



# Co-Creating Recommendations: Collaborative Approaches for Improved Evaluation Use

26th November, 2024

## Overview

As part of the series of webinars on good practices for evaluation use, the **UNEG Working Group on Evaluation Use** organized a webinar on collaborative approaches in co-creating recommendations. WHO shared examples from recent evaluations to illustrate stakeholder engagement in developing recommendations, situating these within participatory evaluation processes and highlighting lessons learned. UNFPA presented the procedure and tool for co-creating recommendations from its Evaluation Handbook, underlining how participatory approaches help ensure that they are actionable.

## Speakers

- **Anand Sivasankara Kurup**, Senior Evaluation Officer, WHO Evaluation Office
- **Louis Charpentier**, Lead, Decentralized Evaluation Team, UNFPA Independent Evaluation Office

[LINK TO RECORDING](#)

## CONSIDERATIONS FOR EFFECTIVE CO-CREATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### Embedding co-creation in participatory evaluation

- Co-creation **workshops that bring together evaluators** and intended users are an effective means to develop relevant, contextualized and feasible recommendations through dialogue and consensus building.
- Co-creating recommendations is most **effective when stakeholders are engaged from the outset** of the evaluation process, ensuring the evaluation aligns with their needs and priorities.
- Co-creation workshops expand stakeholders' **ownership of recommendations** and build their **capacity to interpret evaluation findings** and develop practical solutions that are tailored to their context.

### Balancing independence and utility

- While co-creation ensures that recommendations are contextualized and feasible, they **must remain evidence-based** to maintain the credibility of the evaluation.
- Developing recommendations through a **dedicated process**, separate from finalizing the evaluation findings and conclusions, fosters collaboration while preserving the independence of the evaluation.
- Co-creation workshops require careful **management of conflicts of interest** and competing agendas among stakeholders, especially in politically sensitive evaluations.

### Operationalising recommendations

- Collecting stakeholder input through tools like **recommendation worksheets** before co-creation workshops helps to structure feedback and allows efficient time management during workshops.
- Including **diverse stakeholders** with relevant expertise in co-creation workshops is essential to incorporate multiple perspectives and draft actionable recommendations.
- Developing recommendations that provide clear and **practical steps for implementation**, informed by stakeholder input, enhances their utility.

*The webinar concluded with a [Q&A session](#) in which aspects of independence, credibility and recommendation quality were further discussed. Overall, the session highlighted the value of participatory methods in crafting recommendations that are more likely to be accepted and implemented by intended users.*