INTRODUCTION TO THIS ISSUE

Eval News #62 focuses on Evaluability Assessments (EAs), which examine the extent to which a project or programme can be evaluated in a reliable and credible fashion. An EA calls for the early review of a proposed project or programme in order to ascertain whether its objectives are adequately defined and its results verifiable.

This newsletter presents a book on Evaluability Assessment by M. Trevisan and T. Walser, a presentation on EAs and the choice of evaluation methods, three resources by DFID, some interesting tools by ILO and UNODC/an Impact Evaluability Assessment Tool from SIF, and Evaluability Assessment Guide from JJEC, and some analysis by AEA365

This issue also highlights how Evaluation has been integrated in the post-2015 Development Agenda, and presents the UNICEF’s 2014 50 Best Evaluations, the EvalStory Campaign launched by EvalPartners and Universalia, and the Philippines’ launch of its National Evaluation Policy.

As usual, this issue of Eval News also includes information on training opportunities, international conferences, and a few blogs and discussions.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

Evaluation integrated in the post-2015 Development Agenda

"Evaluation" was integrated in the Outcome Document of the UN Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda: "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". Indeed the "Follow-up and review" section of this document indicates that the implementation of the agenda will be informed by country-led evaluations and data (paragraph 74G). It also calls for strengthening national evaluation capacity (paragraph 74H).

The United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda will be held from 25 to 27 September 2015, where world leaders will gather at the UN to renew their commitment to development, and adopt the new development agenda.

The United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), with support from partners, advocated on the importance of evaluation during the intergovernmental negotiations, building upon the stand-alone United Nations General Assembly Resolution, "Capacity building for the evaluation of development activities at the country level", which was adopted in December 2014 (click for more information).
UNICEF’s 2014 50 Best Evaluations

The list of the 4 Outstanding and 46 Highly Satisfactory Evaluations is now available. Many thanks to you all for your contributions and efforts to improve the quality of evaluations in our organization!

EvalStory Campaign launched by EvalPartners and Universalia

2015 is the International Year of Evaluation (EvalYear). It is also Universalia’s 35th anniversary. In this context, Universalia has teamed up with EvalPartners to launch the EvalStory Campaign. Each of the EvalStory features a different individual speaking about his or her experiences and the evaluation agenda for 2016-2020 as part of the new Sustainable Development Goals. In this video, Marco Segone, Vice-Chair of EvalPartners talks about the challenges for evaluation in the post 2015 era. To learn more about EvalStory Campaign please visit Universalia’s site.

The Philippines Launches its National Evaluation Policy

In Manila, the Philippines, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) signed on 15 July 2015 the National Evaluation Policy Framework. The Policy calls for the purposive conduct of independent evaluation of government programs and projects. Click here for the press release.

Learning Opportunities:

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<tr>
<th>International NGO Training and Research Centre (INTRAC)</th>
<th>Monitoring and Evaluation for Results</th>
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<tr>
<td>2-6 November 2015 (5 days) / 2-13 November (10 days), Bangkok, Thailand</td>
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<tr>
<td>16-20 November 2015 - 20 Nov 2015 (5 days), New York, United States</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cost</strong>: £1,800 (5 days)</td>
<td><strong>£3,000</strong> (10 days)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Certificate in Applied Evaluation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 Nov 2015 - Bangkok, Thailand</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cost</strong>: £4,600 (15 days)</td>
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<th>Knowledge Management</th>
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<tr>
<td>6-9 October 2015, Brussels, Belgium</td>
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<tr>
<td>24-27 November 2015, Bangkok, Thailand</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cost</strong>: £1,350 (4 days)</td>
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<th>IMA International</th>
<th>Real-Time Monitoring (RTM)</th>
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<tr>
<td>13 Oct 2015 - 16 Oct 2015 - Bangkok, Thailand</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cost</strong>: £1,350 (4 days)</td>
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<th>Results-Based Management (RBM)</th>
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<tr>
<td>30 Nov 2015 - 04 Dec 2015 - Brighton, United Kingdom</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cost</strong>: £1,350 (4 days)</td>
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**Theory of Change and Impact Assessment**  
16 Nov 2015 - 20 Nov 2015 - Bangkok, Thailand  
**Cost:** £1,800 (4 days)

**MDF Training and Consultation**  
Monitoring & Evaluation for Learning  
12-16 October 2015, Yangon, Myanmar  
2-6 November 2015, Colombo, Sri Lanka  
1-10 December 2015, Ede, Netherlands  
**Cost:** €825 regular fee

Impact Evaluation  
19-23 October 2015, Hanoi, Vietnam  
**Cost:** €825 regular fee

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**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES**

**EvalPartners’ Master Calendar to celebrate 2015 Evaluation Year**  
Taking advantage of the International Year of Evaluation (EvalYear), EvalPartners created a Master Calendar of 2015 evaluation events in different parts of the world. The calendar invites evaluators, managers and policy makers from all over the world to celebrate evaluation and the way evaluators have linked with one another to promote the demand, supply and use of equity-focused and gender-responsive evaluation in policy and program decisions.

**International Conferences:**  
- EvalPartners’ Master Calendar of events to celebrate 2015 Evaluation Year  
- International Conference for National Evaluation Capacity 2015  
- Joint UNESCO – French Evaluation Society & EES Conference

**International Conference for National Evaluation Capacity 2015**  

**Joint conference: Making Effective Use of Evaluations in an Increasingly Complex World, 30 September 2015, Paris, France**


This book on Evaluability Assessment (EA) clarifies what it actually is and how it can be used, demonstrates EA as an approach to evaluative inquiry with multidisciplinary and global appeal, and describes the purposes and benefits to using EA. Please click here to request a review copy of the book from Sage Publications on Evaluability Assessment. Paperback copy is $51.

Resources:
- Evaluability Assessment by M. Trevisan and T. Walser
- CDI: Evaluability Assessments and Choice of Evaluation Methods
- Evaluability Assessments by DFID
- ILO: Evaluability Assessment
- UNODC: Evaluability Assessment Template
- SIF: Impact Evaluability Assessment Tool
- JJEC: Evaluability Assessment Guide
- AEA365 Evaluability Assessment

CDI: Evaluability Assessments and Choice of Evaluation Methods, February 2015

Please find here the seminar audio recording and presentation slides of speaker Richard Longhurst (IDS) and discussant Sarah Mistry (BOND) on Evaluability Assessments and Choice of Evaluation Methods from the Centre for Development Impact (CDI) seminar. The presentation and audio recording highlight the importance of evaluability assessments for development projects, and discuss the suitability of various evaluation methods that are available to a manager.

DFID: Evaluability Assessments, October 2014


This synthesis paper summarises the literature on Evaluability Assessments, and highlights the main issues for consideration in planning an Evaluability Assessment. The paper was commissioned by DFID’s Evaluation Department but is intended for use both within and beyond DFID.

Video Evaluability Assessments – Summary findings of a review for DFID by Rick Davies

A PowerPoint video by Rick Davies for DFID presents the lessons learned from a review of evaluability assessment experiences in the field of international development aid.

Bibliography on Evaluability Assessment by Rick Davies

This bibliography was generated in 2012 by Rick Davies, as part of the DFID process of developing a “Synthesis of literature on evaluability assessments”, it provides links to 131 items of literature related to evaluability assessment. Please click here to view the synthesis.

ILO: Evaluability Assessment, December 2011

Procedure and Tools for Evaluability Review of ILO projects over US$5 million

The International Labour Organization (ILO) prepared an interesting checklist to conduct an evaluability assessment of projects over $5 million. Click here for the Word template.
Using the Evaluability Assessment Tool

The ILO determined a set of design-specific aspects that allow Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs) and projects to be evaluated. EVAL designed a conceptual framework and an evaluability instrument that scores projects and programmes based on six criteria: Objectives, Indicators, Baselines, Milestones, Risks and assumptions, Monitoring and Evaluation.

Click here for the Evaluability Assessment tool resource.
Click here for the dimensions of the evaluability instrument.
Click here for the Excel file for DWCP that can be filled in.

UNODC: Evaluability Assessment Template, 2011

This template from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is designed to take the user through a step-by-step process of evaluability assessment, with a checklist. The assessment answers the following questions:
1. Does the quality of the design of the programme allow for the evaluation?
2. Are the results of the programme verifiable, based on the planned collection systems?
3. Would the evaluation be feasible, credible and useful?

For more information, see also UNODC's Evaluation Handbook here.

SIF: Introducing the Impact Evaluability Assessment Tool, 2014

The Social Innovation Fund’s (SIF) prepared an interesting checklist to assist in examining impact evaluation readiness, in order to meet Social Innovation Fund’s evaluation programme and evidence requirements. The checklist addresses three areas of organizational, programme, and evaluation readiness to conduct rigorous experimental and quasi-experimental evaluations. Click here for this tool.

JJEC: Evaluability Assessment – Examining the Readiness of a Programme for Evaluation, May 2003

This guide from the Juvenile Justice Evaluation Center (JJEC) is aimed at providing juvenile justice programme managers with a guide to implementing evaluability assessment in order to ensure that programmes are ready for evaluation.

AEA365 on Evaluability Assessment

Please click here to read what AEA365 presenters say on Evaluability Assessment.
**Consultation with East Asian Parliamentarians for Strengthening the Evaluation Function**

The [Parliamentarians Forum for Development Evaluation](http://www.pfeea.org/) in collaboration with UNICEF, UN Women, UNEG, UNDP, EvalPartners and IOCE organized the First Face-to-Face Meeting, in Thailand, with East Asian Parliamentarians, Government representatives and Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs) in order to Strengthen the Evaluation Function in the National Development Agenda. The meeting aimed at promoting the development of national evaluation policies and practices to enhance accountability and transparency in the region. The delegates agreed to engage parliamentarians from more countries so that the initiative becomes stronger. See: [http://www.pfeea.org/](http://www.pfeea.org/)

**Financing for Development: Using Independent Evaluation to Turn Aspirations into Achievements**

At the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, Caroline Heider, Director of the Independent Evaluation Group (IEG) at the World Bank presented [Financing for Development: Using Independent Evaluation to Turn Aspirations into Achievements](http://www.pfeea.org/). The above-mentioned resource pulls together years of lessons from a cross-section of evaluations covering various aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda and their financing needs. Indeed, if the world successfully shifts from billions to trillions, without incorporating lessons from evaluation, even trillions might not be enough to create a sustainable and equitable future for generations to come.

**Response to Nepal’s Earthquake: Ten Lessons from Evaluations**


Please note you will need to join/become a member of the newly launched Evaluation CoP on SharePoint and Yammer to be able to access the summary document and other documents that are linked to our CoP.

**What are gender-transformative evaluations?**

[Gender and Evaluation](http://www.pfeea.org/) issued an [eight-minute video](http://www.pfeea.org/) on gender-transformative evaluations, which explains why these evaluations are important; what are the differences between gender evaluations and gender-transformative evaluations; what are the frameworks and tools for gender-transformative evaluations; and why the involvement of parliamentarians is important. [This video](http://www.pfeea.org/) is the first in a series of training videos produced under the Institute of Social Studies Trust’s (ISST’s) project “Engendering Policy through Evaluation”.

**SITAN in Viet Nam: “Transformation of evidences to policy formulation”**

This article presents the story of launching a Situational Analysis of Children’s rights (SITAN) from a province in Viet Nam. In the advanced decentralized government context, a provincial SITAN of Children’s Rights plays a vital role in influencing provincial development planning and initiatives responsive to children’s rights and addressing
equity. Please click here to read the story. For the content, please contact: Yoshimi Nishino, Chief of Social Policy and Governance, UNICEF Viet Nam Office.

Please note you will need to join/become a member of the newly launched Evaluation CoP on SharePoint and Yammer to be able to access the summary document and other documents that are linked to our CoP.

**UNEG Newsletter: July 2015**
Please click here to view the UNEG newsletter.

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**Evaluate July-August Issue #36**

This 36th issue of Evaluate marks the “sixth year of Evaluate”, and primarily focuses on the post-2015 era (MDG agenda and the new development agenda), where evaluation will become even more necessary to increase our collective learning and accountability and inform decision making of key national and international stakeholders.

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