Introduction

This issue of EvalNews (#66) focuses on Humanitarian Evaluations. Within, you’ll find key resources relevant to this topic, including a few guides, resource packs, manuals, and a list of recommended training opportunities. The evaluation of protection has also been covered in a special sub-section.

In our highlights segment, we note three important events and initiatives. The first is the launch of the EvalSDGs network by EvalPartners, an important initiative which aims to prepare and support the evaluation community for the era of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Next, we celebrate the Moroccan week of Evaluation, an event organized by the Moroccan Evaluation Association (AME) and supported by UNICEF. This AME event sought to strengthen Morocco's national evaluation capacity and advocate for the professionalization of evaluation. Lastly, we highlight the launch of EvalGender+, a global partnership established by EvalPartners and UN Women IEO.

In our Voices from the Field section, we have three new articles from ROSA on humanitarian evaluations from Afghanistan, Nepal and Pakistan. The Jordan CO has contributed an interesting write-up on the evaluation of emergency psycho-social support provided to Syrian child refugees in Jordan. To conclude this issue, an insightful article on emergency supply response has been contributed by UNICEF's supply division. As usual, you’ll also find a collection of useful resources at the end of the newsletter compiled by our team. We hope you enjoy this issue of EvalNews.

Highlights

EvalSDGs Evaluation – Adding Value and Learning to the SDGs. A Concept Paper, December 2015

EvalSDGs was launched during the EvalPartners Global Evaluation Week in Kathmandu, in November 2015. EvalSDGs members work to support the evaluation community to be prepared for evaluating initiatives around the SDGs and ultimately, the "World We Want". EvalSDGs produced a draft Concept Note and a One-pager overview. The one-pager overview is being translated into more than 15 languages. EvalSDGs proposes actions, which aim at contributing to the emerging Global Evaluation Agenda by:

1. Promoting evaluation in relation to the SDGs
2. Acting as a platform for dialogue on the role and practice of evaluation and the SDGs
3. Assisting in strengthening of VOPEs and evaluators’ capacities to evaluate the SDGs
4. Fostering inter-linkages related to the evaluation sector and the SDGs process.

EvalSDGs is managed through a core group of institutions, led jointly by EvalPartners and the UN Evaluation Group. A wider reference group is open to all interested organizations and individuals who align with the purpose of EvalSDGs, and wish to be engaged with the process.

An open discussion forum has been established on the IOCE platform; a Twitter account @evalsdgs and a LinkedIn group EvalSDGs. For more information contact: EvalSDG Co-chairs: Colin Kirk (ckirk@unicef.org) and Dorothy Lucks (sdfglobal@sustain.net.au), and Vice Chairs: Ada Ocampo (aocampo@unicef.org) and Kassem El-Saddik (kelsaddik@gmail.com).

EvalGender+

EvalGender+ was launched during the EvalPartners Global Evaluation Week in Nepal, in November 2015. EvalGender+ is the global partnership established by EvalPartners, co-led by UN Women IEO, to strengthen national capacities for gender-responsive and equity-focused evaluations. EvalGender+ supports the Sustainable Development Goals’ principle of “No one left behind”, and is especially concerned with gender equality and social equity. The three priorities for EvalGender+ this year are: (1) developing an equity-focused and gender-responsive framework for the Sustainable Development Goals; (2) promoting equity-focused and gender-responsive national evaluation systems; and (3) listening to the voice of the communities and taking action accordingly.

Visit EvalGender+ Join the EvalGender+ online Community Like EvalGender+ on Facebook Follow @FeministEval on Twitter by using the hashtag #EvalGender

Moroccan week of evaluation: Professionalizing evaluation – experiences, challenges and responses, Marrakech, December 2015

In 2011, based on the UNICEF support to the Moroccan Evaluation Association (AME), evaluation was anchored in the revised constitution of Morocco. Further developing relevant capacity is now a priority for strengthening the national evaluation system. The association conveyed the third edition of the “Moroccan Week of Evaluation”, in partnership with UNICEF, to support and discuss the professionalization of evaluation. The meeting provided training for participants on professionalization in terms of technical aspects, norms, and standards. There was also an exchange of experiences on professionalization among national and international actors.
The broad attendance and appreciation for the event displays the eminent foundation and momentum for strengthening Morocco’s national evaluation system. The event also reflected on the challenges ahead, which require a holistic approach that integrates all stakeholders, including the public. Such an approach also embeds evaluation into, and contributes to, the wider context of democratic culture. See the programme and this newspaper article (both in French) on this event. For background information on the AME, see this article. For more information, contact: Mahdi Halmi, Social policy and M&E Specialist, UNICEF Morocco, mhalmi@unicef.org.

Humanitarian Evaluation


This book maps out some of the most vexing challenges and promising avenues for improving research and evaluation practice in societies affected by violence and conflict. The project brought together representatives of four groups from the Global North and South who share a stake in improving evaluation and research practice in societies affected by violence and conflict: researchers, evaluators, practitioners and funders. The book includes a series of case studies, written by those on the front lines of applied research. It offers clear and logical ways to understand the positive or negative role that research, or any other aid intervention, might have in developing societies affected by armed conflict, political unrest and/or social violence.

Ensuring quality of evidence generated through participatory evaluation in humanitarian contexts, by Alexander and Bonino, ALNAP, 2014

Participatory evaluations are becoming ever more commonplace as a means of engaging with affected communities. As agencies move towards prioritizing the input and feedback of those they hope to assist, these methods start featuring more prominently in how programmes are evaluated.
The ALNAP Humanitarian Evaluation (EHA) Community of Practice (CoP) discussed this issue looking at questions such as:

Which tactics have been used by evaluators to ensure the accuracy and representativeness of data and analysis generated through participatory approaches?
Do we find that the participatory nature of an evaluation leads to unintended outcomes (e.g., improved relationships with community members, greater project ownership, and better insights into the intervention)?
Do the benefits of using a participatory approach to evaluation outweigh the risks of inaccurate, non-representative and generally poor-quality evidence?

This short EHA method note presents insights from CoP members around these questions, introducing the benefits of participatory evaluations, methods and approaches.

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Improving accuracy in humanitarian evaluations, by Jessica Alexander, ALNAP, 2015

In order to draw informed evaluation findings, one of the main tasks for evaluators is ensuring that the data gathered is as accurate as possible. This method note focuses on accuracy in the work of data collection and description conducted as part of an evaluation.

According to the author, there is a whole host of reasons why a respondent may not give accurate information, and the paper guides researchers to ask questions such as:

- Does the source have the necessary qualifications or level of understanding to make the claim?
- What relevant experience does the source have?
- Does the source have a reputation and positive track record for accuracy?
- Does the source have a motive for being inaccurate or overly biased?

Based on answers, the paper advises that the source may not be reliable, and that researchers should further investigate or seek other sources.

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PROTECTION
Evaluating protection in humanitarian action, by Francesca Bonino, ALNAP, 2014

There is a perception among both programme staff and evaluators that protection is harder to evaluate than other aspects of humanitarian action, that it is less tangible than other areas, and that the quality of evidence from existing evaluations of protection is less than satisfactory. This paper identifies and describes the challenges affecting the evaluation of protection in humanitarian action with a view to suggesting options to start addressing them.

The purpose of this Child Protection resource pack is to strengthen the evidence base of child protection through clear and practical guidance for improved planning and M&E practices and documentation of good practices and lessons learned, in line with the main approaches in UNICEF’s Child Protection Strategy (2008) and the refocus in UNICEF on monitoring results for equity. The knowledge of the essential elements of the evaluation process and good practices in child protection: evaluability; developing an evaluation plan for child protection programmes; managing, designing and conducting quality evaluations; and using evaluation for managing for results, learning and accountability.

TRAINING

This e-learning course on Evaluation in Humanitarian Settings complements the e-learning course on the decentralized evaluation function at UNICEF, and provides an orientation to the evaluation processes in humanitarian situations.

Introduction to Evaluating Humanitarian Action, ALNAP/UNICEF

This e-learning course on the Introduction to Evaluating Humanitarian Action, developed in partnership by ALNAP and UNICEF, in collaboration with EvalPartners and UNEG, expands on the pilot version of the ALNAP Evaluation of Humanitarian Action Guide.


This manual is for the beginner/intermediate and advanced EHA courses run by Channel Research on behalf of ALNAP. It is supported by a course specific set of case studies and exercises, and by a bibliography of evaluation references.

International Conferences

Research and Evaluation Conference on Self-Sufficiency (RECS), 1-3 June 2016, Washington D.C., USA

The Research and Evaluation Conference on Self-Sufficiency (RECS), formerly WREC will hold its 2016 conference in 1-3 June 2016, in Washington, DC.
Canadian Evaluation Society (CES) 2016 Conference
5-8 June 2016, St. John’s Newfoundland

The Canadian Evaluation Society (CES/SCÉ) 2016 National Conference (C2016) will be held in St. John’s, Newfoundland, 5-8 June 2016. Follow the conference Twitter for updates.

12th European Evaluation Society (EES) Biennial Conference, 28-30 September 2016, Maastricht, the Netherlands

The 12th EES Biennial Conference theme is “Evaluation Futures in Europe and beyond. Connectivity, Innovation and Use.”

Evaluation 2016: American Evaluation Association’s (AEA) Annual Conference, 24-29 October 2016, Atlanta, Georgia, USA

The AEA’s Annual Conference brings together evaluators from around the country and around the world for professional sharing. AEA anticipates that more than 3,000 colleagues will gather for a week of learning, collaboration, and connection. All other information will be available at the AEA website.

Learning Opportunities

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<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Southeast Evaluation Association (SEA)</td>
<td>Southeast Evaluation Association’s Annual Workshop 22-23 February 2016, Florida Department of Revenue, Tallahassee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Development Resource Association (CDRA)</td>
<td>Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation &amp; Learning course 22-26 February 2016, Johannesburg, South Africa. Cost: R6000 (excl. VAT) Other dates &amp; venues: 16-20 May Durban; 6-10 June Cape Town; 4-8 July Port Elisabeth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roger Williams University</td>
<td>Field Training and Evaluation Program Course 23-26 February 2016, Portsmouth, Rhode Island, USA. Cost: US $575</td>
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<tr>
<td>DevLearn</td>
<td>DCED Standard for Result Measurement Course 4-29 April 2016, online</td>
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### Voices from the Field

**Humanitarian Evaluations in South Asia**

UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia is currently working on three humanitarian evaluations – one each in Afghanistan, Nepal and Pakistan. All three evaluations are being managed by the respective Country Offices. The three evaluations diverge in terms of their focus – the Afghanistan evaluation is on disaster risk reduction, the evaluations from Nepal and Pakistan are on emergency response.

The Afghanistan evaluation specifically looks at the relevance, effectiveness, impact, efficiency and sustainability of the UNICEF-supported Child Centered Disaster Risk Reduction (CCDRR) programme – which aims to build the resilience of communities, and specifically children, against natural disasters. Ultimately, the evaluation seeks to draw lessons that can inform UNICEF’s country and global programming in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

The Pakistan evaluation looks at the appropriateness, efficiency, effectiveness, coherence, coverage, coordination and connectedness of a UNICEF co-led nutrition emergency response programme, in Pakistan in
2013. The purpose of this evaluation is to help improve UNICEF’s ongoing nutrition emergency response, and draw lessons.

Lastly, the Nepal evaluation looks at the appropriateness, connectedness, sustainability, coordination, coverage, efficiency and effectiveness of UNICEF’s response to the earthquake that hit Nepal in 2015, with a focus on assessing the extent to which UNICEF’s efforts have contributed toward improving the wellbeing and rights of children. The purpose of this evaluation is to strengthen UNICEF’s ongoing response as well as recovery and reconstruction efforts to the earthquake, and learn lessons for application in future emergencies, where appropriate.

All three of these evaluations were used as case studies during an Evaluation of Humanitarian Action (EHA) capacity development workshop, organized jointly by the Evaluation Office and Regional Office for South Asia, in August 2015. During the workshop, Country Offices shared draft TORs of the three evaluations and were provided with feedback on how to improve them. The workshop was intended to provide participants with the necessary tools to conduct high quality evaluations of humanitarian action.

For questions, contact Urs Nagel, unagel@unicef.org, Regional Evaluation Adviser, UNICEF ROSA, or Bikul Tulachan, btulachan@unicef.org, Evaluation Officer, UNICEF ROSA.

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UNICEF Jordan (JCO) commissioned this evaluation on the Emergency Psychosocial Support (PSS) for Syrian children in Jordan programme. The evaluation found that UNICEF’s PSS response is highly relevant, and has achieved remarkable change for the better in children’s wellbeing, including through improved regulation. UNICEF has made efforts to address issues of inequity between boys and girls. The effective mobilization of community resources and the strengthening of linkages with schools and other social services, are areas which require further attention.

JCO is overall satisfied with the evaluation process as well as findings. Evidence as to the quality and appropriateness of UNICEF’s PSS response was thoroughly collected, through a variety of methodologies (FGDs, semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders, field visits).

The evaluation will guide the future of PSS support, taking into consideration the emerging situation in Jordan and the region. Not much evidence exist on PSS throughout the organisation, and good practices will also be useful for countries in the MENA region and others.

For questions, contact Muhammad Rafiq Khan, mrkhan@unicef.org, Child Protection Specialist, Jordan CO, or Kaitlin Brush, kbrush@unicef.org, Child Protection Officer, Jordan CO.
Evaluation of UNICEF Supply Division Emergency Supply Response, Supply Division, 2014

Every year, Supply Division (SD) facilitates the delivery of emergency supplies totalling some $90 million to 70 countries within the framework of the UNICEF Strategic Plan and Core Commitments to Children (CCCs) in Humanitarian Action. In 2014, Supply Division commissioned an Evaluation of UNICEF Supply Division Emergency Supply Response to support and improve strategy and performance and demonstrate relevance, effectiveness and efficiency in the procurement and delivery of life-saving supplies for the world’s most vulnerable children in disasters and conflict.

The mixed-method evaluation took a holistic approach in assessing the supply chain system and considered all elements of the supply chain at international, regional, country levels - in other words, from global supply preparedness to last mile delivery with careful delineation between the elements managed by SD and those managed by UNICEF Country Offices.

Supply Division is currently implementing actions that resulted from the Management Response, including revising the internal SD Emergency Strategy, refining the emergency-related performance indicators, and developing a training course on supply emergency response and preparedness.

For more information, contact Ashley Wax, awax@unicef.org, Evaluation Specialist, Director's Office, Supply Division, Copenhagen

Other Resources

Poverty, Inequality, and Evaluation: Changing Perspectives, World Bank, 2015

This book, edited by Ray C. Rist, Frederic P. Martin, and Ana Maria Fernandez seeks to shift the conversation on the future of development needs away from a focus on poverty, and toward a focus on inequality. Essentially, the contributors believe that the emphasis on poverty is caught in an intellectual and political cul-de-sac that fails to address the fundamental question of why people are poor or what can be done structurally and institutionally to reduce and eliminate poverty – with the support of evaluation.

The books includes chapters such as Moving the Discussion from Poverty to Inequality: Implications for Evaluation; Evaluations as Catalysts in Bridging Developmental Inequalities; and Bringing Inequality Back In from the Cold: Toward a Progressive Evaluation Model. To download the book, click here.

Reinhard Stockmann and Wolfgang Meyer professors at Saarland University, Saarbruecken, Germany, and Director and Vice-Director (respectively) of the Centre for Evaluation (CEval) of Germany have published this book that examines current global development trends and changing demands for evaluation, and the rise of threshold countries like Brazil, China, India and South Africa. It addresses issues surrounding globalisation and localisation, examining the need to strengthen accountability for social development on the local level to inform social development, governance and accountability. It also considers issues of quality, utility and further education and the upgrading of evaluation in a broad variety of different organizations. With contributions from 30 different countries, this book combines a broad variety of viewpoints to examine the global future of evaluation.

Unsustainable Development Goals: Are 222 indicators too many? IRIN, November 2015

In this article, Humanitarian News and Analysis (IRIN) asks this question: Are the Sustainable Development Goals in danger of collapsing under the weight of their own lofty ambitions?

As statisticians race to compile a very long list of indicators and targets for the 17 goals by March, critics argue that the rush to get it all in place could be a costly mistake. They also worry that countries daunted by the logistical challenge of implementing and measuring the wide-ranging agenda will “cherry pick” goals or even sideline the whole agenda.

EvalPartners Newsletter #21, Special EvalYear Issue 2015

This special issue of the newsletter is intended to share with the global evaluation community a record of just some of the many activities which took place during the last two months of EvalYear 2015.

- Evaluation Forum celebrating the International Year of Evaluation at the US Department of State Conference to Celebrate the International Year of Evaluation in Senegal
- Official Launch of the Zambia Monitoring and Evaluation Association
- Conference of the Nigerian Association of Evaluators and the Abuja Declaration on Evaluation
- EvalYear Forum on “Evaluation for Gross National Happiness” in Bhutan, which was the first to work on adapting the Global Evaluation Agenda (2016-2020) to its own country.

Evaluate Issue #38, November – December 2015
The Newsletter Evaluate is jointly produced by EAPRO and ROSA. This issue provides an update on the 4th International Conference on National Evaluations Capacities Conference that was held in Bangkok and the Fifth Philippines National M&E Forum. It also contains news on the joint regional UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific and South Asia Evaluation Network Meeting. As usual, it contains some key evaluation activities from the regions CO and lots of interesting videos, blogs and trainings.

i-eval Flash News, No. 16 - Nov/Dec 2015

This ILO newsletter covers the annual reporting presented to the Governing Body, including summaries of the Strategy Evaluations on labour inspection and an institutional evaluation of ILO's Technical Cooperation activities. This year's cluster DWCP evaluation is on the Caribbean, and a summary is included in this edition. The Newsletter includes also a new impact evaluation discussion. Finally, EVAL is excited to introduce their new EVAL Comic Strip.

Welcoming New Colleagues

Andrea Rossi, Head of Social Policy, Planning, M&E, UNICEF Mozambique

Andrea Rossi is Senior Social Policy Specialist and Head of Social Policy, Planning and M&E at UNICEF Mozambique. Previously he was the UNICEF Regional Social and Economic Policy Adviser for South Asia Regional Office (ROSA) in Kathmandu. He is the former Director of the Measurement and Human Rights Programme at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University (USA). He was instructor at IPDET, teaching complex evaluation, and is teaching Human Rights Policy Analysis, and on Applied Research Methods. He is an economist, with a focus on development and applied research.

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