1. What was the purpose of the project? What did the project plan to achieve and how? (Brief description of the project, max 100 words).

Following the consultations and discussions at the 5th EvalMENA Evaluation Conference and General Assembly, which was held on May 2016 in Tunisia, a tripartite of VOPE, parliament and government representatives from all around the region discussed strategies to enhance and promote current national efforts to monitor and evaluate the SDGs in the MENA Region.

This project aimed at upholding and supporting these efforts while leading further in-depth consultations at the country level through national roundtables (RTs) in five of the participating countries in order to develop roadmaps for the incorporation of an EFGR approach in the ongoing national efforts for the M&E of the SDGs.
As part of the project, a regional online platform was to be set in order to document and support the work of all project stakeholders on the national and regional levels. The platform was to be hosted on the EvalMENA website, instead, it will be connected to the EvalGender+ CoP.

Finally, an EvalMENA-wide white paper on monitoring and evaluating the SDGs with an EFGR lens, summarizing the various national efforts and future directions, will also be produced during the project life.

2. Did the project achieve what it planned to achieve? What were the key results? Yes, fully / partially / unfortunately, no.

Yes. The RTs were held, the online platform is being constructed and the regional white paper - compiling the four countries state of evaluation policies with EFGR - has been produced. To elaborate more, we believe that the project has in fact significantly contributed to sensitizing and enhancing the national and regional dialogue to monitoring and evaluating the SDGs with an EFGR perspective. It also provided a leverage to identify where each of the participating countries stood on the subject and what actions are further needed to build national evaluating capacities to evaluate SDGs with an EFGR lens.

In addition, it enhanced the tripartite engagement and established an online platform to facilitate knowledge sharing and cooperation in monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs with an EFGR perspective for the MENA Region. Although, the platform is still under development, it will be ready before the 6th EvalMENA Evaluation Conference and General Assembly of 2017 in Amman (Jordan) where the regional white paper on the EFGR approach to monitoring and evaluating the SDGs will be presented and further disseminated and discussed.

2.a. Please comment on degree of achievement: 1

The main activities considered for the project:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Deliverable</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A workshop bringing together representatives from governments, parliaments and VOPEs to discuss the evaluation of the SDGs with an EFGR lens during the 5th EvalMENA Evaluation Conference and General Assembly.</td>
<td>Round Table Discussion in the 5th EvalMENA conference.</td>
<td>May, 2016</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five national RTs to be conducted at the country-level in order to develop national roadmaps for incorporating an EFGR perspective in the national efforts and plans for the evaluation of the SDGs.</td>
<td>Algeria (substitute Tunisia)</td>
<td>29, Sept, 2016</td>
<td>Complete</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Palestine</td>
<td>12, Nov, 2016</td>
<td>Complete</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>1, Dec, 2016</td>
<td>Complete</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>26, Dec, 2016</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Morocco’s roundtable was not implemented due to the VOPE’s engagement in planning the Francophone Evaluation Summit held in Dec 2016.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Please limit your responses to this and other questions to no more than 500 words each.
A regional online platform, along with SDG and Gender+ blogs. The platform will be hosted on the EvalMENA website but will be also connected to the EvalGender+ CoP.

Online platform for knowledge sharing among the MENA VOPEs for both EvalGender+ and EvalSDG. Sept, 2017 In Progress

A white paper on monitoring and evaluating the SDGs with an EFGR lens in the MENA region; summarizing the various national efforts and future directions.

White paper (compiling the key evaluation policies with EFGR) 30, Jan, 2017 Complete

A workshop bringing together representatives from governments, parliaments and VOPEs to discuss lessons learned and progress on the monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs with an EFGR lens in the MENA region during the 6th EvalMENA Conference and General Assembly.

Not a part of this grant, but will ensure the continuity of the project. The white paper will be presented and discussed in panel at the 6th conference Sept, 2017 ***Post-project phase

3. Was the project implemented as planned? If there were changes in the planned activities, why they were necessary?

- **Allocated Time:** The project was implemented within the allotted timeframe. All RTs took place before the end of 2016. However, scheduling the various RTs was challenging for various reasons including, the preparedness of the different VOPEs, the summer and the different holidays and political events that coincided between September and November 2016. Accordingly, each national RT took on the responsibility given the national context (for example elections took place in Jordan in the same period, while in Lebanon, the government was facing serious challenges and the political situation was not helpful).

- **Moroccan VOPE:** It is worth noting that we successfully engaged the emerging Algerian VOPE, substituting the Tunisian VOPE. The latter got a separate funding from UNWomen to implement a training capacity building on the subject. Though the team engaged earlier in the process with the Moroccan VOPE. The latter declined its participation in convening a RT because of its engagement in planning the Francophone Evaluation Summit held in Dec 2016.

- **Allocated Budget:** The budget to host a national RT, as set in the proposal, proved to be underestimated. It should be noted that thanks to UNWomen’s additional support, the RTs were able to engage more participation from the national partners.

- **White Paper:** The key findings of the RTs have been compiled in a white paper (draft available) that will be presented in a panel at the 6th EvalMENA conference to be held in Amman/Jordan. The panel will ensure the subject is still under the spotlight and stimulate further discussion among the representatives from governments, parliaments and VOPEs on the evaluation of the SDGs with an EFGR lens.

- **Online Platform:** The online platform was commissioned to a communication consultant to develop, along with the necessary pages and links to the EvalSDG and EvalGender+ blogs, and connected to the EvalMENA website. The contract was issued in December 2016. The platform will be ready by the end of April 2017 and will be shared with the evaluation community during the GEF in Bishkek.

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2 Depending on the availability of future funding. Not a part of this grant.
4. What are the main lessons/challenges learned from the experience of this project that you would like to share with other VOPEs?

Among the key lessons learned are the following:

1. **Project budgeting** should have been less ambitious. Enthusiasm and eagerness to make the maximum with the available funds should not misguide planners. It is worth commending UN Women additional support - financial and technical.

2. **Project management** flexibility and implementation is the key to success, yet within the timeframe. Although, we planned the RTs to be complete before October 2016, various unexpected political situations, in addition to the summer holidays and festive seasons occurred. Accordingly, these were accounted for and considered throughout the implementation process.

3. **Coordination** and continuous cooperation between the various implementing VOPEs is crucial not only for the success of the project but to ensure the sustainability of the process beyond the project timeframe as well.

4. Engaging the media in addition to governments, parliaments and other stakeholders:

5. Are there plans to continue or expand collaboration started under the project? If so, please describe.

As proposed in the project proposal and stated above, the last activity did not fall under the project plan. It is indeed perceived to be an activity that extends from the project to ensure continuity and keep the discussion of the national evaluation policies with an EFGR lens in the MENA region alive for another year. The intent is to build on the momentum created so far (nationally and regionally) and convene a panel at the 6th EvalMENA conference to be held in Amman/Jordan. The panel will ensure the subject is still under the spotlight and stimulate further discussion among the representatives from governments, parliaments and VOPEs on the evaluation of the SDGs with an EFGR lens.

The online platform intends on sustaining an ongoing exchange and sharing of the knowledge accumulated and discussed on national evaluation policies with an EFGR lens among the region’s VOPEs, its evaluation community and the wider community of partners. Hosting it along with the EvalMENA website will further keep the discussion and knowledge sharing alive beyond the project timeframe.

For more information on the workshops material, documents, presentation material, pictures or website links related to the project listed above, please refer to [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B_IKEEA0vfu6eE5Ja2JYS0FRcUU?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B_IKEEA0vfu6eE5Ja2JYS0FRcUU?usp=sharing).

Send this final report along with the final financial report and corresponding receipts to Lynn Burgess at lynn@ioce.net