Embedding Evaluations in VNRs

Key points emerging

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Why it is important to embed evaluative evidence in VNRs and national SDG reporting?

- To demonstrate **progress** in country programmes and the SDGs, and the nature of this progress

- To go beyond trends to explain what is **working or not working**, for **who**, in what contexts (leave no-one behind)

- To explain **why** progress is being made (more in-depth)

- To understand the **barriers and facilitators** of progress

- To recommend **how** progress can be accelerated, above all for the vulnerable

- And to use this to inform national **plans**

Challenges and opportunities to use evidence from evaluations to report on progress

Challenges

- Adequate involvement of all sectors of society
- Many countries don't have well established evaluation/ data systems
  - Lack of baselines
  - Technical capacity for M&E
  - Monitoring often weak, and data not disaggregated
  - Evaluation not institutionalised in policy processes
  - SDG indicators and targets not yet domesticated
  - Data in silos

Opportunities

- To inform national planning and focus on the needs of the most vulnerable, and define domesticated SDG indicators which are mainstreamed in national plans and M&E frameworks
- To contribute to making evaluation, reporting and accountability more systematic within executive, to parliaments, to citizens, and also on the SDGs
- To strengthen data governance

How

- Using effectively the consultation across society (eg qual data from civil society in Mozambique)
- Strengthen evaluation capacity using variety of partners, Twende Mbele, CLEAR, UNICEF, UNITAR.....
- Strengthen statistical literacy
- Can use existing evaluations and other evidence (Nigeria VNR used 46 evaluations) – develop a repository of evidence (note evidence maps)
- Can use rapid methods – rapid evaluations, evaluative workshops etc (check Guides)

Key messages to raise awareness about the importance of evidence based VNRs and national SDG reports

- Countries are realising they must prioritise – 2030 is soon, need to accelerate progress towards SDGs

- Importance of investing in quality data and evaluation, including qualitative analysis to understand why and how changes need to happen, in terms of national plans and the SDGs

- Importance of using VNR process to build national consensus on what is needed

- VNR provides an opportunity for diagnosis

What kind of support needed

- UNICEF, UNITAR, UNDP, CLEAR etc building capacity and demystifying evaluation
- UNICEF/CLEAR working on programme now to build capacity

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