

## Launch of the Guidebook

# ***Evaluation to connect the SDGs with national priorities: A Guide for Evaluation Commissioners and Managers***

**Jointly organized by UNICEF and the Development Evaluation Unit  
of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland**

*4 February 2020, 1 – 4 pm  
Danny Kaye Hall, UNICEF House, New York*

### **Introduction**

Bringing people together is powerful. The guide on “Evaluation to connect the SDGs with national priorities” was inspired by a workshop attended by thirty-three government representatives and evaluation specialists from twenty-two countries. Hosted in Helsinki in March 2019, the event was jointly organized by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, EVALSDGs, IIED and UNICEF.

The 2030 Agenda and the follow-up and review process have clear guidelines for reporting, but the workshop revealed that countries are still not clear on how to conduct evaluations in a country-led process. The four organizations decided to meet this need together, collaborating on a guide to country-led SDG evaluation.

With SDG evaluation in its infancy, this resource is necessarily provisional. But time is of the essence. Local and national evaluators need support now if they are to use SDG evaluation as an opportunity to improve policies and programmes closer to home, applying tailored approaches. Here, the guide will provide this support and to motivate evaluation that embodies the principles of Agenda 2030. The launch of the guide will trigger more countries to use country-led evaluations.

### **Purpose**

The event is aimed at launching the guidebook on “Evaluation to connect the SDGs with national priorities” while raising awareness of the role evaluation can play in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

## Agenda

12 – 1 pm **Lunch**

1 – 1.30 pm **Opening remarks**

- George Laryea-Adjei, Director Evaluation, UNICEF
- Anu Saxen, Director Development Evaluation Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Finland
- Tom Bigg, Director of Strategy and Learning, IIED

1.30 – 2 pm **Keynote speech**

Evaluation of the SDGs: Making the case for inclusive and dynamic country-led evaluations

- George Laryea-Adjei, Director Evaluation, UNICEF
- Silvia Salinas Mulder, Coordinator, ReLAC

2 – 3 pm **Multi-stakeholder panel**

Country-led evaluations of the SDGs: why and why now?

Panelists:

- Indran Naidoo, Director of Evaluation, UNDP
- A. K. Shiva Kumar, Evaluator and Policy Advisor, India
- John Gargani, former president of the American Evaluation Association
- Maurya West Meiers, Senior Evaluation Officer, IEG, World Bank
- Moderator: Anu Saxen, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland

3 – 4 pm **Presentation of the book “Evaluation to connect the SDGs with national priorities: A Guide for Evaluation Commissioners and Managers”**

- Stefano D’Errico, IIED, co-author of the Guidebook
- Satu Lahteenoja, Demos Helsinki, co-author of the Guidebook
- Kassem El Saddik, EVALSDGs, co-author of the Guidebook
- Commentator: Fraser Reilly-King, IDRC Canada
- Moderator: Ada Ocampo, UNICEF

4 pm **Closing remarks**

6.30 pm **Evening reception**

Organized and hosted by the Finnish Mission to the United Nations