5-Star VNRs: How country-led evaluations can deliver the evidence-based VNRs intended for the SDGs

12 July 2022, 1pm EDT | 7pm CET

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OVERVIEW

As the SDG era approaches the half-way mark, it is important to reflect on how evaluation can play a greater role in providing the robust evidence that countries and the international community need to assess what is working well, what is not and why, learning vital lessons as we move towards 2030.

This role for evaluation was well recognised by member states in drawing up the historic document of 2015. The 2030 Agenda as well as the VNR reporting guidelines call for VNRs to be “rigorous and based on evidence, informed by country-led evaluations”.

This VNR Lab will introduce different pathways through which evidence from country-led evaluations can feed into country VNR processes, including from a gender equality perspective. Countries that have used evaluative evidence in their VNRs will provide practical examples of why and how this can be done and share lessons from the processes, while UN agencies will discuss their role in providing practical support to countries. The Lab will also highlight perspectives from countries that have not yet integrated evaluative evidence into their VNRs, identifying challenges and opportunities to do so in the future.

The main resources for reference are: the Guide on Embedding Evaluation in Voluntary National Reviews authored by UNICEF and CLEAR AA, and the concept note on Pathways in which Country-led Evaluation can inform the VNRs.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND THIS VNR LAB?

- All organisations and individuals with an interest and active role in strengthening the evidence-base for the VNRs
- Representatives from government reporting their ongoing processes and steps taken to implement the 2030 Agenda and SDGs through national policy frameworks
- Non-governmental actors involved in coordinating and monitoring SDG progress including civil society organizations and academia – recognizing that the 2030 Agenda extends beyond government
- Parliamentarians following up on the 2030 Agenda through institutional mechanisms

WHAT WOULD PARTICIPANTS GAIN?

- Insights into why Country-led Evaluation is important in delivering Agenda 2030 and the complementarity between Country-led Evaluation and VNRs
- An understanding of the different pathways that countries can follow to integrate evaluative evidence into their VNRs
• Perspectives of the use of equity-focussed, gender responsive evidence in VNR reporting
• Insights and practical lessons from Member State countries that have incorporated evaluative evidence to strengthen their VNRs
• Exchanges with and between Member State countries on challenges and opportunities of using evaluative evidence in VNRs
• Practical guidance on how UN agencies can support countries to use evaluative evidence in their VNRs

WHAT WILL THE AGENDA COVER?

Welcome & introductions
Session moderator, Mr Kassem El-Saddik

Opening remarks
Ms Andrea Cook, WFP Director of Evaluation and EvalPartners co-chair

Grounding presentation
Ms Matodzi Amisi, Independent Evaluation Consultant & Former evaluator at the South Africa Department of Performance, Monitoring & Evaluation (DPME)

Panel discussion
Led by Mr Kassem El Saddik (EVALSDGs co-chair), with Member Country participation from:

- The Government of Nigeria: Dr Bala Yusuf Yunusa, Senior Technical Advisor at the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the Sustainable Development Goals (OSSAP-SDGs)
- The Government of Indonesia: Dr Vivi Yulaswati, Expert Staff to the Minister for Social Welfare and Poverty Reduction
- The Government of Costa Rica: To be confirmed
- The Government of Botswana: Mr Moremi Moremi, Director, Population & Sustainable Development Section, Ministry of Finance

Audience engagement and Q&A

Closing remarks
Government of Nigeria