital, Mogadishu, some high-profile investments—such as the upgrading of the airport and port facilities—show this money at work. But elsewhere, the impact of such spending is less visible and therefore faces tough questions from both Somalis as well as the international community. The linkages between meeting immediate needs – water, roads, clinics – and longer term goals of improving lives and securing peace and stability are complex. Harder still, is establishing long-term impact. Read the full post here.

Welcoming New Colleagues and Saying Goodbye to Old Colleagues

Bikul Tulachan – Evaluation Officer, ROSA

Bikul has joined ROSA as Evaluation Officer. Bikul has five years of experience in designing and managing evaluations covering diverse themes such as agriculture, environment, and urban development – in Nepal, India and the United States. Prior to joining UNICEF, Bikul worked for four years with the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), a research center at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), which conducts experimental evaluations of development interventions. He holds a BA and MA in Economics, both from the United States.

We welcome Bikul and wish him all the best and every success in his new role.

Celeste Lebowitz – Programme Assistant, Evaluation Office

Celeste Lebowitz, Programme Assistant in the Evaluation Office, returns from maternity leave on 1 April 2015 to resume her duties.

We welcome Celeste back to the Evaluation Office.

Allison Goforth – Acting Programme Assistant, Evaluation Office

Allison Goforth will be completing her temporary post as acting Programme Assistant in the Evaluation Office on 9 April 2015.

We wish her the best of luck in future endeavors.

Staff Changes:
- Bikul Tulachan
- Celeste Lebowitz
- Allison Goforth
- Prashant Menon
Prashant Menon, a former Operations Analyst for The Conference Board, an economic think tank based in New York, has recently joined the UNICEF Evaluation Office as a consultant. He will be working on several systemic strengthening and IT related projects to improve UNICEF’s evaluation systems. Prashant has over 7 years of experience working with data collection and analysis for business intelligence and information technology projects.

We congratulate and welcome Prashant and wish him every success in his new role!

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