No One Left Behind
Technical assistance to Evaluate SDGs with an Equity-Focused and Gender Responsive Lens

Interim Report
Project Title: Capacity Building on Evaluation of SDGs with an Equity focused and Gender Responsive Lens to facilitate developing a National Monitoring & Evaluation System in Sri Lanka

Sub-Activities completed to facilitate establishing a National Monitoring & Evaluation System:

1 Meeting with the Hon. Kabir Hashim, Chair, Parliamentarians Forum for Development Evaluation- South Asia
The Project Team members Parliamentarians Forum for Development Evaluation- South Asia (PFDE- South Asia) Piroshini and Isha together with Asela, EvalPartners representative met Hon. Kabir Hashim, Chair, Parliamentarians Forum for Development Evaluation- South Asia and Minister of Public Enterprise Development on 22 June 2016 to brief him on the plan of action for the Project and get his guidance. This meeting had been planned for the month of May however the inclement weather and the resultant landslides and unexpected workload in his electorate did not permit any meetings to be held in Colombo.

It was agreed that the Hon. Minister arrange a meeting with the State Minister, National Policies and Economic Affairs, the Ministry with the mandate for Monitoring and Evaluation. The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka heads this Ministry. Further, the Department of Project Management and Monitoring (DPMM) as well as the Department of National Planning (DNP) are under the purview of this Ministry.

2 Meeting with the State Minister Hon Niroshan Perera, the subject minister for M&E and Hon Buddhika Pathirana, Member of Parliament, at the Parliament
This meeting too was delayed as it was difficult to arrange a date suitable for both ministers; the subject minister for M&E and the Chair, PFDE-South Asia. Hence the meeting was held at the Parliament complex on 21 July 2016. The team briefed the subject minister for M&E regarding the detailed Action Plan for the year. He was supportive of the plan.

Thereafter the team met Hon Buddhika Pathirana, Member of Parliament at the same venue and discussed the need for Evaluation and briefed him on the future capacity building programmes. He too was supportive of the plan and agreed to attend the inauguration session of the Stakeholder Consultation.

Subsequently a Ministerial briefing giving the details of the planned events was sent to the State Minister to be presented to the Hon Prime Minister.

3 Meeting at DPMM on National Information System
in preparation for the Study Tour to South Africa, the PFDE- South Asia Project Team met the DPMM focal point for the National Information System– INDIS (Integrated National Development Information System) on 15 July 2016 to familiarize with the system and to discuss the challenges and issues
4 Meeting with Hon Buddhika Pathirana and DPMM
In August 2016, The PFDE- South Asia Project Team attended a meeting convened by Director General, DPMM and the team to brief Hon Buddhika Pathirana, the progress on NEP process.

5 Two Adjournment Motions moved by Hon Buddhika Pathirana
Two Adjournment Motions were moved by Hon Buddhika Pathirana. The video links to the parliament debates on Adjournment Motions:
Video of the Adjournment Motion debate held on 09 August 2016 to formulate a NEP and implement a suitable methodology to evaluate projects
https://youtu.be/zftcuj9eiVg

Video of the Adjournment Motion debate held on 07 October 2016 on allocation of funds for evaluation (see attachment)
https://youtu.be/UdzNK3j1kSU

(Also please see attachments)

6 Stakeholder Consultation to facilitate formulation of the National Evaluation Plan
A Stakeholder Consultation was organized in collaboration with the Department of Project Management and Monitoring (DPMM), Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs in collaboration with the Parliamentarians Forum for Development Evaluation- South Asia (PFDE- South Asia) and in partnership with EvalGender Network/ EvalPartners & Unicef to facilitate formulation of the National Evaluation Plan with emphasis on National Evaluation Policy and National evaluation Capacity on 4th & 6th October 2016.

Mrs Darshana Senanayake, the Director General DPMM welcomed the participants and the distinguished guests. Hon Kabir Hashim, Chair, PFDE- South Asia and Minister Public Enterprise Development graced the occasion and addressed the gathering. Hon Buddhika Pathirana, Member of Parliament who moved the motions in relation to the NEP and Allocation of Funds for Evaluation participated in the inauguration session. 63 from Public Sector; Line Ministries, Finance Commission, Department of National Planning, Department of Census and Statistics, Government ICT arm; Information & Communication Technology Agency, INGOs, NGOs and representative from SLEVa participated at this consultation.

The Keynote Address on ‘Importance of Development Evaluation and National Evaluation Policy for Equitable Development’ was delivered by Mr V Sivagnanasothy, Secretary Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs.

Ms Paula Bulancea, UNICEF Representative a.i delivered a talk on Global Perspectives of NEP as the UN Resident Coordinator could not attend due to unavoidable circumstances. She also made a presentation on Challenges in Evaluation and SDGs. It was followed by a Skype presentation by Dr Dorothy Lucks on ‘Evaluation: Key to achieving SDGs.’

The session on Identifying challenges and issues related to national evaluation capacity, solutions to issues identified and ideas for innovation and preparation of draft plans for
the four themes; Enabling environment, Institutional capacities on evaluation, Individual evaluators capacities and Interlinkages was facilitated by Asela kalugampitiya, Executive Coordinator, EvalPartners.

Attachments:
- Agenda- Stakeholder Consultation on 4th and 6th October 2016
- A Presentation on ‘Evaluation in the context of the SDGs: Challenges & considerations’ by Paula Bulancea, Unicef Representative a.i, UNICEF Sri Lanka

The Presentation on ‘The Sustainable Development Goals; Transforming our World’ by Dr Dorothy Lucks and the Presentation on Global Evaluation Agenda by Asela Kalugampitiya, Executive Coordinator EvalPartners will be sent in 2 separate e-mails.

7 National Dialogue on ‘Role of Parliamentarians in Demanding and Use of Evaluation ensuring ‘No one left behind’

On 7th October, a session for parliamentarians was held at the parliament of Sri Lanka, organized by the Parliamentarians Forum for Development Evaluation- South Asia (PFDE- South Asia) together with Department of Project Management and Monitoring (DPMM), Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs and Ministry of Public Enterprise Development (see attachment). Hon Kabir Hashim, Chair PFDE- South Asia and Minister of Public Enterprise Development and Hon Niroshan Perera, State Minister, Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs, Fifteen (15) Parliamentarians (including the Minister and 2 Deputies), DPMM and UNICEF representatives attended the event.

Hon Kabir Hashim delivered a talk on ‘Objectives and Importance of engaging Parliamentarians in Evaluation.’ The Keynote address ‘What is Evaluation’ was delivered by Mr V Sivagnanasothy, Secretary, Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs to build awareness of the Parliamentarians. Mrs Darshana Senanayake, DG DPMM made a presentation on  ‘National Monitoring and Evaluation Plans and Strategies to overcome the Challenges and Issues.

This was a historical event held at the Sri Lanka Parliament as the "Sri Lanka Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation" was launched at the event. Hon. Ananda Kumarasiri, Member of Parliament was appointed as the convener of the forum. Work is in progress to convene the first meeting of the forum on 11th of November.

8 Learning from Other Countries

A four member delegation comprising of Additional Director General, DPMM, Assistant Director DPMM and two representatives from Parliamentarian Forum for Development Evaluation – South Asia, visited South Africa on a 3 day Study Tour in August/ September 2016 with the objective of developing a Preliminary Action Plan to implement the national evaluation system. On day one, the Acting Director General welcomed the delegation followed by a presentation on ‘The South African System of Government and Application of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation by DPME’ by the Deputy Director General, Institutional Performance Monitoring and Evaluation. The South African System of government and timelines in the development of the macro PM&E system, the rationale for planning, monitoring and evaluation and various roles and responsibilities, the outline of the work of DPME in the context of the centre of Government, the National Development Plan 2030, National Evaluation Plan and the problems that PM&E aims to
address were discussed. The Additional Director General, DPMM presented the Sri Lankan context followed by a discussion. The Acting Head, Frontline Service Delivery demonstrated the web-based system comprising of Front line Monitoring Presidential Hotline for community problem solving.

On day two the delegation visited a participatory Workshop conducted to prepare TORs for ‘Integrated Development Plan to ensure safety in RSA. Thereafter, the Chief Director Management Performance Monitoring and Support demonstrated the Management Performance Monitoring Tool (MPAT) and how performance is measured in Departments using score cards.

The afternoon was dedicated to a meeting with Executive Manager, Stakeholder Relations and Marketing together with his team at Statistics, South Africa, where a presentation was made on how the department collects and combine all census data into shapefiles for spatial statistical analysis using Quantum GIS software.

The third day was a visit to Gauteng Province, the smallest and most densely populated of South Africa’s nine provinces with over 13 million people and 24% of the country’s population. A presentation was made by a delegation led by the Deputy Director General on ‘Overview of Gauteng province strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation system which included Planning, monitoring and evaluation framework, Key PME strategic pillars and Key challenges, among others. This is a part of a long term initiative sponsored by UNICEF and EvalPartners.

9 Participation in forums organized by the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife

The PFDE- South Asia Project Team members proactively participated in the following events organised by the above Ministry:

- Round Table Discussion Chaired by Hon Gamini Jayawickrama Perera, Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife on ‘Planning and Financing the National Sustainable Development Agenda’ held on 04 August 2016.
  
  Ms Kanni Wignaraja, Director of the UN Development Operations Coordination Office made the lead presentation followed by a Panel Discussion on the theme ‘Challenges and opportunities to mainstream SDGs in the planning process and financing the Sustainable Development Agenda in Sri Lanka.’

- ‘Transformation Dialogue between Parliamentarians, Officials and Stakeholders on Implementing the SDGs’ organized by The National Sustainable Development Engagement Platform, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife was held on the 05 October 2016. The President of Sri Lanka, His Excellency Maithripala Sirisena graced the occasion.
  
  A panel discussion on ‘Implementing the SDGs’ and an open dialogue’ Planning for an inclusive transformation towards Sustainable Development in Sri Lanka’ was the highlight of the event.

- A High-Level Symposium on achieving SDGs by 2030 ‘Leveraging Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships for Sustainable Prosperity’ was held on 11 October 2016.
The Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of UNESCAP graced the occasion and delivered the Keynote address.

Government Officials, representatives of INGOs, NGOs, Networks and Professionals from various fields participated at these events.