



Evaluation of SDGs

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Evaluation is challenging and has always been

- **Big questions**
- **Short timeframes**
- **Limited budgets**
- **Ethical imperatives**
- **Diverse users and stakeholders**
- **And now SDGs!**



Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Approved by the UN General Assembly in 2015 and underpin the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that officially came into force in Jan. 2016



SDGs

- Based on 5 universal and interlinked principles
 - People, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership
 - They define a path to end poverty, ensure prosperity and protect the planet and its inhabitants
- SDG7 – “Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”
- As a key constituent of SDG7, energy efficiency and renewable energy contribute directly or indirectly to achieving all the other SDGs



The Importance of the SDG Evaluations

- SDGs are the major international development commitment for at least the next 15 years
- Essential to know if it works & the money is well spent
- Evaluation process is country driven and participatory
 - SDGs are “owned” by the countries and not by the UN and donor agencies
 - National governments are the key agencies responsible for the implementation of the evaluations of SDS in each country
- Focus is on how could development assistance be improved

** Special thanks to Michael Bamberger

Challenges for SDG Evaluations #1

- The program is huge and complex with multiple actors, objectives and programs at all levels
- SDG evaluation design focuses on monitoring and less on evaluation
- Many people do not believe it is possible to evaluate the SDGs
- Most agencies focus on a particular sector
 - Intersectorality is very difficult to evaluate and for most agencies a low priority
 - Different kinds of organizations need to work together on an integrated evaluation

Challenges for SDG Evaluations #2

- Most agencies focus on results-based approaches with little attention to sustainability

- Difficult topics to evaluate:
 - Vulnerability
 - Exclusion
 - Gender analysis



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Unique Opportunities for SDG Evaluation

- SDGs focus the world on broad questions about the effectiveness of development aid
 - What works? For whom?
 - Where? Why? How?
- Brings together many different kinds of organizations and talents
- Gives voice to vulnerable groups and grassroots organizations
- Unique access to world-wide platforms for the dissemination and utilization of evaluation findings

Concluding Remarks - 1

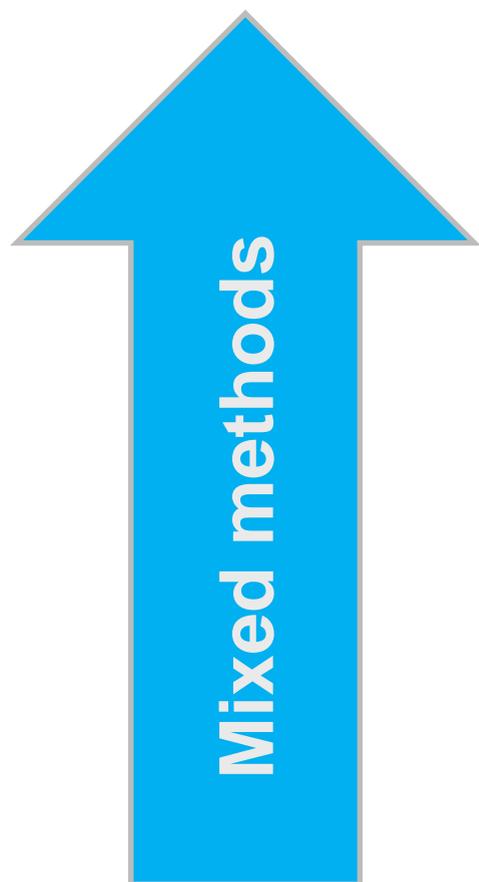
- SDGs open up a completely new world of evaluation and challenges
 - Asking new questions, and broader and longer term
 - Introducing a whole range of evaluation issues of complexity, emergence, identifying on who is being left out, looking at inter-sectoral linkages.
 - **Thinking beyond silos**; instead connecting and interrelating interventions, breaking down silos, examining integration, alignment, and coherence across sectoral specializations and across SDGs
 - Connecting the local with the global, and the global with the local

Concluding Remarks - 2

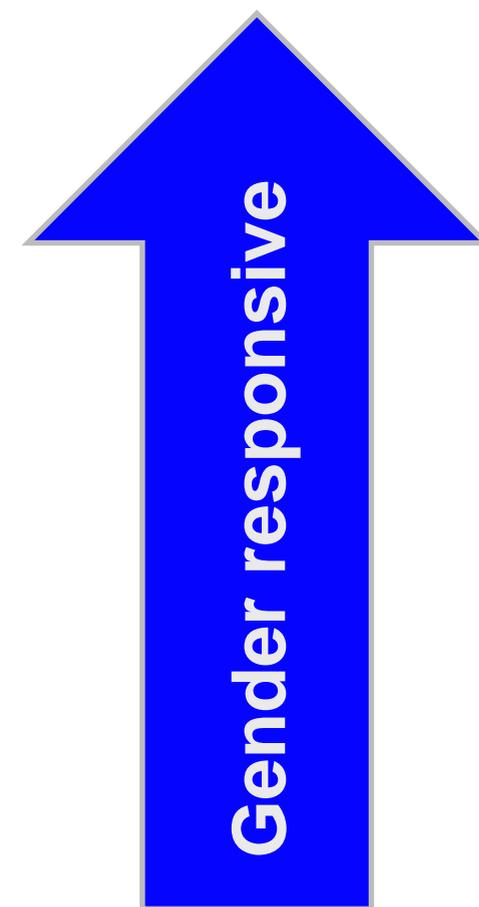
- Evaluators will need to focus more on process evaluation than on impact evaluation, at least initially
- Understand the process of SDG program development
- Measure different things at different stages in this development
 - Assess implementation
 - Assess short-term, proximal SDG outcomes
 - Later, assess longer-term distal SDG outcomes



Gender Example: Evaluation approaches and methods



System thinking
Complexity evaluations
Theory based approaches
Feminist theory and research
Impact evaluations
Case studies
Systemic reviews
Participatory evaluations



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