Peer to Peer Program 2016-2017

Final Narrative Report

Project ID:

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<tr>
<th>Project Partners:</th>
<th>National Parliamentarian Forum on Development Evaluation Policy in Nepal (NPFDEPN) and Community of Evaluators Nepal (COE N) in collaboration with National Planning Commission (NPC)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Project Title:</td>
<td>Strengthening National Capacity to Evaluate localized SDGs with an Equity focused and Gender Lens</td>
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<td>Project Managed by:</td>
<td>Community of Evaluators Nepal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date of this report</td>
<td>30 June 2017</td>
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Project start date | May 15, 2016
Project end date | Dec 31, 2016
Extended date | March 30, 2017

Project team for this project

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<tr>
<th>VOPE</th>
<th>Contact Person Names</th>
<th>Email addresses</th>
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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*.
   - The National evaluation M&E system is engendered, capacitated to effectively respond to the requirements of SDG goal-5th and beyond. A Collaborative Action Plan among UN agencies, NPC and VOPEs is in place.
   - Strengthened national and regional collaboration and networks on collaborative initiatives on equity and gender responsive evaluation processes for improving knowledge sharing. *The assumption is that some products might be achieved in their draft status which will continue to be completed within a three months’ time with no-cost extension condition.*

2. Did the project achieve what it planned to achieve? What were the key results? Yes, fully / partially / unfortunately, no.
   The project planned to achieve the following results:
   i. An on line repository: (Establishment and Operationalization of Evaluation Resource Centre with focus on gender and equity aspects)
   ii. Gender and equity integrated M&E Code of Conduct: (Preparation of gender and equity integrated M&E Code of Conduct)
iii. Assessment report and recommendations: (Assessment of effectiveness of “equity based” evaluation methodologies and tools to measure impacts on gender equality and empowerment of women and provide recommendations)

iv. Gender and equity integrated M&E Bill (Review of the M&E Bill from equity and gender lens)

v. Capacity building on EvaSDG and equity focused, gender responsive M&E ; (Workshop EvalSDG and equity focused and gender responsive M&E Act, Policies, and Strategies


The project contributed to strengthening collaborative relationship among the three VOPEs working on strengthening evaluation systems and culture in Nepal, namely, Nepal Evaluation Society (NES), Society of Monitoring and Evaluation (SOME) Nepal, and COE Nepal for harmonizing their collaborative approaches to influence the national evaluation systems and functioning. This process also includes harmonizing plans and actions with National Planning Commission, NPFDEPN and the UN systems in order to enrich the overall national processes and efforts towards achieving effective implementation of evaluation in SDG context, create evaluative culture.

- Knowledge sharing and management through establishing on line repository
- Capacity building on SDG contextual evaluation processes by organizing Eval SDG workshops including all different stakeholders, e.g., government, CSOs, UN agencies, INGOs, VOPEs and private sectors, Universities, Central Baurau of Statistics (CBS), and individual professionals
- Helping create enabling evaluation environment by reviewing the national M&E Bill and proposing integrating gender and equity aspects which is under consideration at the Prime Minister’s Office for approaching into for cabinet deciison for sending it to the Legislative Parliament.
- Facilitating the National Evaluation Networking meeting organized by the National Planing Commission of Government of Nepal
- Proposing gender and equity senistive evaluation Code of Conduct for evaluators and trying to influence the national code of conduct for evaluation
- Reviewing the existing evaluation methodologies from gender and equity perspectives and developing a framework to address the gaps

In all the above activities, it can be said that except two items (nr ii and nr iii), all other activities are fully achieved, whereas the finalization of the GE focused evaluation code of conduct and developing a GE integrated evaluation farmework is not yet achieved, which can be rated at 25 percent work is due for these two activities.

Since we have been working through wider consultation with NPC and VOPEs and UN agencies, we have to wait until the stakeholders are free to participate in consultations and provide inputs. Moreover we have been facing a time constraint due to the holding of local level elections after long twenty years, which engage the audience in diverse situations, causing delay for our work, particulallry for maintaining our standard participatory and collaborative process of interaction and consensus building. All the stakeholder have been showing great interest due to the approach to developing a new approach to evaluation in the context of SDGs, and we have to wait until the Parliamentarians and government officers have time to join the discourses. The likelihood of their participation is high after the local elections are over by this month (July 2017).

This is our key learning that working in collaboration takes relatively long time and this is more true when situation is guided by the transitional phase moving toward more democratization. Therefore, we can claim that we have achieved 75 percent of the project results and we can achieve the rest of 25 percent within three more months, i.e., by September 2017. Also the project
consisted of seven activities complementary to each other, however having requirements to implement each activity with single special focus also took some unanticipated time on the part of the implementers.

2.a. Please comment on degree of achievement for each of the outcomes:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Desired Results</th>
<th>Possible measures (Qualitative and Quantitative) of Achievement</th>
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<td><strong>Outcome 1: VOPEs are more influential and able to play strategic roles to strengthen an enabling environment for evaluation within their countries</strong></td>
<td>All the three VOPEs got together to influence national plans and policies on evaluation, the NPC held the National Networking Meeting including all the VOPEs along with Parliamentarians, the UN agencies and relevant stakeholders. COE N took a lead to provide technical assistance in the gender and equity integration in M&amp;E processes.</td>
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<td>1. At least 91 persons from VOPEs, NPC, Parliamentarians, were made aware on Eval SDG through a workshop where special sessions were delivered by Dorothy Luks from EvalSDG and Asela Kalugampitiya from Evalpartners. Dr T. Dhakal of NPC facilitated sessions on government of Nepal’s efforts on localising the SDGs;</td>
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<td>2. The one and only M&amp;E Bill of government has been reviewed through wider consultation and our suggested points have been accepted by the NPC who again organized group discussion over the same document for finalization and this is now at the stage of processing as national M&amp;E Act to the parliament by the Office of Prime Minister</td>
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<td>3. We have established on line repository in our website which is under finalization process for opening for public access</td>
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<td>4. The evaluation Code of Conduct has been developed and is in the stage of finalization through one more discourses among the VOPEs</td>
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<td>5. The assessment report is in place on reviewing the evaluation methodologies from gender equity and empowerment lens which will be developed into a proposed evaluation framework</td>
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<td>6. The National Eval SDG plan (2017-2010) is in place now</td>
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**Output 1.1: VOPEs advocate for demand and use of evaluation at national level**

1. VOPEs are lobbying and advocating for bringing M&E Bill in place
2. VOPEs are encouraging UN agencies and government for making evidence based decisions through speeches and presentation in related fora

**Outcome 2: Stronger VOPEs that actively work with multi-stakeholder new networks towards achieving Global Evaluation Agenda priorities.**

The three VOPEs have started working and sharing together about improving accountability towards making management response to evaluation functional; The project provided opportunities for regular interaction and consultation among all the VOPEs upon various topics related to evaluation, e.g., reviewing methodologies for SDG effectiveness, reviewing the national M&E Bill, developing evaluation Code of Conduct for utilization at national level, and so on. By going through this process, all the VOPEs have realized that there is a serious need for developing capacity of the evaluators, both young and matured ones on innovative evaluation methodologies to meet the requirements to conduct gender equity focused evaluation in SDG context. Currently Nepal VOPEs are connected to regional partnership with VOPE in Afghanistan which will be extended to other VOPEs in the region.

**Output 2.1: VOPEs have built their**

1. COE-Nepal and NPFDEPN have established collaborative relationship with other VOPEs namely, NES and SOME; with academia such as
institutional capacity and have established collaborative relationships with other VOPEs, academic institutions, and civil society personnel of Tribhuvan University and Kathmandu University; with civil societies such as NGO-Federation of Nepal, VDC/DDC Federation.

2. Developed institutional capacity in planning and implementing national evaluation plan, in strengthening relationship with other VOPEs and evaluation organisations such as 3ie, in bringing human resources from other organisations such as 3ie, EvalPartners for developing institutional and individual capacities

Output 2.2: VOPEs actively partner with multi stakeholders in achieving expectation of new networks

The VOPEs in Nepal now are actively partnering with multistakeholders to make increased practice of new networks, within and outside the country

Output 2.3: VOPEs adapt Global Evaluation Agenda priorities in local plans

The national evaluation plan is developed along the line of Global Evaluation Agenda. The national plan consists of enabling environment, institutional capacity, individual capacity, networking, planned evaluation to be conducted in 5 years, improvement in data collection and management to fit with SDG indicators.

Outcome 3: Strengthened individual capacities of evaluators to conduct credible and useful evaluations

Training, workshop were conducted with evaluators about making SDG indictors gender responsive and equity focused. As a result, the participating evaluators have started demanding revised ToRs from clients to more specifically to respond to Gender and Equity aspects in evaluation so that their methodologies and tools are helpful to draw information about the unreached and the unheard people and their voices. We realize that this will be continued through sharing our learning in order to enhance our knowledge base. Encouraged by the current project, COE-N is planning a young and emerging evaluator training and two impact evaluation training with support from IOCE and 3ie respectively. This will contribute to strengthen the individual capacity of evaluators

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

In the beginning the project was implemented as planned. Later on, the activities could not be implemented within the planned timeframe. There were two major reasons for the delay. (1) Working with multi-stakeholders took relatively longer time than expected as finding suitable times for all to hold meeting/consultation/workshops was a challenge. It was truer with the government agencies during the restructuring phase of the state where they had to be engaged for unexpected activities. (2) Government of Nepal has been implementing the local election for electing people’s representatives after long twenty years, and there has been lots of popular reactions engaging most of the political persons and government agencies occupied in preparatory activities. Thus we have been delayed in completing the two activities, although all other five activities are completed and reports of specific activities are ready to share. It was not under our control. As there was a greater demand for series of consultations and reviews over two particular documents, namely i) assessment of existing evaluation methodologies and working out a framework and ii) Gender Equity sensitive evaluation Code of Conduct, it is taking more time to make them the common documents for all. Involvement of the parliamentarians demand flexibility in the implementation process, as their time is divided between politics and social professional activities, also being disturbed by the political instabilities happening from time to time. We also have been working with the UN team of M&E personnel and the M&E department of National Planning Commission. At times, meeting everyone’s suitability for meeting time becomes a real challenge for the lead organiser, this way we have realized that in order to implement a multiple number of activities through multi stakeholders’ involvement requires considerable time allocation. This is one of the learning in the process from this project.

4. What are the main lessons/challenges learned from the experience of this project that you would like to share with other VOPEs?
• The first challenge faced is that VOPEs are volunteers but professionals. Being professionals, none of them has adequate free time to contribute maximum working hours to the project activities, which was also voluntary contribution.
• Then limitation in time has been mentioned as a practical constraint and challenge too.
• Lack of necessary suitable models for our countries in gender and equity sensitive methodologies and processes is a challenge for us to learn to enrich our methodologies, because the type of caste ethnicity inclusion as per national guidelines is very innovative and we do not have adequate samples to follow.
• Finally but most importantly, an underlying barrier is paused by the existing biased attitudinal culture against inclusion and gender issues, which is seriously ingrained in people and institutions. Although all VOPEs are very happy to be part of the process of designing innovative methodologies, tools, indicators, ideas for influencing the national evaluation culture, and that the NPC is quite supportive to the project processes and always participated in every event, even facilitating most of the sessions in some workshops, yet there is an unseen underlying issue of lack of acceptance and ownership over the issues of “principles of power transformation” embedded in gender and equity agenda. It is realized that this kind of exercises need to be continued for some more years in the context of SDG oriented evaluation, particularly to reform the institutional culture.

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

Yes, very much. COE N has been extending its collaboration with Afghan Evaluation Society for another P2p project on capacity building of Young Emerging Evaluators. In the same way, COE N member has extended collaboration to work with South Asian COE expert to develop manual for Gender focused evaluation. The UN M&E team of Nepal is indicating further collaboration.

Please attach any workshop material, documents, presentation material, pictures or website links related to the project listed above. This information will be presented to the UN Women auditors as proof of the project activities.

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