

Annual
General
Meeting
2023



UNEG
United Nations Evaluation Group

Reports of the UNEG 2022 Work Groups

Dates: 24-26 January 2023

This document contains the activities and progress reports of the UNEG Working Groups during work year 2022, as well as suggestions for areas of work in work year 2023.

See also:

- [UNEG Work Plan 2022](#).

Strategic Objective 1: Evaluation functions and products of UN entities meet the UNEG Norms and Standards for Evaluation	3
SO1 Peer Review Working Group	4
SO1 Ethics in Evaluation Working Group	7
SO1 Gender Equality, Disability and Human Rights Working Group.....	9
SO1 Integrating Environmental and Social Impacts into Evaluations Working Group.....	10
Strategic Objective 2: UN entities and partners use evaluation in support of accountability and programme learning	11
SO2 Professionalization Working Group	12
SO2 Methods Use and Appropriateness Working Group.....	14
SO2 Evaluating Policy Influence Working Group	16
SO2 Evaluation Synthesis Interest Group	18
SO2 Decentralized Evaluation Interest Group.....	19
SO2 Evaluation Practice Exchange Seminar Organising Committee	20
Strategic Objective 3: Evaluation informs UN system-wide initiatives and emerging demands	22
SO3 Humanitarian Evaluations Interest Group (HEIG)	23
SO3 COVID-19 Working Group.....	25
SO3 UNSCDF Working Group	27
SO3 National Evaluation Capacity Development (NECD) Working Group	29
SO3 Peacebuilding Working Group	32
SO3 Use of Evaluation Interest Group	34
Cross cutting work areas	35
Partnerships Working Group	36

Strategic Objective 1: Evaluation functions and products of UN entities meet the UNEG Norms and Standards for Evaluation

SO1 Peer Review Working Group	
Coordinators	Rachel Bedouin (FAO); Alan Fox (UNDP)
Nature of work	Responsible for coordinating UNEG Peer Reviews and planning changes to the way Peer Reviews are managed and conducted in support of the UNEG Strategy for stronger evaluation functions and increased independent self-assessment, corresponding to UNEG Norms and Standards. In addition, at the last AGM, the scope of the work of the PRWG was expanded to other forms of assessment of the evaluation functions.
Results achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One peer review drafted in 2021 (UNICEF) for completion by March 2023. • A second peer review launched (UNFPA) for completion in Q2 2023. • Publication and dissemination of the Stock-Taking Study on the utility of Peer reviews, (May 2022). • Publication and dissemination of the Self-Assessment Maturity Matrix: (Checklist: November 2022/ full report: December 2022) • Mapping of assessment modalities for completion by March 2023 • Revised UNEG Guidelines for Professional Peer Reviews; (drafted, to be finalised by Feb. 2023).
Group's contribution to the Strategic Objective	UNEG Peer Reviews remain a flagship product of UNEG, enabling Members to benefit from an external assessment of the relevance and performance of UN evaluation functions against norms and standards. Evaluations of evaluation functions are increasingly expected by UN agency executive boards to ensure that oversight / accountability entities are achieving expectations for independence and credibility, and that agencies are taking on board the recommendations and lessons emanating from this work. The peer review modality is recognized to be cost-effective and provides both accountability and learning. The peer review WG has significantly strengthened the tools and guidance available for peer reviews, especially through the new Maturity Matrix.
Points for discussion at the AGM	<p>UNEG Commitment on peer review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referring to the current strategy and KPI: 'By 2024, 100 percent of UNEG members have made progress in adhering to UNEG norms and standards, as confirmed through validated self-assessment or external review of their evaluation functions within the past five years.' 11 UNEG peer reviews have been undertaken since 2016, (and several agencies underwent two PRs during this period), meaning dozens of members have not taken up this opportunity. Some UNEG members have undergone other assessment modalities. However, overall, only a few UNEG members have engaged in some form of assessment. • Increasing access to the peer review modality to smaller UNEG member agencies is being advanced by the development of new guidelines, and the funding envelope has been expanded (to \$20,000). • How can UNEG further engage in promoting accountability and learning of its members through peer reviews as well as the use of UNEG Norms and Standards in the full spectrum of assessment modalities of evaluation functions?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer Reviews are a major time commitment for participants. How can UNEG refine its systems and Secretariat support to handle multiple simultaneous peer reviews? <p>Partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is good cooperation through informal arrangements with EvalNet and OECD-DAC, especially in the establishment of peer review panels. There is relatively weak connection to other organisations and member states. This raises questions as to whether there is sufficient diversity in panel participation.
Decision(s) to be taken at the AGM	The PRWG would welcome UNEG approval of the Working Group’s Strategy as well as a commitment by Members to support an increased number of Peer Reviews in 2023 through greater participation in Panels as Chairs and Panel members, and a clear indication of expanded UNEG Secretariat support to the Peer Review process.

Financial Reporting

Contributions from UNEG funds:

Amount requested	Amount approved	Amount spent	Balance
\$100,000	\$100,000	0	\$100,000

Comments:

- The plan envisioned up to 6 peer reviews to be carried out – and approval was given to utilise up to \$15,000 per Peer Review. Only two peer reviews were launched in 2022, and one (UNICEF) has fully funded the required activities. The second (UNFPA) is in early stages and at this point no funding request has been provided.
- The Peer Review WG agreed last year that it would be preferable to systematically contribute to peer reviews, especially to help cover the costs for panel member travels.
- The plan also envisioned spending \$10,000 to edit new guidelines. The guidelines have been drafted but not yet edited – so this will be a 2023 carry over.

Direct financial contributions:

While not a direct contribution to UNEG, the peer review of UNICEF has been self-funded, with a total budget of \$100,000. The funds have been managed through one of the per review panel members (UNDP-IEO).

In-kind contributions: Significant in-kind contributions to the group’s activities

Member Agency	Type of contribution
FAO, UNEP, UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNITAR, UNHCR, ILO, IOM, WIPO	Significant support to the management of the Group’s work, including the conduct of 2 Peer Reviews, the management and oversight of a consultant’s study, efforts to draft and revise the Maturity Matrix, outreach to other organisations on partnership (OECD-DAC & MOPAN), and significantly revamping the Guidance Documents supporting Peer Reviews

Work Planning next steps

Proposed group coordinators 2023	Alan Fox (UNDP) and Claudia Ibarguen (UNESCO).
Areas for future/ continued work	<p>The focus of the Peer Review Working Group’s work in 2023 will continue along the following lines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Completion of the ongoing 2 Peer Reviews Within UNEG, continuing effort to strengthen and expand the UNEG Peer Review Modality, including outreach to agencies that have not yet been formally peer reviewed, expressions of interest by UNEG Members to be peer reviewed, and a multiyear calendar of planned peer reviews. (ii) Commitments from UNEG Heads and senior UN evaluators to participate in Peer Reviews Panels. (iii) Finalization of mapping of assessment modalities (iv) Promotion of the use of the Norms and Standards in the full spectrum of assessment modalities (v) Publication of guidelines and other support materials for the conduct of and follow-up to peer reviews.
Estimated funding requirement/ budget request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of final editing of guidelines and other materials: \$10,000 • Support to 2 peer reviews in 2023: \$40,000

SO1 Ethics in Evaluation Working Group

Coordinators	Vivien Knips (WFP) and Michael Schroll (OIOS)
Nature of work	Guidance, analysis, and support to consider ethics in evaluation practice
Results achieved	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ethics Guidelines were disseminated and discussed within UNEG members and externally, including a session at the European Evaluation Society (EES) conference in June and two virtual EPE sessions in November 2022. The EES Roundtable session with three WG members and three external discussants was attended by about 20 participants. There was a lively discussion re the application of Ethics Guidelines and real-world examples. The two EPE sessions were co-facilitated by WG members and focused on “Ethics, Beneficence and Me” with approximately fifteen participants each. 2. Three of the four planned quarterly newsletters - each for one of the four principles of the Guidelines – have been finalized. Two have been disseminated while the third will be distributed at the AGM in January. The fourth is scheduled for completion in Q1 2023. 3. Stock taking exercises re the application and utility of the Guidelines, including a UNEG member survey completed; analysis shared by the consultant and reviewed and discussed by WG in September, followed by reflection about next steps. This activity, conducted by a consultant, was funded by WFP directly. The results will inform the 2023 work plan. 4. ToR for translation of the Guidelines to French, Spanish and Arabic by UN volunteers prepared. UNV to translate guidelines into French, Spanish and Arabic were recruited via support from FAO. Volunteers were selected and all three draft translations received. The WG is currently reviewing the drafts. 5. Following the AGM 2022, the WG nearly doubled its membership, albeit from a small base. This allowed the WG to organise parallel workstreams - such as dissemination, capacity building and translation – which were facilitated by several WG members.

Group’s contribution to the Strategic Objective	Development and promotion of ethical considerations in evaluation in order to support the application of the UNEG norms and standards.
--	--

Financial Reporting

Direct financial contributions:

Member Agency	Amount
WFP, direct contributions	USD 5,196

Comments: Management of external consultant for result #3 above.

In-kind contributions: Significant in-kind contributions to the group’s activities

Member Agency	Type of contribution
FAO	Support for the recruitment and administration of three UNV for the translation of the Guidelines
WFP	Admin support for recruitment and management of consultant

:

Work Planning next steps

Proposed group coordinators 2023	Vivien Knips (WFP) and Michael Schroll (OIOS), until after the AGM. Handover to new coordinators by latest end of February 2023.
Areas for future/ continued work	We are planning the completion, lay-out and launch of the translations as well as finalizing and disseminating fourth newsletter. We intend to continue dissemination, promotion and review of application of the Guidelines, with a focus on the translated versions (2 nd half 2023). Additional ideas will be developed during January 2023.

SO1 Gender Equality, Disability and Human Rights Working Group

Coordinators	Tara Kaul (UN Women) and Sabas Monroy (OHCHR).
Nature of work	Guidance, analysis and exchange on integration of gender equality, disability inclusion and human rights in evaluations.
Results achieved	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integration of new OECD-DAC criteria and disability inclusion in GE&HR guidance: Consultancy for the revision and update of the guidance is ongoing, with draft guidance expected by February 2023. EPE session to share the draft will be held in March 2023. 2. Integration of gender equality in evaluations: Report on UN-SWAP EPI was reviewed by working group members and published. Ongoing support provided. 3. Integration of disability inclusion in evaluations. Guidance on the integration of disability and UNDIS reporting was launched and published online in March 2022. Ongoing support provided. 4. Knowledge sharing on integration of disability inclusion in evaluations. EPE on UNDIS evaluation indicator guidance was held in February 2022. Webinar on the implementation of the guidance was held in October 2022.
Group's contribution to the Strategic Objective:	Development and/or promotion of common methodologies, guidance and approaches in UNEG norms and standards related to gender equality and human rights.

Financial Reporting

Contributions from UNEG funds:

Amount requested	Amount approved	Amount spent	Balance
USD 26,000	USD 26,000	USD 26,000	USD 0

Comments: Funds committed for the consultancy for the revision and update of the GE&HR guidance, to be paid upon delivery of the consultancy product in Q1/2023.

Work Planning next steps

Proposed group coordinators 2023	Tara Kaul (UN Women), Sabas Monroy (OHCHR)
Areas for future/ continued work	Launch and dissemination of revised GE&HR guidance. Guidance and knowledge sharing on the integration of gender, disability and human rights in evaluation, including the implementation and reporting on the UN SWAP and UNDIS evaluation indicators.

SO1 Integrating Environmental and Social Impacts into Evaluations Working Group

Coordinators	Juha Uitto (GEF), Mike Spilsbury (UNEP), S. Nanthikesan (IFAD)
Nature of work	Development of norms, standards and guidance
Results achieved	Building upon stocktaking and analysis of UNEG members' evaluation policies and practice, the WG has developed an approach to preparing the final guidelines for Integrating Environmental Considerations into Evaluations.
Group's contribution to the Strategic Objective	The ESI WG squarely addresses the SO1 objective (Develop and safeguard professional norms, standards and guidance) by working towards ensuring that the environmental pillar of 2030 Agenda is fully reflected in UNEG member evaluations.
Points for discussion at the AGM	Any direction from the AGM towards finalizing the guidance.
Decision(s) to be taken at the AGM	(1) Endorse the proposed approach to guideline development; and (2) Approve continued mandate for the ESI WG.

Financial Reporting

Contributions from UNEG funds:

Amount requested	Amount approved	Amount spent	Balance
\$50,000	\$50,000	\$43,956	\$6,044

Comments:

Work Planning next steps

Proposed group coordinators 2023	Juha Uitto (GEF), Mike Spilsbury (UNEP) and S. Nanthikesan (IFAD)
Areas for future/ continued work	Finalize the guidance document based on the approach approved by the AGM.
Estimated funding requirement/ budget request	\$50,000

Strategic Objective 2: UN entities and partners use evaluation in support of accountability and programme learning

SO2 Professionalization Working Group

Coordinators	Brook Boyer (UNITAR), Mona Selim (WFP)
Nature of work	Professionalization, training development
Results achieved	<p>During 2022, the PWG recruited ITC/ILO to design and develop the course, including the syllabus and learning objectives, raw content (text and video), and initial incorporation into Articulate Rise. PWG's role has been to oversee the work of and work in partnership with ITC/ILO in developing the course.</p> <p>The PWG also facilitated the development of a partnership with UNSDG:Learn, the Secretariat of which is maintained by UNITAR and UNSSC. As a UNSDG:Learn partner, UNEG will be developing and managing a community page for evaluation related learning resources.</p>
Group's contribution to the Strategic Objective	SO2 aims to enhance professionalization and capacity. During 2022, the PWG's work continued to contribute to key actions under this strategic objective, including the development of the foundational course as an initial voluntary recognition/certification programme staff of UNEG members, and conceptualizing a global information hub related to professionalization for evaluation initiatives, tools and materials. Progress on these two performance indicators is underway and achievement is expected by mid 2023.
Points for discussion at the AGM	Pilot testing and roll-out of the course and modalities for populating the UNEG UNSDG:Learn community page

Financial Reporting

Contributions from UNEG funds:

Amount requested	Amount approved	Amount spent	Balance
\$95,000	\$95,000	\$85,000	\$10,000

Comments: 72,716 EUR (\$85,000) have been disbursed to ITC/ILO for the development of the course. \$10,000 for the SDG Platform community page will be disbursed in Q1 2023 to the selected vendor. As it is unsure whether unspent balances automatically carry over or need to be budgeted for in the next year, PWG has included this amount for the 2023 budgetary needs (see estimated 2023 funding needs).

In-kind contributions: Significant in-kind contributions to the group's activities

Member Agency	Type of contribution
UNSDG:Learn (UNITAR and UNSSC)	Partnership with UNSDG:Learn enables UNEG as a professional network to make use of the UNSDG: Learn gateway and IT infrastructure, and develop a dedicated evaluation community page at minimal cost. While this is technically a partnership, PWG understands this as one which includes noteworthy in-kind contributions.

Work Planning next steps

Proposed group coordinators 2023	PWG has scheduled a meeting for the week of 16 January 2023 to review progress in the course's development and identify group coordinators for 2023. The new WG coordinators will be announced at the AGM.
---	--

Areas for future/ continued work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalization, piloting and launch of the UNEG Foundational Course (end of Q1) • Launch of SDG-learn evaluation microlearning platform (end of Q1) • Monitoring roll-out of course and taking stock of (Q2-4) • Developing community of practice (Q2-Q4) • Population and management of UNSDG: Learn community page (Q2-Q4)
Estimated funding requirement/ budget request	<p>\$20,000, which includes balance of \$10,000 for disbursement for UNSDG:Learn community page development, and \$10,000 for addressing issues that could unexpectedly arise once the course is rolled out.</p>

SO2 Methods Use and Appropriateness Working Group

Coordinators	Tina Tordjman-Nebe (UNDP), Henri van den Idsert (UNHCR), Francesca Carini (UNHCR)
Nature of work	In support of the broader objectives of the UNEG Strategy 2020 – 2024 to support <u>continued professionalization of UN evaluators</u> , and in line also with relevant Norms and Standards around <u>professionalization</u> , the specific objective of this group is to contribute to the exchange of good practice on evaluation methods as applied to concrete UN evaluations. Drawing on relevant literature as well as experiences of evaluation practitioners, concrete outputs for the working group were to: i) coordinate and facilitate webinars with evaluation professionals on the appropriateness and practical application of complex methods and approaches, ii) produce a summary of these webinars in a compendium document, both in hard copy and online, for knowledge exchange and learning.
Results achieved	<p>Output 1. Updated compendium of methods finalized</p> <p>In 2022, the working group (WG) continued to carry out a series of webinars on the use, appropriateness and application of different evaluation methods within the UN context. Volume II of its <u>compendium of methods</u> (covering 2021/2022) highlights four approaches and methodologies relevant to <u>evaluation under COVID/crisis conditions</u>: (i) Real-time learning approaches (developmental evaluation), (ii) Use of technology and social media for evaluation data collection (geospatial methods and social listening), (iii) Advanced analytical techniques that can be applied remotely (process tracing), and (iv) Participatory approaches for enhanced engagement of those we serve (case study approaches, stakeholder engagement).</p> <p>Output 2. Digitization of compendium on UNEG Teams app and UNEG website</p> <p>The WG has uploaded volume I of the compendium (2020) to the UNEG Teams App as a wiki-page. The WG is exploring options with the UNEG Secretariat for uploading both compendia of methods to the UNEG website, once Volume II is finalized.</p>
Group's contribution to the Strategic Objective	Professionalization deepened and UNEG evaluation capacity enhanced through widening evaluators' methodological toolkits. The working Group has contributed to enhanced professionalization and capacity through peer exchanges in the form of webinars facilitated by group members. Each webinar focused on a particular evaluation method, sharing experiences from UN commissioned evaluations with the help of internal and guest speakers. Outputs from each webinar have culminated in a compendium of methods, outlining the advantages and challenges with the application of these evaluation methods in practice.
Points for discussion at the AGM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback on the draft compendium (volume II) is sought, prior to finalization and publication early in 2023. • The current coordinators have been leading the group since 2019 and would like to hand over to other agencies to carry forward the work. No volunteers have been identified, and hence a request will be put forward to UNEG Heads during the AGM.
Decision(s) to be taken at the AGM	Volunteers for coordinating the working group in 2023.

Financial Reporting

In-kind contributions: Significant in-kind contributions to the group's activities

Member Agency	Type of contribution
UNHCR, UNDP	Coordination of the Working Group
OIOS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR	Facilitation of webinar and write-up on 'Developmental evaluation in the UN'
FAO, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNHCR	Facilitation of webinar and write-up on 'Application and use of case studies' (2-part webinar)
GEF, UNHCR	Facilitation of webinar and write-ups on 'Use of technology and social media for evaluation data collection' (geospatial methods and social listening),
UNICEF, ILO, WFP, ITC, UNFPA	Participation in webinars

Comments:

Work Planning next steps

Proposed group coordinators 2023	Tina Tordjman-Nebe agrees to convene the first meeting.
Areas for future/ continued work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue peer exchange webinars on use, appropriateness, and application of methods/techniques/approaches • As compendia volumes I and II already cover a great deal of methods suitable for evaluation in the UN context, it would be interesting to shift towards techniques and approaches. Below are some suggestions which would also allow for cross-fertilization with other WG such as ethics and use of evaluation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Short written pieces on evaluation techniques such as survey design or the conduct of focus group discussions ○ Techniques to boost the use of evaluation results ○ Ethical approaches in evaluation (e.g., measures in place to do no harm/do good in data collection and analysis), discussion of ethical review boards for evaluation methodologies (joint board for UN agencies) ○ How to engage with hard-to-reach populations (not only in data collection but also in data analysis and sharing of evaluation results) • Compendium volume II wiki-page and exploration of online publication of compendia volumes I and II on UNEG website • Others to be defined in 2023 together with new members.

SO2 Evaluating Policy Influence Working Group

Coordinators	Felix Herzog (UNEP) and Veridiana Mansour Mendes (WIPO)
Nature of work	The Working Group provides a safe space for peer learning and exchange regarding evaluations of policy influence interventions and normative work in the context of the 2030 Agenda. It also explores challenges and gaps on the topic, and identify practices, methods and approaches to address them.
Results achieved	<p>Output 1. Active and effective peer support mechanism</p> <p>Members have exchanged their experiences related to past, future and ongoing evaluations involving policy influence, and provided advice and support as needed. The sub-working group also presented its lessons learned to colleagues from OECD and WHO upon request.</p> <p>Output 2. Challenges, gaps, entry points and a few good practices for improving evaluations of policy influence interventions across the UN are identified and communicated</p> <p>The sub-working group completed the stocktaking study on the UN system’s approaches to monitoring and evaluation of policy influence interventions mid-August 2022 and submitted it for UNG approval late August 2022. The dissemination of the report, including the organization of an EPE session, will be implemented after the approval is obtained.</p> <p>Output 3. Practices to address some of the critical challenges and gaps identified by the stocktaking study are mapped and compiled</p> <p>Considering that the report was finalized in August, the sub-working group has not made much progress towards this output. It established a fruitful relationship with three departments within OECD that involved exchange of learning and good practices, including in areas identified by the stocktaking study; i.e., Impact Evaluation team of the Public Affairs and Communications department, Evaluation and Internal Audit team of the General Secretariat department, and Engagement and Strategic Transformation team of the Programme, Budget and Finance department. As a result of this relationship, they requested to be part of the sub-working group in 2023, which has already been approved by the ESC.</p>
Group’s contribution to the Strategic Objective	The sub-working group has contributed to enhanced professionalization and capacity by providing accessible peer support when requested, and by inviting external professionals to share methods and tools available to evaluate policy influence. Moreover, the stocktaking study provides guidance to support decision-making on approaches and methods for evaluating policy influence interventions.
Points for discussion at the AGM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stocktaking study on the UN system’s approaches to monitoring and evaluation of policy influence interventions. • Considering that the group does not intend to request UNEG funds this year, and that it intends to prioritize its peer learning/support work stream in 2023, the sub-working group would like to return to the status of interest group. It will, however, proceed with the dissemination of the stocktaking study for awareness raising purposes once it is approved.
Decision(s) to be taken at the AGM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of the stocktaking study • Return to the status of interest group

Financial Reporting

Contributions from UNEG funds:

Amount requested	Amount approved	Amount spent	Balance
\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	0

Comments: Reimbursement made in September 2022.

Direct financial contributions:

Member Agency	Amount
The GEF	\$8,250.00
Total direct contributions	\$8,250.00

Comments:

In-kind contributions: Significant in-kind contributions to the group's activities

Member Agency	Type of contribution
GEF	Coordination of the stocktaking exercise and the Steering Group, and active participation in the implementation of the group's work plan
UNEP and WIPO	Coordination of the group and member of the stocktaking exercise's Steering Group
UNCDF, UNOCT and UNESCWA	Member of the stocktaking exercise's Steering Group and active participation in the implementation of the group's work plan
FAO, WFP and UNCDF	Active participation in the implementation of the group's work plan
UNDP, FAO, UNCDF, OIOS, WIPO, UNEP, ESCWA, UNIDO, UN-WOMEN, UNOCT, WHO, UN-AIDS, OSCE, UNICEF and WFP.	Participated in meetings

Comments:

Work Planning next steps

Proposed group coordinators 2023	Felix Herzog (UNEP) and Veridiana Mansour Mendes (WIPO)
Areas for future/ continued work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize peer learning/support. • Disseminate the stocktaking study for awareness raising purposes. • Pilot recommendations of the stocktaking study within the group. • Advance discussions on evaluation of policy coherence. • Others to be defined in 2023 together with new members.

SO2 Evaluation Synthesis Interest Group	
Coordinators	Deborah McWhinney (UNFPA), Ben Murphy (UNDP), Shivit Bakrania (UNICEF)
Nature of work	Mapping of on-going synthesis-related work, exchange of practices, discussion of challenges
Results achieved	Mapping completed, presentations of different types of synthesis work to the members (e.g. synthesizing agency-specific evaluation evidence; synthesizing agency-specific evidence from evaluations and research studies; inter-agency syntheses) and a discussion of different approaches to key challenges (quality assurance of individual studies, inclusion/exclusion criteria, recommendations).
Group's contribution to the Strategic Objective	The mapping of recent synthesis-related work and sharing of experiences, including methodological issues, were key contributions to professional development and capacity. Previously, synthesis work had not been captured or discussed. There is clearly a need and demand for this within UNEG.
Points for discussion at the AGM	Changing the status from an IG to a WG.
Decision(s) to be taken at the AGM	Continuation of the group and change of status from an IG to a WG.
Work Planning next steps	
Proposed group coordinators 2023	Deborah, Ben and Shiv are all willing to continue co-coordinating this group.
Areas for future/ continued work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish the mapping of UNEG member's synthesis-related work; • Develop a technical note on synthesis work in the UN to include the following: principles, different definitions, minimum requirements for different types of syntheses (agency-specific evaluation evidence only, evaluation + research evidence, inter-agency syntheses), "good practice" examples, what to include in an evaluation to enable syntheses; • Gathering and sharing resource materials – e.g. training course that was developed by Innocenti Research Centre for the use of UNEG members; creating a repository of materials/guidance developed by UNEG members and in other sectors; • Convene a 1-day conference/workshop on synthesis work for UNEG members (virtual using the EPE structure); • Represent UNEG work in conferences on evidence synthesis (e.g. What Works Global Summit)
Estimated funding requirement/ budget request	\$15,000 requested for: i) communications expert to design publishable material being developed by the group; and, ii) consultant to help draft the technical note.

SO2 Decentralized Evaluation Interest Group

Coordinators:	Leslie Thomas (UNRWA); Valentina Prospero (UNICEF)
Nature of work:	Peer-to-peer exchange, sharing information on DE function management approaches, insights on lessons learned and good practices influencing decentralized evaluation quality and use.
Results achieved	<p>In 2022, the DEIG members met for four thematic discussions on topics of mutual interest. Presentations generally involved DEIG members sharing information on Agency context, approaches used, resource requirements, results and lessons. Presentation documents are available through the UNEG Decentralized Evaluation document repository. Discussions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO’s decentralized evaluation model development. Information on the model being used by the FAO Office of Evaluation (OED) for decentralized project evaluations. • UNICEF Evaluation Management Response (EMR) lessons. UNICEF presented on their policy, technical guidance developed to support decentralized evaluation managers with EMR activities, and their information management system supporting EMR follow-up and the tracking and reporting of implementation status. • Outsourced, external quality assurance. Staff from WFP and ILO involved in the commissioning and management of outsourced quality assurance activities presented on what their agencies outsourced (e.g. formative reviews of ToRs, formative/summative of reports), experiences and lessons, costs and results. Guests included Craig Russon from ILO, and Mona Selim and Alexandra Priebe from WFP. • Capacity building approaches, results and lessons. featuring presentations from IOM and UNFPA on the approaches they use to develop capacity, results achieved, investments made and lessons. Experiences using in-person and blended learning programmes, as well as lessons and results with written guidance and evaluation management tools. Guest speakers included Katia Barrech, an M&E Capacity Building Officer from IOM, and Louis Charpentier, an Evaluation Adviser with UNFPA. <p>Progress was not made in managing an update of the 2020 DE Function Mapping Document. It is suggested this task be carried forward to the 2023 work plan.</p>
Group’s contribution to the Strategic Objective	Peer-to-peer exchange on experiences, lessons and results in the management of DE function, supporting members in their DE leadership and oversight roles.
Work Planning next steps	
Proposed group coordinators 2023	<p>Volunteers need to be identified for 2023.</p> <p>Leslie Thomas and Valentina Prospero will organize the first meeting in 2023.</p>
Areas for future/ continued work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct an EPE in early 2023. • Establish a working group to support the management of the revisions to the 2020 mapping. • Meet quarterly in peer-to-peer exchange discussions on DE functional management approaches and experiences.

SO2 Evaluation Practice Exchange Seminar Organising Committee

Coordinators	Geeta Batra (GEF)
Nature of work	Organizing the UNEG Evaluation Practice Exchange 2022-2023
Results achieved	<p>In mid-2022, the OC agreed that the EPE should offer both virtual and in-person sessions given uncertainties about COVID-19 restrictions. The overall theme adopted for the EPE was “Evaluation for Transformational Change and Greater Sustainability”.</p> <p>A brief survey was sent to UNEG work group conveners to gather feedback on the theme and views on the type and duration of their sessions. The survey also asked whether a Professional Development Day should be re-introduced. All UNEG work groups were asked to provide expressions of interest in August 2022. New to the EPE was the invitation to agencies, through the UNEG Heads, to organise a session.</p> <p>A total of 27 preliminary EPE proposals were received. GEF IEO recruited a consultant in July 2022 to help with organizing both the virtual and in-person EPE sessions. The consultant’s tasks were to support the EPE OC, schedule the sessions, liaise with Group coordinators, and provide feedback on presentations.</p> <p>In December 2022, it was decided to cancel the in-person sessions and complete the outstanding EPE sessions virtually.</p> <p>Seven virtual EPE sessions were held from November-December 2022. A further three are confirmed in January 2023. 13 more sessions are expected to take place during between late January-March 2023. Three EPE sessions were cancelled.</p>
Group’s contribution to the Strategic Objective	The UNEG EPE continues to provide a major platform for exchanging lessons learned and sharing of experience on a peer-to-peer basis. The inclusion of Agency contributions has helped broaden the scope of the EPE and also provided a venue for joint presentations.
Points for discussion at the AGM	<p>The virtual format is now been well established and commands interest. All groups manage registration, invitations and presentation of their sessions. Recordings of the sessions are uploaded to the UNEG YouTube site.</p> <p>There is considerable interest to return to an in-person EPE format as the networking dimension is a major attraction for UNEG members.</p> <p>Furthermore, some groups have expressed an interest to re-establish a summer session for the UNEG Evaluation Week.</p> <p>There was limited interest to organise sessions for the Professional Development Day which may be a point for discussions and consideration at the AGM.</p>
Decision(s) to be taken at the AGM	Topic for an overarching theme for the EPE 2024

Financial Reporting

Direct financial contributions:

Member Agency	Amount
GEF-IEO	\$29,250
Total direct contributions	\$29,250

Work Planning next steps

Proposed group coordinators 2023	In line with past practices, the hosts of the AGM serve as coordinators of the EPE OC.
Areas for future/ continued work	Agreement on an overarching theme for the EPE 2024
Estimated funding requirement/ budget request	TBC

Strategic Objective 3: Evaluation informs UN system-wide initiatives and emerging demands

SO3 Humanitarian Evaluations Interest Group (HEIG)

Coordinators	Laura Olsen (UNICEF) and Sara Holst (FAO)
Nature of work	Sharing good practices and learning insights on key issues and challenges related to humanitarian evaluations – currently revising the UNEG/HEIG Guidance for Evaluating the Humanitarian Principles
Results achieved	<p>Revitalisation of the group by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Exchanging practices related to i) how to evaluate humanitarian principles during an evaluation and ii) challenges in evaluating activities contributing to humanitarian-peace-development Nexus ✓ Organizing two Evaluation Practice Exchange (EPE) sessions in February and March 2023 to share experiences and stimulate interest and participation from non-humanitarian colleagues.
Group's contribution to the Strategic Objective	<p>The HEIG is working in line with SO3, Influence Policy-making and Operational Work through Evaluations <i>“For evaluations to make greater contributions to organizational learning, informed decision-making processes and accountability for results (UNEG Norm 2), both the UN evaluation community and individual evaluation units must seek to enhance the use and influence of evaluations within and outside the UN system.</i></p> <p>In particular, through its work the HEIG aims to contribute to the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>(a) Support the development of policy frameworks, institutional set-ups and governance, normative standards and methodological guidance;</i> <i>(b) Engage with and present evaluation products to governing bodies, Member States, management apparatus, and other key stakeholders within and outside the UN system;</i> <i>(e) Constitute evaluation coalitions or joint platforms to support/coordinate joint or SWE efforts and products relevant for each SDG as well as other system-wide agendas (e.g. humanitarian assistance, HIV/AIDS).</i>

Financial Reporting

Contributions from UNEG funds:

Amount requested	Amount approved	Amount spent	Balance
USD 20,000	USD 20,000	See below	USD 20,000

Comments: UNICEF committed USD 20,000 for the revision of guidance material on evaluating the humanitarian principles. This amount will be reimbursed using the UNEG funds requested in Q1 2023.

Work Planning next steps

Proposed group coordinators 2023	Laura Olsen, UNICEF and Sara Holst, FAO
---	---

Areas for future/ continued work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize, publish and disseminate the guidance among practitioners (within and outside UNEG) • Collect good practices, agency experiences and tips to enable implementation and use of the guidance • Knowledge • sharing events around the key themes promoted by the group (Evaluate Humanitarian Principles and Evaluation Humanitarian-Peace-Development Nexus) • Continued exploration of methods being used by humanitarian evaluators outside of the UN context – e.g. building on examples from the non-governmental sector in evaluating humanitarian principles and HDP Nexus. • Commission a paper on evaluating the HDP nexus
Estimated funding requirement/ budget request	<p>USD45,000 to engage two consultants to develop a paper on approaches for evaluating the HDP nexus.</p>

SO3 COVID-19 Working Group

Coordinators	Mona Fetouh (UNICEF) and Carlos Tarazona (FAO)
Nature of work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective of the WG is a coordinated UN evaluation agenda around COVID-19 in partnership with other networks (COVID-19 Global Evaluation Coalition, ALNAP, etc.). It is also to ensure that UNEG capitalizes on the lessons learned in evaluation management and practice in the context of COVID-19 and the potential sustainability and efficiencies and effectiveness issues associated with these new-ways-of-working. The work in 2022 has focused on coordination both within UNEG and with partner networks, compilation and analysis of COVID-19 evaluations, and knowledge sharing.
Results achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping UNEG member COVID-19 related evaluations. This exercise was a continuation of the work done in 2020 and 2021 and consisted in identifying evaluations with a COVID-19 focus or component planned, undertaken or completed in 2022, with the aim of facilitating joint evaluative or synthesis work¹ and identifying coverage gaps. This exercise resulted in the identification of over 700 COVID-19 related evaluations in the UN, out of which over 120 were already completed by the end of 2022. An analysis of UNEG COVID-19 related evaluations (i.e., including elements such as thematic and geographic focus, status, and commissioning agency) was undertaken with in-kind support from some WG members, and is attached to this report. It has also been shared with UNEG colleagues to aid future synthesis work, such as the planned SDG Global Synthesis Coalition. Engagement with the OECD-DAC COVID-19 Coalition and ALNAP. This has included attendance at bi-monthly Core Group and Coalition meetings and engagement in Coalition exercises including the preparation of Terms of Reference for the <i>Strategic Joint Evaluation of the Collective International Development and Humanitarian Assistance Response to COVID-19</i>. The WG has also been engaged with ALNAP's COVID-19 Portal by sharing reports and resources. Compilation of the list of COVID-19 related evaluations was undertaken in coordination with both the Coalition and ALNAP and has been featured on the portals of both networks. Work in guidance and knowledge sharing: the UNEG COVID-19 repository continues to serve as a hub for facilitating access to information on completed COVID-19 related evaluations. In addition, the WG organized an Evaluation Practice Exchange (EPE) session in December 2022: <i>Reaching the most vulnerable: what did we learn from the COVID19 pandemic?</i> The EPE was an opportunity for UNEG members to share experiences, good practices and lessons learnt on how they were able (or not) to reach the most vulnerable during COVID-19 times. The session was well-attended and raised expectations about possible follow-up work on methodological guidance for reaching the most vulnerable.
Group's contribution to the Strategic Objective	<p>The WG has contributed to the following aspects of SO3 objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the development of policy frameworks, institutional set-ups and governance, normative standards and methodological guidance; Set up and promote the evaluation agenda to stakeholders, including through annual (partnership) forums; Constitute evaluation coalitions or joint platforms to support/coordinate joint or SWE efforts and products relevant for each SDG as well as other system-wide agendas (e.g. humanitarian assistance, HIV/AIDS); and,

¹ The system-wide evaluation (SWE) of the UN development system response to COVID-19 reportedly made use of this information in their analysis.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide practical advice and support to enhance the use of and learning from evaluations (e.g. by promoting open dissemination of evaluation reports) and further developing the understanding of the ways to enhance the use of evaluations (e.g. enhanced use of new media and information technology, improved presentation of evaluations and their results, knowledge management).
Points for discussion at the AGM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spurred by the EPE, there is a proposal to conduct further work on methodological guidance for reaching the most vulnerable. Given its relevance for UNEG evaluations at large, this proposal could potentially be considered by the Methods Interest Group in their 2023 work-plan. While many UN members have already completed evaluations of their COVID-19 responses (including the SWE), and may thus not need a platform to share knowledge and experiences anymore, it may still be beneficial for UNEG to continue having a WG (or a dedicated task force) on COVID-19. This WG could for example continue to facilitate engagement with the COVID-19 Global Evaluation Coalition (at least until the end of the joint strategic evaluation and the planned country-level evaluations), and advocate that future synthesis and/or joint work build on the evidence emerging from UNEG COVID-19 related evaluations.
Decision(s) to be taken at the AGM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The WG engagement in the OECD-DAC led COVID-19 Evaluation Coalition The WG follow-up work on methodological guidance for reaching the most vulnerable

Financial Reporting

Contributions from UNEG funds:

Amount requested	Amount approved	Amount spent	Balance
\$10,000	\$10,000	0	0

Comments: The cost of mapping UNEG evaluations on COVID-19 was absorbed by some participating agencies.

In-kind contributions: Significant in-kind contributions to the group's activities

Member Agency	Type of contribution
FAO, UN/OIOS, UNICEF, UNAIDS	Staff time

Work Planning next steps

Proposed group coordinators 2023	Lilia Ormonbekova (OIOS) and Carlos Tarazona (FAO) volunteer to organize the first meeting in 2023
Areas for future/ continued work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued engagement with OECD-DAC and ALNAP, including coordination of involvement in the joint strategic evaluation. Potential work on methodological guidance for reaching the most vulnerable (together with Methods IG)

SO3 UNSDCF Working Group

Coordinators	Rana Sallam (WFP) and Patricia Vidal Hurtado (ILO)
Nature of work	Evaluation related guidance and templates produced on ad hoc basis to supplement the joint UNEG-DCO UNSDCF evaluation guidelines to assure the quality of UNSDCF evaluations and support related capacity strengthening activities.
Results achieved	<p>Evaluation related guidance material quality assured jointly with DCO, including the Spanish and French version of the joint UNEG-DCO guidelines for the evaluation of the UNSDCFs.</p> <p>Development of a survey for users of the evaluation guidelines: The UNEG WG produced guidelines for the evaluation of the UNSDCF in 2021. The AGM 2022 agreed on revisiting the guidelines in 2024. The guidelines document has since been used by DCO and further supplemented with relevant templates and checklists. The WG has prepared a survey for clients of UNSDCF to capture the perspectives and experiences of those responsible for managing and conducting UNSDCF evaluations with the aim to ensure that good practice and learnings are incorporated into future UNSDCF evaluations, and inputs are used to inform future revisions of the Evaluation Guidelines and development of supplementary technical guidance documents. The survey will be administered by DCO, and held institutionally at UNEG Secretariat level. Data analysis will be carried out by the WG.</p> <p>The WG is also partnering with the NECD and the Partnerships WGs to create a roster of national evaluators.</p>
Decision(s) to be taken at the AGM	Review and agree the proposed 2023 work plan for the Working Group (see below).

Financial Reporting

In-kind contributions: Significant in-kind contributions to the group's activities

Member Agency	Type of contribution
ILO, WFP, OIOS, UNDP	Evaluation related guidance material quality assured. Preparation of the survey for clients of UNSDCF (to be administered by DCO, and institutionally held at UNEG level).

Work Planning next steps

Proposed group coordinators 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convener of the first meeting to be identified at the AGM. • 2023 coordinators to be elected at first meeting.
Areas for future/ continued work	<p>The continuation of current activities will be foreseen in the work plan for 2023, notably on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalization of the survey set-up, coordination with DCO for its administration, and analysing survey results. • Based on the survey results, and or further liaison with DCO, develop 1-2 complementary guidance to the UNSDCF evaluation guidelines and any other relevant material for the dissemination and increased uptake and use of the guidelines. • Continue ensuring the alignment and consistency between any documents/checklists that DCO independently develops/disseminates separately to the UNEG WG.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support increased uptake of UNSDCF evaluation results through participation in meetings, workshops, and other fora, organized by the DCO or meetings organized by UN regional evaluation networks to promote and strengthen capacities concerning UNSDCF evaluations. • Collaborate with NECD WG and other partners to contribute to exploring and developing of roster/database of evaluators.
Estimated funding requirement/ budget request:	USD 400 to upgrade UNEG’s Survey Monkey account to the “advantage annual plan” to meet the technical needs of the survey designed by the WG (i.e., current SM account of UNEG is limited to a max of 10 questions only).

SO3 National Evaluation Capacity Development (NECD) Working Group	
Coordinators	Renata Mirulla (FAO), Heather Bryant (UNDP), Grace Igweta (WFP), Riccardo Polastro (UNICEF)
Nature of work	Finalizing, publishing and disseminating report on implementation of the UNGA Resolution on evaluation capacity development, developing and implementing a matrix of actions in response to the report recommendations, collecting and disseminating good practices.
Results achieved:	<p>Report on implementation of the UNGA Resolution published and briefs prepared in English, French and Spanish and published.</p> <p>The report and recommendations disseminated through several events (and multiple individual exchanges and agency meetings) including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14th EES Biennial Conference “Evaluation at a Watershed: Actions and Shifting Paradigms for Challenging Times”, session on “<i>Building Evaluation Systems to Transform Development Outcomes: Learning from Experiences of the UN Evaluation Group</i>” - June 2022 • gLOCAL Evaluation Week webinar on “<i>Are we advancing National Evaluation Capacities for the SDGs? Lessons from the United Nations Evaluation Group</i>” - June 2022 • ReLAC Conference. Discussion on interpretation and follow-up of the NECD report on implementation of the UNGA Resolution with the Latin America and Caribbean Network for Evaluation (ReLAC) - November 2022 • NEC Conference Session B6 on “Supporting the development of National Evaluation Systems”. The Turin Agenda resulting from the NEC Conference and which reflects a collective commitment on the part of participants, including many UNEG members, echoes the values and principles in the UNEG report, including support to create inclusive and transparent systems that actively engage stakeholders, including government, citizens and civil society; an emphasis on gender equality and social inclusiveness in evaluations and evaluation systems; and a commitment to strengthen partnerships and redouble efforts of resilient, agile, flexible, adaptable and forward-looking national evaluation and statistical systems - October 2022 UNEG EPE session “National Evaluation Capacity Development: we can all do it” - December 2022 • UN Network for Evaluation in Sub-Saharan Africa (UNNESSA) UNNESSA brown bag lunch webinar – Nov 2022 • UN DESA virtual knowledge exchange on Voluntary National Reporting – December 2022 <p>Findings and recommendations have been used by agency evaluation capacity development initiatives (UNICEF, WFP).</p> <p>The UNEG NECD report has been referenced in publications such as WFP lessons brief on NECD initiatives and in the Evaluation in every nation interactive report (WFP). https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000143946/download/?_ga=2.92358810.66660195.1672844320-184068253.1667396643</p> <p>Engagement with the Global Evaluation Initiative and agreement to jointly research options for creating a database of or other mechanisms to facilitate identification of national evaluators</p> <p>The Working Group expanded to include 10 agencies, which demonstrates increasing interest in the topic.</p>
Group’s contribution to the Strategic Objective	The group is working in line with SO3, specifically “ <i>UNEG will seek to raise the awareness of the importance of evaluation in decision-making processes and support initiatives to support their use at the ... country level...</i> ” and “ <i>...by promoting and supporting the use of evaluation by national partners and stakeholders...</i> ”. The report prepared by the Working Group in 2021 and finalized and disseminated in 2022 highlights lessons learned and recommendations for UNEG going forward in

	terms of strengthening national evaluation systems – either indirectly through conducting UN evaluations in a developmental way (i.e. that contribute to the development of national capacities in the process) or providing programmatic support to the development of national systems and capacities.
Points for discussion at the AGM	<p>The NECD Working Group would like to remind the AGM of the report’s recommendations, approved at the AGM 2022, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All UN agency country programme evaluations and UNSDCF evaluations should include the meaningful presence of national governments in management structures • When feasible, UN agencies should foster joint and country-led evaluations. • In countries with national evaluation systems, UN agencies should consider using national evaluation plans, guidelines, standards and other relevant elements in the conduct of their own evaluations <p>UN agencies should commit to increase the numbers, and strengthen the capacity, of local evaluators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN agencies and their evaluation functions should continue to support the capacity development of national evaluation ecosystems • UN agencies should explicitly include NECD as part of their mandates, incorporated into their evaluation policies, and allocate time and resources at corporate, regional and country levels. At least 10 percent of evaluation resources should be allocated to NECD. • UN agencies should ensure inter-agency information sharing, coordination and collaboration on NECD at corporate, regional and country levels. • At country level, UN agencies should include NECD as an explicit part of individual agency country programmes and of the UNSDCF <p>Implementing these recommendations requires the commitment and engagement of heads of agencies. The NECD Working Group stands ready to advise/work with any agency that is interested in strengthening its contribution to NECD, including through reviews of draft policies, guidelines, quality assessment tools, etc. In the absence of any specific requests, the Working Group proposes to focus in 2023 on collecting and disseminating good practices, agency experiences and tips on NECD to facilitate implementation of the report recommendations and on collaborating with the GEI on a possible evaluator’s database.</p> <p>Point of note to the AGM: Procurement/recruitment and organizing events by working groups is very cumbersome, as members have no support/communications/IT staff and have to rely on help from their agency colleagues, for whom UNEG work is not a priority. Valuable time in working group meetings has to be devoted to practical/logistical matters, making it difficult to advance on substantive items.</p>
Decision(s) to be taken at the AGM	The AGM reiterates its support for the recommendations of the UNEG report on <i>United Nations contributions to national evaluation capacity development and the evolution of national evaluation systems</i> . Several members commit to using the report as a key reference to develop their NECD strategies, and to present their strategies to the NECD Working Group. Members of the AGM commit to sharing good practices on NECD with the WG.

Financial Reporting

Contributions from UNEG funds:

Amount requested	Amount approved	Amount spent	Balance
------------------	-----------------	--------------	---------

\$18,000		\$7,650 ²	\$10,350
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Output 1 (report) – request for \$18,000. The group decided not to publish the case studies as originally planned, so expenditures were less than planned. Output 2 (matrix of actions) – request for \$15,000. Draft developed, but work undertaken by the group rather than engaging any consultants, so no expenditure, as communicated to the Secretariat in September. Output 3 (collecting good practices) – request for \$10,000. Collection initiated, but production of any documents pushed to next year (2023), as communicated to the Secretariat in September. 			
In-kind contributions: Significant in-kind contributions to the group’s activities			
Member Agency		Type of contribution	
UNDP, FAO, WFP, UNICEF and others		Time, dedication, dissemination of the report recommendations at conferences and events.	
Work Planning next steps			
Proposed group coordinators 2023	Heather Bryant volunteers to call the first meeting in 2023, at which time the group will be invited to select its coordinators for 2023.		
Areas for future/ continued work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize tasks in the matrix of actions and refine strategy for 2023. Continue collecting good practices, agency experiences and tips to enable implementation of the report recommendations and the key strategic areas of the NECD theory of change (engage a consultant to assist in compilation and presentation of the good practices; \$10,000). Knowledge sharing events around these themes. Collaboration with the GEI to develop and share knowledge products and resources on NECD, including a study on needs for and possible approaches to developing an evaluators’ database (\$10,000). 		
Estimated funding requirement/ budget request	\$20,000 (as per bullet points above)		

² \$ 2,850 – design and layout of main report in March/April (FAO); \$3,300 – editing of the full report (UNDP); \$ 1,500 – NECD briefs in 3 languages and printed copies for conferences (FAO).

SO3 Peacebuilding Working Group

Coordinators: Vijaya Vadivelu (UNDP), Tim Heine (PBSO) and Fumika Ouchi (UNDP)

Nature of work: The Group's two objectives were to:

- i. Take stock of resource material available on 'peacebuilding' currently scattered across various UN agencies (incl. 'concept of peacebuilding,' 'evaluation reports,' training opportunities); and
- ii. Help expand individual and/or organizational knowledge and skills in methodological approaches for evaluating peacebuilding programmes and efforts.

Work was carried out by two sub-groups (workstreams 1 and 2) as summarized below:

Outcomes	Outputs	Activities	Modalities	Agencies responsible for facilitating discussions
1. Improved availability of resource material for the effective and efficient conduct and management of peacebuilding evaluations in the UN system	System-wide capacity and resource mapping of PB evaluations	<p>WS1-i) Map available capacities for PB evaluations across the UN system to assess where such capacity exists within Agencies, Funds and Programmes (AFPs) and Secretariat bodies, of the gaps and of barriers or bottlenecks for connecting those with capacity to those who need support.</p> <p>WS1-ii) Map available reference material, guidance notes, resources information, and training opportunities on PB evaluations to help those preparing to undertake peacebuilding evaluations.</p>	Online	PBF, UNDP, UNITAR, UN Women
2. Improved System-level capacity for conducting or managing peacebuilding evaluations	Community of Practice (CoP) established - through virtual knowledge exchanges and learning events - to improve shared understanding, knowledge and skills among UNEG members of the best practices and lessons learned in the methodology, process and approaches used in peacebuilding evaluations, including areas of support at country offices, regional offices, and HQ.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual Learning Event on Peacebuilding Evaluations (May 25) • Virtual Learning event on Evaluations of the HDP Nexus (date tbd); SDG 16; and methodology (including utility of peacebuilding evaluations) <p>*Targeted discussions/good practice exchanges on evaluation features or criteria that are unique to peacebuilding evaluations. The exchanges will lead to agreement on common standards for PB-evaluations and include inter alia how relevance is defined for PB-programming and that ToCs should demonstrate how the approach will positively affect a conflict factor (i.e., not the development/sectoral outcome).</p>	Online	UNHCR, FAO, PBF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UNICEF, IOM

Results achieved:

1. Repository of information comprising peacebuilding evaluations, training opportunities, etc developed based on inputs from some of the member agencies of the Peacebuilding Working Group (*Information contributed by PBSO, UNDP, UN Women, UNITAR, FAO, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNODC, OHCHR);

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Lesson learning session provided by the PBF on the results of its peacebuilding evaluations, presented to Working Group members; and 3. Additional activities such as webinars on lessons from HDPN evaluations and methodology used are planned. An EPE session on HDPN is organised.
Group's contribution to the Strategic Objective:	<p>The Peacebuilding Working Group was established for the first time in 2022. 'Peacebuilding' as a theme has been operationalized differently across UN agencies. Major contributions to SO3 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First attempt for various UN agencies to come together to discuss how 'peacebuilding' efforts have been programmatically operationalized at their respective agencies, how evaluations are conducted, and what the agencies can learn from the methodologies and approaches used in 'peacebuilding evaluations'. • The Group was able to launch the information repository, and one learning session, by the end of 2022; however, has not had a chance to fully engage in inter-agency, in-depth discussions on 'methodology' for peacebuilding evaluations. <p>If the Working Group continues in 2023, then the development of methodological approaches could be the focus of Group's work.</p>

Financial Reporting

In-kind contributions: Significant in-kind contributions to the group's activities

Member Agency	Type of contribution
UN/PBF; UNDP; UN Women; UNICEF; FAO; UNITAR; UNHCR; OIOS; UNODC; UNFPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDP and PBF organized and led the regular WG discussions • UN Women prepared a Google-based information repository platform • FAO and UNICEF facilitated discussions on specific peacebuilding-related evaluations led or managed by the agencies. • Other agencies participated in the regular WG meetings

Work Planning next steps

Proposed group coordinators 2023	Vijaya Vadivelu (UNDP); Fumika Ouchi (UNDP); Bushra Hassan (PBSO); Tim Heine (PBSO)
Areas for future/ continued work	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Further refinement (and expansion) of the information repository launched by the Working Group in 2022; (2) Review and in-depth discussion of methodologies used in peacebuilding evaluations; and (3) Collaboration with other similar Working Groups (e.g., Methodology; HDP Nexus) to develop a methodological guidance on evaluating peacebuilding efforts.

SO3 Use of Evaluation Interest Group	
Coordinators	Robert Stryk
Nature of work	Guidance and better understanding what gets evaluations used
Results achieved	The interest group had to be reconstituted and has started work on three different pillars. The group has mainly prepared for the work in 2023 for which the plans are more comprehensive.
Group's contribution to the Strategic Objective	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Group has relaunched its practice exchange and had one event where ILO demonstrated two of its best practices. The session was recorded however as the status of the webinar was unclear for the future the group will provide these events in the context of EPE sessions so that a wider audience can participate, and it would be possible to publish the exchange on the UNEG website. 2. The discussion on how to measure use has advanced with a clearer identification of indicators. 3. Discussion has started on how to better understand the outside perspective of use of evaluation. The group realizes that evaluators are often make assumptions about the outside perspective (outside the UN system) for evaluation that might or might not hold true. The group originally planned to present this in person at the EPE to see how much buy in or common understanding there is on this issue. The group will present this issue as a virtual EPE event after the AGM and would like to take this forward more systematically.
Points for discussion at the AGM	Any comments are welcomed especially on the way forward.
Decision(s) to be taken at the AGM	Funding for 2023
Work Planning next steps	
Proposed group coordinators 2023	Robert Stryk
Areas for future/ continued work	<p>The three areas mentioned above are planned to continue. For 2023 the tentative plans are to.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Offer a series of online events on best practices in use of evaluation to be open to all UNEG members and available afterwards as a resource. 2. Finalize a short paper on how use can be measured. This might include some guidance on how organizations can pilot these indicators. 3. Develop a paper testing the assumptions we have about the outside perception of use of evaluation to enable us to better tailor messaging on use of evaluation. This paper will require the use of a consultant to help putting this together and moving forward.
Estimated funding requirement/ budget request:	USD 20,000 for a consultant to help with the outside perspective on use of evaluation

Cross cutting work areas

Partnerships Working Group	
Coordinators	Thomas Rossmuller, Aya Shneerson, Katinka Koke
Nature of work	Discussions, document production and revision, learning opportunities, partnership facilitation
Results achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership strategy reviewed and infographic developed to align with UNEG strategy Theory of change. • Partnerships discussion organised with MOPAN and the Peer Review Working Group. • Partnership relation established with GEI. • Partnership Forum planned with GEI (currently in initial stage). • Interaction with EvalPartners in organizing a VNR Lab on 12 July 2022 with around 150 participants. • Outreach to UNEG Working Groups on partnership needs.
Group's contribution to the Strategic Objective	Crosscutting enabler
Points for discussion at the AGM	<p>For 2023, the WG plans to organise a Partnership Forum with GEI. Suggested themes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender and Inclusion in Evaluations. • Climate Change and Evaluation. • M&E in Fragility, Conflict and Violence Settings. • Youth in Evaluation. • National Evaluation Capacity Development and how to progress on the UNEG recommendations and other areas of collaboration. <p>Other questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do UNEG members have additional suggestions for themes of interest? • Do UNEG WGs have any partnership needs that the Partnership WG could support/facilitate? • Are there any other expectations or suggestions to the Partnerships WG?
Financial Reporting	
In-kind contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff time from members
Work Planning next steps	
Proposed group coordinators 2023	Thomas Rossmuller, Aya Shneerson, Katinka Koke to organize first meeting in 2023.
Areas for future/ continued work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise a Partnership Forum in 2023. • Support UNEG WGs in maintaining, strengthening, and establishing partnerships (including new ones). • Organise a webinar with MOPAN in 2023.