



SESSION NUMBER & TITLE
Parallel Session 12 - Advancing National Evaluation Capacities in Asia and the Pacific: Lessons from UNEDAP members' support to NECD and Young and Emerging Evaluators
SESSION TAKE AWAY
This event aims to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of UN support for NECD and YEE in Asia and the Pacific. The session will highlight the diverse forms of support provided by UNEDAP members and showcase partnerships established with government bodies, parliamentarians, and civil society organizations. Furthermore, the event will facilitate the sharing of reflections, lessons learned, and progress made in NECD as well as in the promotion of the role of YEEs.
SUBTHEME
Sustainability and resilience
ORGANIZATION/S
UNICEF and UNFPA
PRESENTER #1: Daniel Patrick Alonso-Valckxx, Senior Evaluation Specialist (Multi-Country) United Nations Children's Fund
KEY MESSAGES
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Evolving NECD Mandate at the UN: Over the last decades, the UN's NECD mandate has evolved significantly through the adoption of key resolutions. These resolutions underscore the importance of principles like ownership and alignment, as well as highlight the UN's pivotal role in supporting Member States to fortify their evaluation systems. Comprehensive UNEDAP Support: UNEDAP members provide holistic support for NECD, encompassing activities such as assessment, policy development, champion nurturing, joint evaluations, capacity-building, and tool development. This support extends across a wide spectrum of stakeholders, ranging from Parliamentarians to universities, and includes M&E units and VOPEs. National Leadership and Inclusivity for Effective NECD: NECD interventions achieve their highest effectiveness when guided by national governments, thus promoting ownership. Additionally, the inclusivity of a diverse range of stakeholders is imperative for the acceptance and enduring sustainability of these initiatives.
PRESENTER #2: Randika De Mel, Manager, Asia Pacific Evaluation Association
2 KEY MESSAGES

1. important to have young people involved in evaluation studies and It is important to create YE Networks.

2. Creating educational programs is important. Supporting universities in offering Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD programs is essential to address the significant challenge of professionalizing the field and ensuring consistent capacity building and internship opportunities.

PANELIST/DISCUSSANT #1: Romulo Emmanuel Miral, DG Congressional Policy and Budget Reseach Department House of representative, congress of the philippines

1. The National Evaluation Policy Framework currently has significant limitations, as it primarily focuses on a circular relationship between two executive departments or agencies. This limited scope only covers executive agencies, whereas we believe it should encompass the entirety of government functions for a more comprehensive evaluation.

2. A well-established monitoring and evaluation system is increasingly recognized as invaluable for Congress in carrying out its oversight functions, enabling thorough reviews of government policies and programs to enhance governance and accountability. The appreciation for the importance of monitoring and evaluation is gradually gaining recognition within governmental circles, reflecting a positive shift toward evidence-based decision-making and improved program effectiveness.

PANELIST/DISCUSSANT #2: Akhilesh Kumar, Director DMEO, Gov. of India

Our primary focus is on capacity development, with an aim to establish national-level institutions at the federal level and replicate similar setups at the sub-national level, specifically within states. We prioritize collaborations with partner agencies, embrace diverse models of information processing, establish consultative processes, and work closely with domain experts in performance modeling to maximize outputs while minimizing resource utilization.

PANELIST/DISCUSSANT #2: Oyuntsetseg Chuluundorg, Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Adviser UNFPA Asia and Pacific Regional Office

1. Engaging young emerging evaluators in our country program evaluations has greatly enhanced the quality of our work. Their unique perspectives, especially concerning youth, disability inclusion, and gender equality, have enriched our evaluations.

2. We intentionally recruited from underrepresented groups, recognizing that success in evaluation requires not only technical skills but also strong soft skills such as effective communication and time management. By supporting these emerging evaluators with both technical tasks and trust, we've unlocked their potential and contributed to better evaluation outcomes.

MODERATOR: Marco Segone, Director, Evaluation Office UNPFA

Despite their potential, young people often face a significant barrier in accessing the labor market.

It is essential to actively engage young people to the fullest extent possible, recognizing their valuable contributions and perspectives.

Evaluation, though a technical endeavor, operates within a political context, with governments playing a pivotal role as key stakeholders in shaping successful outcomes.

Establishing trust through collaborative processes is a cornerstone for building effective partnerships and achieving positive results, particularly when working with young people in evaluation efforts.

Q&A SUMMARY

Questions:

1. Victoria, representing the Armenian Prime Minister's office, is seeking advice on how to establish a systemic evaluation framework as part of public administration reforms in Armenia. They've faced challenges with previous evaluation efforts, including negative consequences like funding cuts by the Ministry of Finance:
2. Participant from Sri Lanka is inquiring about the implementation of a national policy for evaluation in the country. He mentions that India seems to be progressing in this regard and wants to understand how India is maintaining independence in evaluation within its ministries and the quality of these evaluations.
3. How can development partners better support national evaluation capacity and development?
4. As an HR members both within the UN system and with the government, what do you think is what do you think young and emerging evaluators bring to the table?

Answer:

The answers appear to be centered around the importance of evaluation, collaboration between various actors, and the involvement of young people in development initiatives. It also emphasizes the role of donor agencies, UN agencies, and national development chapters in providing support and resources for these efforts. Additionally, there is a reference to a campaign called "Ever for Action" that promotes meaningful engagement of young people in global development initiatives.

SESSION COORDINATOR

Jullie Ann Palomares