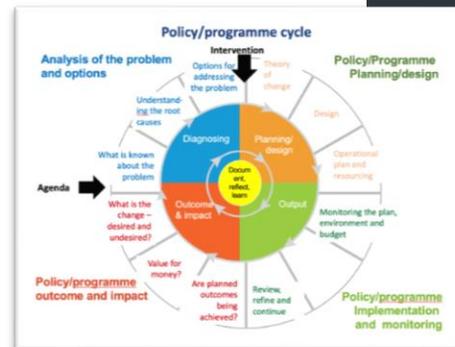


FORUM ON STRENGTHENING NATIONAL EVALUATION CAPACITIES FOR THE AFRICA WE WANT: TOWARDS EVIDENCE-BASED SDGs AND AGENDA 2063 REPORTING

10–12 December 2019, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



[UNICEF's Evaluation Office](#) and the [UNICEF Liaison Office to the African Union & UNECA](#) partnered with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa ([UNECA](#)) to launch a three-day Forum in Addis Ababa, involving government and civil society representatives, parliamentarians, and development partners. The Forum aimed at discussing and agreeing on a roadmap towards evidence-based reporting on the implementation of the 2030 and 2063 Agendas, and on moving towards country-led evaluations of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The event attracted the participation of 33 representatives from countries scheduled to present Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) at the 2020 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development ([HLPF](#)).



A Guide on Embedding Evaluation in VNRs was developed for the event (download the Guide [here](#)).

KEY POINTS

Evaluation is an important backbone of both the 2030 and 2063 Agendas and their follow-up and review processes. It is, however, rarely used for the preparation of VNRs, or for assessing national progress towards sustainable development.

Almost five years have passed after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, yet very few VNRs are based on evidence and on disaggregated data. Also, so far only two countries have moved towards country-led evaluations of the SDGs (Finland and Nigeria).

Evidence from evaluations and disaggregated data is a necessity for reporting on the progress towards the SDGs – reporting that must provide evidence that *No One is Left Behind* in development. Evaluation has the potential to allow countries to understand the extent to which they are progressing towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

Well-designed evaluations can generate valuable lessons that can guide impactful policy and programme improvements. If decision-makers invest in – and pay attention to – evaluation findings, they can make evidence-based decisions towards the achievement of 2030 and 2063 Agendas and progress towards a more efficient, effective and equitable development.

Governments need to work with parliamentarians, civil society as well as development partners to demonstrate effective implementation of the 2030 and 2063 Agendas. Evaluation can be an important means for this.

At the end of the Forum, participants prepared country plans to incorporate evidence in their VNRs in 2020 and 2021. UNICEF Country and Regional Offices will provide follow-up technical support for implementation of the country plans.

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**STRENGTHENING
NATIONAL
EVALUATION
CAPACITIES FOR THE
AFRICA WE WANT**

The first day of the event focused on raising awareness on the need to move forward towards evidence-based SDGs and Agenda 2063 reporting, and on the urgency of conducting country-led evaluations of the SDGs.

**EMBEDDING
EVALUATION IN
VOLUNTARY
NATIONAL REVIEWS**

The second and third days were done in partnership with [CLEAR-AA](#) and aimed at developing capacities of participating countries to use evaluation evidence in Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).

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