

Reporting by the SO1 Work Groups

Develop and Safeguard Professional Norms, Standards and Guidance

UNEG AGM 2023

Tuesday 24 January



UNEG

United Nations Evaluation Group

Strategic Objective 1 – Develop and safeguard professional norms and standards (N+S)

Background: UNEG Review (2019):

‘UNEG Norms & Standards at the heart of UNEG’s mission’; ‘can reinforce UNEG position as norms and standards setter in the international system’; ‘can support greater evaluation professionalization across UNEG’

Key Areas of Action: UNEG Strategy (2020)

- Promote the N + S (via new products, guidance to support use)
- Facilitate adherence to N+S (through self-assessment and external review)
- Develop/promote common methodologies, guidance and approaches in human rights and gender equality, ‘leaving no one behind’, evaluation use, decentralized evaluation, evaluability assessment, UNSDCF evaluations etc
- Partnerships, knowledge management, external collaboration on evaluation

Four active Working Groups in 2022 – involving 26 UN Evaluation Offices:

- Peer Review Working Group
- Ethics Working Group
- Gender/Disability/Human Rights Working Group
- Integrating Environmental and Social Impacts into evaluation Working Group

Peer Review Working Group

Coordinators: Rachel Bedouin (FAO) & Alan Fox (UNDP)

Working Group member agencies:

**FAO, UNEP, UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNITAR, UNHCR, ICC, ILO, IOM,
WIPO**



Nature of the work

- Coordinating UNEG Peer Reviews and seeking improvements in the way Peer Reviews are managed and conducted, in support of UNEG Strategies, aligned with the UNEG Norms and Standards
- Scope of the work of the PRWG expanded at the previous AGM to consider other forms of assessment of evaluation functions

Contribution to UNEG Strategic Objectives

- ‘flagship’ UNEG product, enabling Members to benefit from an external assessment of the relevance and performance of UN evaluation functions
- Responding to increasing attention to oversight and accountability from governing boards

Key activities completed/underway

- Peer review drafted in 2022 (UNICEF), completion March 2023
- 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 by March 2023, with a survey already completed and recent EPE session
- Revised UNEG Guidelines for Professional Peer Reviews; (drafted, to be finalised by Feb. 2023)

2023 planning

- Completion of the ongoing UNICEF & UNFPA Peer Reviews
- Continued efforts to strengthen and expand the UNEG Peer Review Modality: outreach to agencies not yet peer reviewed, plus a multiyear calendar of planned peer reviews
- Commitments sought from UNEG Heads and senior UN evaluators to participate in Peer Reviews Panels
- Finalization of mapping of assessment modalities
- Continuing partnerships discussions (recently initiated with MOPAN)
- Publication of guidelines and other support materials for the conduct of and follow-up to peer reviews

Points for AGM consideration

- UNEG is not achieving its target to have 100 % of members with validated self-assessments, external reviews and / or peer reviews conducted by 2024. 11 UNEG peer reviews completed since 2016, (and several agencies with 2 during this period)
- Efforts to entice greater participation through an alternate peer review modality for smaller UNEG member agencies, and expanded financial support(to \$20,000), are not yet translating to increased use
- Peer Reviews are a major time commitment for participants, and financial / consultant management modalities need to be further clarified, especially to cope with multiple simultaneous reviews.

Ethics Working Group

Coordinators: Michael Schroll (OIOS) & Vivien Knips (WFP)

Working Group member agencies:

FAO, ICC, ITC, OIOS, OPCW, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, WIPO, WMO



Key activities completed/underway against our Work Plan

- Dissemination of 2020 UNEG *Ethical Guidelines* and awareness raising continued, including well-attended session at the EES conference in June and two virtual EPE sessions in November 2022
- Three of the four planned quarterly newsletters - each for one of the four principles of the Guidelines – have been finalized and disseminated
- Stock taking exercises (consultancy, funded by WFP) re the application and utility of the Guidelines, including a UNEG member survey completed; results will also inform 2023 workplan
- Translation of the Guidelines to French, Spanish and Arabic by UN volunteers (facilitated by FAO); all three draft translations have been received and are currently being reviewed.

Broader progress against the relevant SO 1 objective in the UNEG Strategy

- The *Guidelines* promote the adherence to UNEG N&S and specify ethical considerations when commissioning, managing or conducting evaluation in the UN system, thereby strengthening evaluation practice
- The newsletters and the translation of the Guidelines will likely increase coverage/audience

Key priorities for 2023, including opportunities for partnership with other Working Groups/external partners

- Continue capacity and awareness building activities for the topic/Guidelines, especially EPE sessions, and reach out to other WGs (e.g., Peer Review WG)
- “Ethics Roadshow” of the WG with evaluation units of agencies for feedback, plus specific focus on regional/field offices
- Finalize and disseminate the fourth newsletter as well as the translated versions of the Guidelines with a focus on exploring new/additional channels of dissemination



Gender Equality, Disability and Human Rights Working Group

Coordinators: Tara Kaul (UN Women) & Sabas Monroy (OHCHR)

Working Group member agencies:

ESCWA, FAO, GEF, IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITC, OHCHR, OIOS, UN Women, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNITAR, UNOCT, UNODC, WFP



- **Nature of work:** Guidance, analysis and exchange on integration of gender equality, disability inclusion and human rights in evaluations.
- **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.

Results achieved

- **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.
- **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.

Results achieved (cont.)

- **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.
- **Integration of gender equality in evaluations.** Report on UN-SWAP EPI was reviewed by working group members and published. Ongoing support provided.

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.

Integrating Environmental and Social Impact into Evaluations Working Group

**Coordinators: Juha Uitto (GEF), Mike Spilsbury (UNEP) &
Nanthi Nanthikesan (IFAD)**

**Working Group member agencies:
FAO, GEF, IFAD, ILO, IOM, OIOS, UN Women, UNDP, UNEP,
UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, WFP, WHO**



ESI Agenda

Nature of work:

- Development of norms, standards and guidance

Contribution to the Strategic 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

Results Achieved

- In earlier phases, stocktaking and analysis of UNEG members' evaluation policies and practice
- Current phase developed an approach to preparing guidelines for Integrating Environmental Considerations into Evaluations

Areas for Future/ Continued Work

- Finalize guidelines for Integrating Environmental Considerations into Evaluations
- Web-based, modular