

Strengthening Evaluation Capacity of Nigeria in the context of supporting the achievement towards the SDG

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Outline

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- National Volunteering Review – July 2017
- ECD at institutional level in Nigeria
 - *Demand side-Supporting the establishment of a National VOPE*
 - *Supply side-Supporting the adoption of a National Evaluation Policy*
- Conclusions and Questions

Development context and challenges

- Every 10 minutes one woman dies while giving life (MMR 576; 111 deaths/day; 10% global burden);
- Almost 2 children under 5 dies every minute (U5MR 128; 2,461 deaths/day; 11% of global burden; 23% Africa);
- More than 21 300 Children are born each day;
- Nearly 30% of the global burden of under-five malaria deaths.
- With a population of about 182 million people, Nigeria is the largest country in Africa and accounts for near 50% of West Africa's population.
- It is also the biggest oil exporter in Africa, with the largest natural gas reserves in the continent.

SDG in Nigeria: Results of the National Volunteering review-2017

Nigeria officially adhered to the SDG in 2015.

July 2017 under the leadership of the SDG office, the government undertook the first national volunteering review (NVR):

Key challenges were identified:

1. Over-reliance on oil revenue and weak agricultural sector;
2. Infrastructure and technology gaps;
3. Weak Public sector institutions;
4. Humanitarian crisis.

Several needs for support were made then:

1- Mobilizing adequate financial and other resources; including from domestic sources and through the traditional (North – South, South – South and triangular cooperation) partnerships;

2- Technology Transfer and Capacity Building in, among others, data, information and performance management. (NVR report, July 2017, p. 14).

SDG in Nigeria: Results of the National Volunteering review-2017

Way forward agreed by development partners in July 2017 during the NVR:

1. Deepen the SDG related programs in sectors plans and strengthen their alignment with SDG and a result framework;
2. Enhance a strategic framework for implementation (*an accountability framework*);
3. Advancing SDG monitoring to *outcome performance* and being inserted into the National Monitoring and Evaluation framework.
4. Nigeria has established on are on the verge of establishing an enabling policy environment:
5. Establishing clear systems of accountability for well-defined
 1. *assignment of responsibilities; setting targets and developing detailed action plans; allocating resources to*
 2. *developing an effective monitoring and evaluation system to track progress*
6. Limited reference to the Evaluation function, trapped within the 'M&E' Concept.

There are two *chantiers* were we have been active in supporting ECD for SDG in Nigeria

Demand side- Supporting the Establishment of a National VOPE

Demand side -Supporting the Establishment of a National VOPE

- From a determinant analysis and readiness assessment framework (WB) we agreed with govern that there was a need for an Evaluation Policy and Supporting a VOPE, with the main objective of professionalizing the evaluation profession in Nigeria.
- There are several professional networks in Nigeria, which all were competing until recently for occupying the National Evaluation Position;
- After analyzing the situation, the MBNP and UNICEF, proposed to the Evaluation leaders to join an umbrella association that will convene all interested parties to work towards strengthening a National VOPE. The vision shared then was to join a federation of associations.
- More details here: <http://www.aejonline.org/index.php/aej/article/view/197>

Demand side -Supporting the Establishment of a National VOPE

Key high level forums for raising the Evaluation Function *profile* within Nigeria Government Agenda:

2015: A High-level conference on Evaluation and good governance within the context of the Celebrating the evaluation year 2015 was organized.

Results: *Abuja Declaration on Evaluation*, where the government of Nigeria and Minister of Budget and Plan and Development partners committed to work toward the adoption of a National Evaluation Policy (NEP).

2016- The following year, we also supported the MBNP, Senior Assistant to President on SDG and National Bureau of Statistics to engage and commit toward the establishment of a National System for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the SDG.

Results: **Context of Change of government leadership:** Sustaining the Abuja Declaration on Evaluation (SDG) for government partners to adopt a more result-based approach with their governance and reiterate the need for finalizing the evaluation policy;

2017- (in-progress) a follow-up event hosted by the Minister of Budget and Planning on the Importance of establishing an Accountability Framework that will further operationalize the 2016 commitments.

Demand side -Supporting the Establishment of a National VOPE

Expected results: An Accountability Framework Governing the Monitoring and Evaluation Functions for SDGs

Agreement among development partners (NBS, SDG, MBNP, UN, etc.) to develop an accountability framework that will further clarify how the Monitoring function and the Evaluation function in supporting the achievement of the SDGs.

Address the *Silo dynamic* identified in the VNR for the two functions;

<http://sdgconference.org/> (2016)

<http://www.naeconference.org.ng/> (2017)

Supply side- Abuja Declaration: Adoption of a National Evaluation Policy

Political system

- Nigeria is a federation with three tiers of government: the federal, state and local levels.
- State budgets rely on taxation, and are supplemented by federal allocation (federal funding accounts for 80% of the total revenue in over 75% of the states).
- The Ministry of Budget and National Planning (MBNP) is accountable to the National Assembly and the Office of the President in so far as it is supposed to present performance results before initiating the budget process;
- The National Assembly has broad oversight functions, including the ability to establish committees to assess the performance of projects, programmes and policies;
- The Auditor general play a limited role in reviewing performance of Programs and has limited capacity.

Supply side- Abuja Declaration: Adoption of a National Evaluation Policy

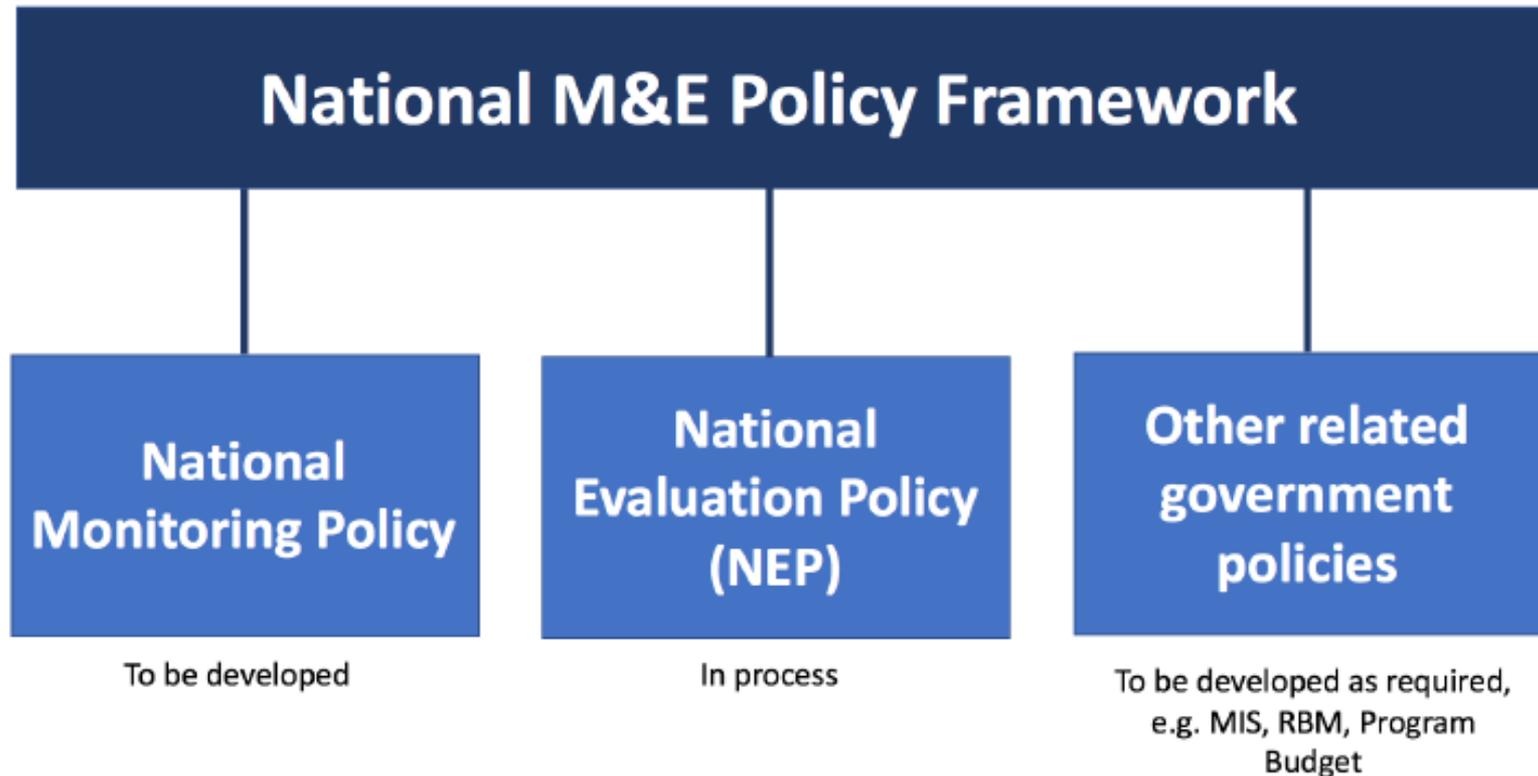
Resources

On the supply side, both the MBNP and the M&E units in MDAs are under resourced in terms of funding and skilled staff.

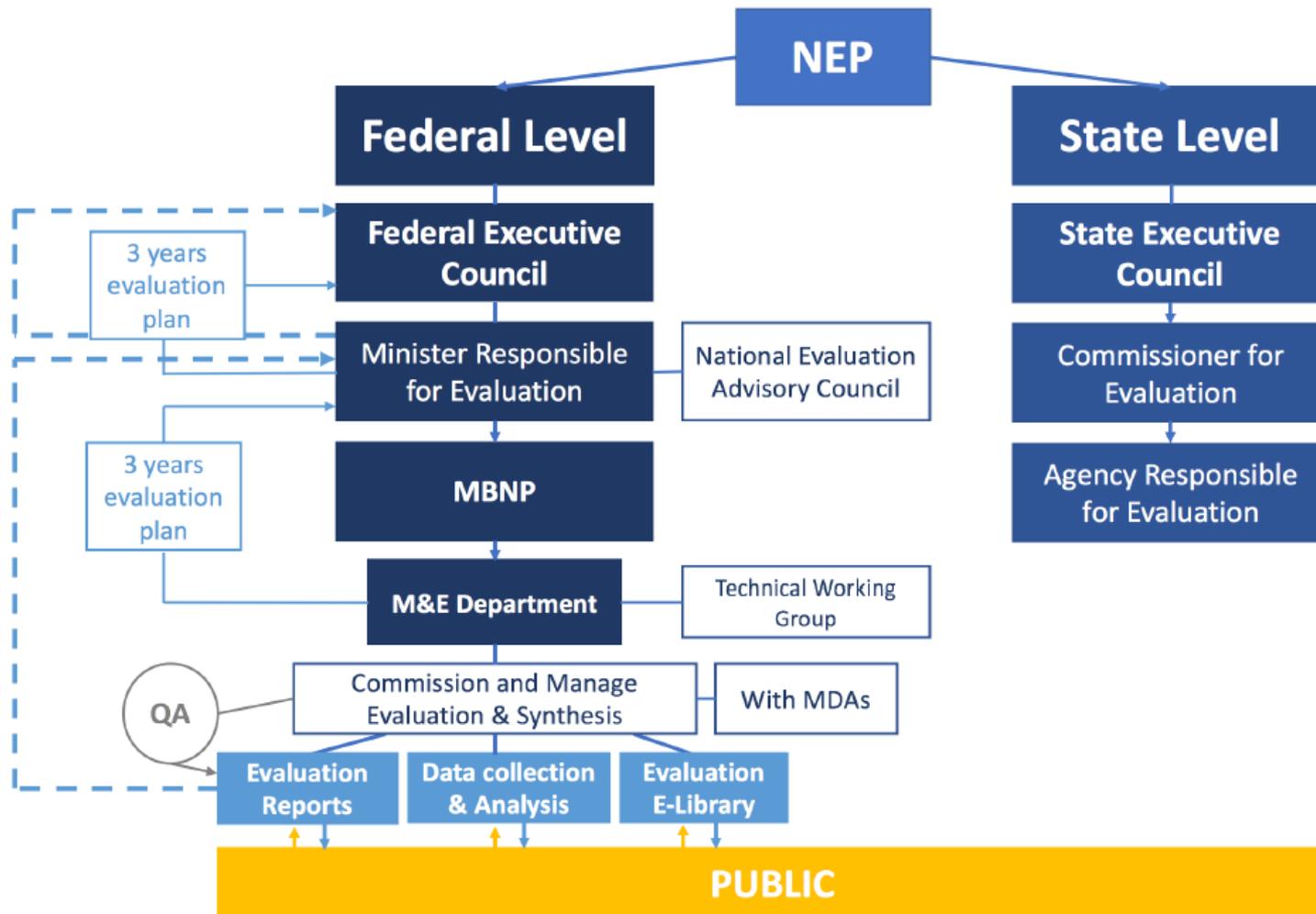
There are no operating budget, rendering MBNP and MDAs dependent on external financing sources.

In this context, Evaluation studies conducted in Nigeria are inevitably Donor-led.

Supply side- Abuja Declaration: Adoption of a National Evaluation Policy



Supply side -Scope and applicability of the NEP



Conclusions

- Building Evaluation Capacity is a long and complex endeavor that requires a long term vision and perseverance.
- One need to avoid “models” from Donors and development partners: this as to be guided technically (principles are the same), of course, but tailored to the country specificity: The Legal, Political and the capacity and ‘capabilities’ of the public administration in the country.
- However there is no doubt that government worldwide, and especially in Africa, are moving toward adopting or strengthening their own Evaluation Policy, which is a key elements of Modern Public Management.
- National Evaluation Policy that governs the evaluation function is key for informing governments about the performance of their public budget investments, and achieving their national goals, especially as they relate to their commitments to the SDGs.
- The NEP was a nice opportunity to distinguish between the role of Monitoring from Evaluation as two *distinct functions*: one *management* the other *accountability*. *Complementary*, indeed but *distinct* above all.
- There is much work that remains to be done!

THANK YOU!!

Questions?