Stocktaking report summary

The Global Evaluation Agenda 2015-2020 (EvalAgenda 2020) was developed in 2015 in a participatory manner, bringing together Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs) through the International Organisation for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE), United Nations (UN) agencies, development partners, parliamentarians, EvalPartners networks and other stakeholders. It aimed to strengthen four key dimensions: an enabling environment, institutional evaluation capacities, individual evaluation capacities and the interlinkages between them. A growing number of actors from the evaluation ecosystem have been contributing to implementing the EvalAgenda 2020 since 2015. In 2021, a taskforce was created to oversee the preparation of a renewed EvalAgenda based on learning from experiences since 2015: “EvalAgenda 2030”. This summary provides an overview of a stocktaking report, developed using various data collection methods.

Key Findings

Members of EvalPartners (the three colleges: IOCE, UNEG & Key Partners) with the five EvalNetworks (EvalYouth, EVALSDGs, EvalGender+, GPFE and EvalIndigenous) saw the Global Evaluation Agenda 2020 as one of the key achievements of EvalPartners since 2015. The stocktaking noted progress in all four areas of the EvalAgenda:

- **Enabling environment**: Activities to influence the enactment of national evaluation policies, national evaluation systems, an evaluation culture and use of evaluation through the Global Parliamentary Forum for Evaluation (GPFE), EvalGender+, the two flagship programmes and the Innovation Challenge.
- **Institutional capacity strengthening**: The EvalColombo conference hosted by the GPFE, and Flagship 1 programme with projects in 16 countries in the global south, among others, helped built capacity to create demand for evaluations. New VOPEs were established and or supported through activities by EvalGender+ (2), EvalIndigenous (1) and EvalYouth (7 regional chapters and 21 national EvalYouth chapters). Knowledge products were developed and shared by EvalGender+. EVALSDGs developed briefing papers and an INSIGHT series, two guidebooks (focused on developing capacities of commissioners and practitioners around the SDGs, and embedding evaluation in the VNRs in Africa), webinars and joint publications with EvalGender+ and EvalIndigenous.
- **Strengthening of individual capacities for evaluation**: EvalYouth built the capacity of 240 individual evaluators through the Global Mentoring Programme and organised six virtual conferences. The Global Parliamentarian Forum for Evaluation, in collaboration with the South Asia Parliamentarians Forum, developed “equity-focused and gender-responsive evaluation guidelines” in 2017. The EvalPartners website hosts free e-learning courses, available in different languages.
- **Strengthening interlinkages**: The P2P and Innovation Challenge projects promoted interlinkages at country level. The two programmes were aligned with the three pillars of EvalAgenda 2020. At the same time, the five EvalNetworks worked across domains to strengthen interlinkages.

Challenges

Several general challenges were noted. There was a lack of resources to fund the Agenda. The content was said to be complex, and it was not translated into other languages. In addition, it was noted that there was no coordination in the implementation of the EvalAgenda and that some important stakeholders did not take full ownership of it. Lastly it lacked a reporting and follow up mechanism.

Lessons learnt

The participatory nature of the development process allowed for co-creation. Having two versions (a long document and summary) was strategic. The broad document allowed different organisations to select what was relevant to them without it being prescriptive. However, the broadness also made it difficult to understand. A lot of goodwill within the evaluation landscape existed (people wanted to work together and be part of a common agenda). EvalPartners’ face-to-face engagements allowed for connection and networking, which built relationships in the evaluation ecosystem.
Recommendations

The following recommendations are proposed:

**Development Process:** EvalPartners should lead and facilitate the development, convening partners and dissemination of EvalAgenda 2030 but at the same time ensure that it is owned by the evaluation community. The development process for EvalAgenda 2030 should be inclusive and ensure broader ownership.

**Coordination:** EvalPartners should play a coordination and leadership role and provide a framework that allows all stakeholders to play their respective roles, eliminating unnecessary overlaps. EvalPartners would need to draw the global evaluation community to rally around EvalAgenda 2030, building understanding, facilitating implementation, and supporting the regular review of progress.

**Partnerships and collaboration:** There is a need for stronger partnerships among different organisations in the eval community, joint programming and pooling together resources.

**Relevance:** The EvalAgenda should remain relevant to global initiatives and global trends. It is important to regain and accelerate progress towards the SDGs. In addition, there is a need to focus on how to generate relevant information to address current challenges, for example, COVID-19 recovery.

**Content:** The next EvalAgenda needs to be in a *more dynamic format* that can be used in different ways. It should be principles-based and have a roadmap with milestones in reasonable timeframes. The EvalAgenda 2030 should be shorter, simple, easy to read and clearly state the strategies and outcomes for 2030.

**Localisation:** The next EvalAgenda should have a mechanism for national adaptation, which may be in the form of templates for localization at regional, national & local levels, and be made available in different languages.

**Review and reporting mechanism:** There is need for a results framework, with clear indicators for the EvalAgenda 2030, which should be accompanied by a review and reporting mechanism.

**Resourcing:** The EvalAgenda 2030 should have adequate technical, human and financial resources for implementation, communication of the agenda as well as for review and follow-up mechanisms. It will be important to have a global coordinator for the EvalAgenda 2030 and in addition, an inclusive global EvalAgenda 2030 committee that oversees its implementation.

**Communication strategy:** It is imperative to create a strong communication strategy to facilitate the creation of a movement around EvalAgenda 2030, permeating the global, regional, national and local levels.

**Implementation guidelines:** There should be templates and guidelines provided for operationalising EvalAgenda 2030.

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**Priorities for next EvalAgenda**

- Maintain the current **4 pillars**
- Stronger focus on **inclusion beyond gender**
- **Research and knowledge building** on evaluation
- Integrate and value **nature and climate change**
- Incorporate **information, communication technologies & innovation**
- Evaluation in the **context of conflict and violence**
- **Utilization** of evaluation findings