Reporting by the SO3 Work Groups

Influence Policy-making and Operational Work through Evaluations

UNEG AGM 2023

Tuesday 24 January

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United Nations Evaluation Group

UNSDCF Working Group

Coordinators: Rana Sallam (WFP) & Patricia Vidal Hurtado (ILO)

Working Group Member Agencies:
DCO, FAO, ILO, IOM, OIOS, UN Women, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNOCT, WFP

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Planned outputs and related results (2022)

- Three outputs:
  - Application of the UNSDCF evaluation guidelines
  - Evaluation related guidance and templates produced
  - Increased uptake of UNSDCF evaluation results
- Main results:
  - Evaluation related guidance material quality assured
  - Ad-hoc technical support to UNSDCF evaluations by members of the WG
  - Development of a survey for users of the evaluation guidelines
  - Partnerships with other WGs

Points for discussion/consideration

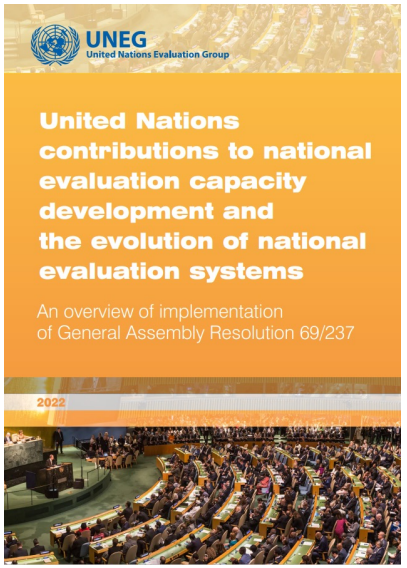
Continuation of WG activities in 2023, with a focus on:

- Survey
- Development of 1-2 complementary guidance
- Support increased uptake of UNSDCF evaluation results through participation in meetings, workshops, etc.
- Collaboration with other UNEG WGs and other partners (NECD, Partnerships)

National Evaluation Capacity Development (NECD) Working Group

Co-coordinators

Grace Igweta (WFP)
Heather Bryant (UNDP)
Renata Mirulla (FAO)
Riccardo Polastro (UNICEF)



Working Group member agencies:

DCO, FAO, ILO, OHCHR, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, UN Women, WFP

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Key results in 2022

- **Publication** of the report + briefs (E/F/S)
- Recommendations **disseminated**:
  - European Evaluation Society
  - gLOCAL Week
  - NEC Conference
  - ReLAC Conference
  - UNEG EPE
  - Other UN knowledge exchanges and agency-level presentations
- Agreement with GEI to jointly research options for a database of national evaluators

Key Recommendations (reminder)

- All UN country programme/UNSCDF evaluations should include **the meaningful presence of national governments in management structures**
- When feasible, UN agencies should foster **joint and country-led evaluations**.
- UN agencies should consider **using national evaluation plans, guidelines, standards and other elements** in the conduct of their own evaluations
- UN agencies should commit to increase the numbers, and strengthen the capacity, of **local/national evaluators**
- UN agencies and their evaluation functions should continue to support the **capacity development of national evaluation systems**

Key Recommendations (reminder)

- UN agencies should include **NECD** as part of their mandates, incorporated into their **evaluation policies**, and allocate time and resources at all 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 **UNSDCFs**

Where is your agency ready to commit?

menti.com code **3668 2178**

Results:
https://www.mentimeter.com/app/presentation/alao58r2nx8twyxyx74yusgt4gaft6ij

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Humanitarian Evaluation Interest Group

Coordinators: Sara Holst (FAO) & Laura Olsen (UNICEF)

Working Group Member Agencies:
FAO, IOM, OCHA, OIOS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, WFP, WHO

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Humanitarian Evaluation Interest Group

Nature of work: Guidance, analysis and exchange on various aspects and challenges of evaluating humanitarian action.

Group's contribution to the Strategic Objective:

- Support the development of normative standards and methodological guidance;
- Engage with and present evaluation-related products key stakeholders within and outside the UN system;
- Constitute evaluation coalitions or joint platforms to support/coordinate joint efforts.

Results 2022

- Group's leadership and membership updated mid-2022
- From HE "Interest" to "Working" Group
- Updating the draft guidance on ***evaluating the humanitarian principles***; draft expected by April
- EPE event on evaluating the humanitarian principles in March

Looking forward 2023

- Collaborating with other Peacebuilding Working Group on an approach paper to ***evaluating the humanitarian-development-peace nexus***
- EPE event on the same in February
- Engaging ALNAP on upcoming synthesis of HDP nexus
- Exploring themes of future IASC thematic evaluations

COVID-19 Working Group

Coordinators: Mona Fetouh (UNICEF) &
Carlos Tarazona (FAO)

Working Group Member Agencies:
FAO, GEF, ILO, OIOS, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, WFP, WHO, WMO

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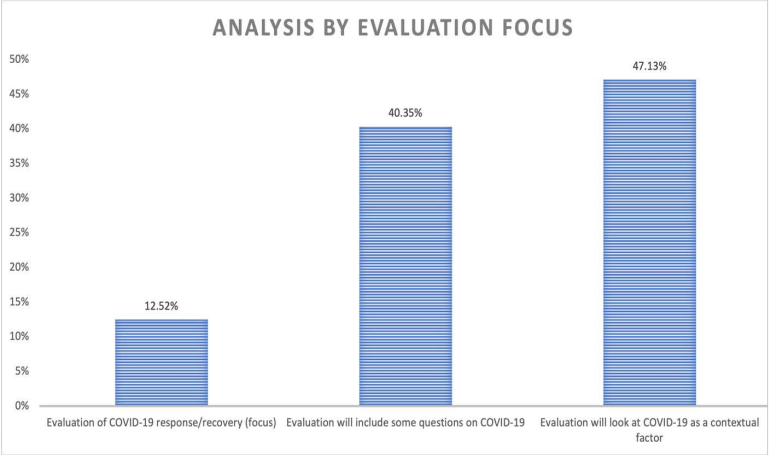
Introduction:

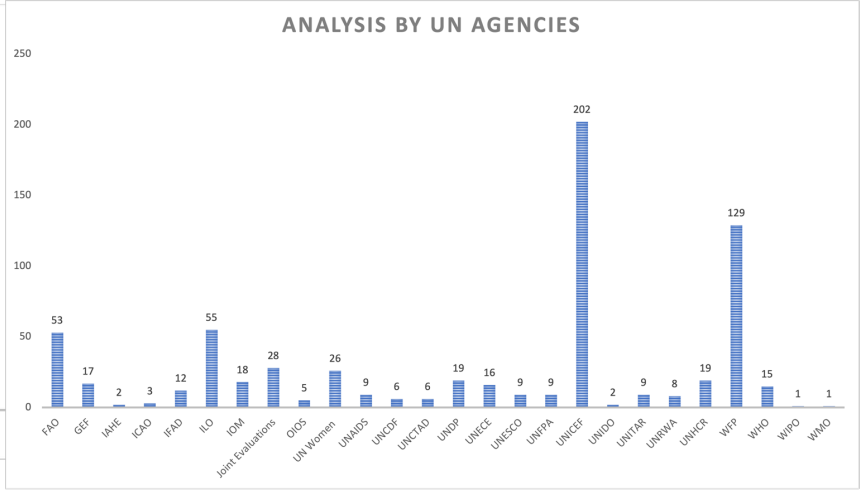
- **Objective:** The WG works to ensure coordinated UN evaluation agenda around COVID-19. This includes sharing lessons learned in evaluation practice in the context of COVID-19, coordinating COVID-19 evaluative activity within UNEG and with partner networks and promoting the sustainability of these new-ways-of-working.

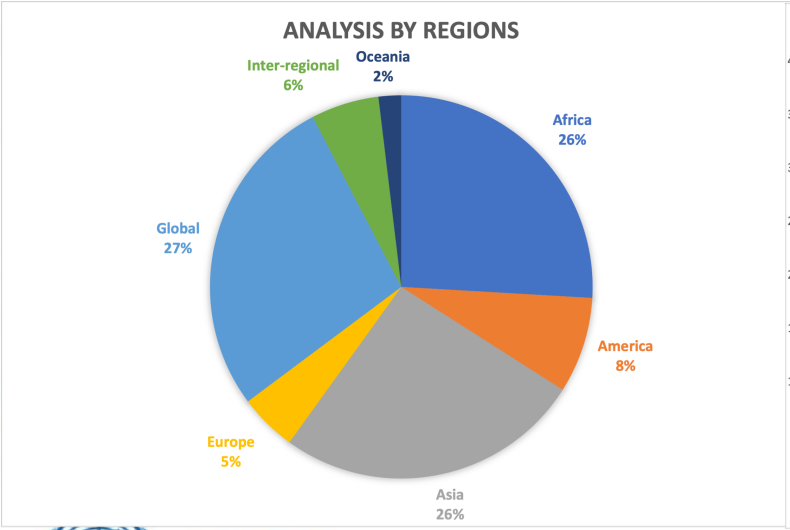
Key activities in 2022:

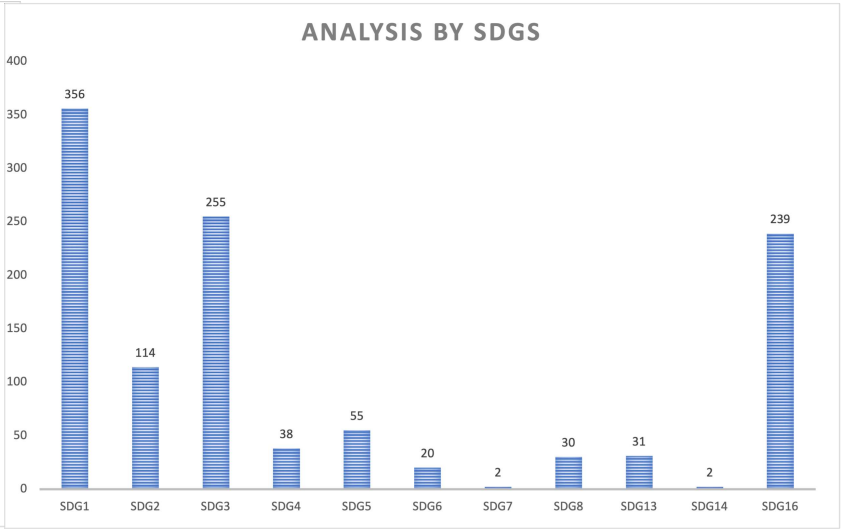
- Mapping of UNEG member COVID-19 related evaluations, and gap analysis
- Close engagement with network partners, including the OECD-DAC COVID Coalition and ALNAP
- Guidance and knowledge sharing on COVID-19-related evaluation practice

Example charts from the mapping









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Knowledge sharing on COVID-19-related evaluation practice

Main areas discussed at EPE session:

- Data collection methods applied during the pandemic and in the context of travel restrictions and social distance
- Lessons learned in terms of ensuring that voices of the most vulnerable groups of populations were heard throughout evaluation processes

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Points for discussion:

- Proposal to conduct further work on methodological guidance for reaching the most vulnerable. Given its wider relevance, this could potentially be under the Methods Interest Group.
- Despite COVID-19 evaluative work slowing down, there is continued value in having a WG (or Task Force) on COVID-19 to facilitate engagement with the COVID-19 Global Coalition until the end of the joint strategic evaluation and the planned country-level evaluations, and advocate for/facilitate future synthesis and/or joint work building on the evidence emerging from UNEG COVID-19 related evaluations.

Decision(s) to be taken at the AGM (if any):

- WG continuation and engagement in the OECD-DAC COVID-19 Coalition
- Follow-up work on methodological guidance for reaching the most vulnerable

Peacebuilding Working Group

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

Working Group Member Agencies:
FAO, GEF, IOM, OHCHR, OIOS, PBSO, UN Women, UNDP, UNHCR, UNITAR

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Peacebuilding Working Group

Key streams of Peacebuilding Working Group

Work Stream 1.

- Improved availability of resource material for the effective and efficient conduct (and management) of peacebuilding evaluations in the UN system
- (Key activities: Knowledge sharing, Mapping of peacebuilding définition and evaluation methods used; EPE on mapping)

Work Stream 2.

- Improved System-level capacity for conducting or managing peacebuilding and HDPN evaluations
- (Webinars in HDPN evaluation (planned for 2023) and EPE on HDPN evaluations)

Areas for 2023 work

1. Expand the peacebuilding evaluations repository
2. Start mapping of HDPN evaluation approaches among UN agencies
3. Knowledge sharing/exchange on peacebuilding and HDPN evaluations

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Results Achieved

Knowledge sharing: Mapping of peacebuilding evaluations across the UN system:

- The exercise was conducted from July 2022 to December 2022, where 10 UN agencies (UN Women, UNDP, PBSO, UNITAR, UNICEF, FAO, UNODC, UNHCR, OIOS and OHCHR) provided their inputs in the Google repository platform, aimed to summarize their experience on the peacebuilding in evaluation.

- The main goal of this exercise was to develop a shared understanding of peacebuilding efforts at the UN system and solicit ideas for evaluation innovation to support the better achievement of SDG 16

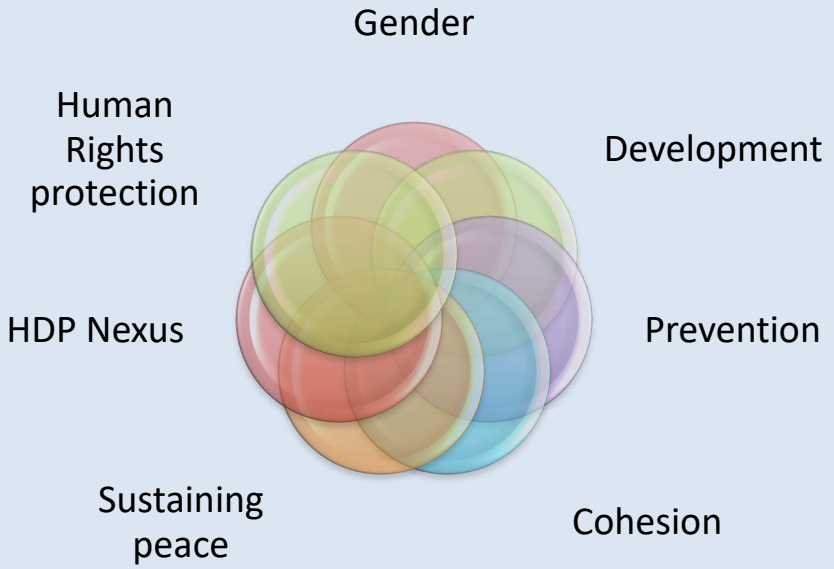
- Main areas of analysis: definition of peacebuilding and methods largely used across evaluations

Finding: There is no established definition of "peacebuilding" across the UN system

UN Agency	Definition	Focus
UN Women	Gender-inclusive peacemaking is an area of focus within the women, peace, and security	Gender
UNDP	Development actions to prevent loss and find sustainable pathways from the crisis	Development
PBSO	Support of sustaining peace	Sustaining peace
UNITAR	Post-conflict peacebuilding and preventing relapse from conflict after cease-fire	Prevention
UNICEF	Strengthen relationships between and among communities, between communities and governments, and individual capacities to contribute to peace	Cohesion
FAO	Actions to identify and support structures that strengthen and solidify peace to avoid a relapse into conflict.	Prevention
UNODC	There is no specific definition of Peacebuilding.It follows the Seretariat wide definition of peacebuilding, lwhich defined the action of the Peacebuilding Fund in support of sustaining peace.	Sustaining peace
UNHCR	Peacebuilding in the context of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus	Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus
OHCHR	Promotion and protection of human rights as the foundation for sustaining peace and sustainable development	Human rights protection
OIOS	Support of sustaining peace	Sustaining peace

Finding: Regular evaluation designs are used for peacebuilding evaluations, although 'outcome harvesting' is more often used when there is a lack of clarity about the "programme" itself.

Peacebuilding definition focus across UN system



Next steps in the mapping: expand the information repository with the participation of other UN agencies and an in-depth discussion of methodologies to develop methodological guidance on evaluating peacebuilding efforts

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