



ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES AREA

# Evaluation of SDGs: A Gender Perspective

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# 1. 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

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1. Based on 5 universal and interlinked principles
  - a. People, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership
  - b. They define a path to end poverty, ensure prosperity and protect the planet and its inhabitants
2. **SDG7** – “Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”
3. As a key constituent of SDG7, **energy efficiency** contributes directly or indirectly to achieving all the other SDGs, many of which are interconnected across the three dimensions of environmental sustainability, human development and sustainable growth

# The Importance of the SDG Evaluations

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1. SDGs are the major international development commitment for at least the next 15 years
2. Essential to know if it works and the money is well spent
3. Evaluation process is country driven and participatory
  - a. SDGs are “owned” by the countries and not by the UN and donor agencies
  - b. National governments are the key agencies responsible for the implementation of the evaluations of SDS in each country
4. Focus is on how could development assistance be improved:
  - a. During 2017-2030
  - b. After 2030

# Challenges for SDG Evaluations #1

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

# Challenges for SDG Evaluations #2

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1. Most agencies focus on results-based approaches with little attention to sustainability
2. Difficult topics to evaluate:
  - a. Vulnerability
  - b. Exclusion
  - c. Gender analysis

# Unique Opportunities for SDG Evaluation

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

# Concluding Remarks on SDG Evaluation

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SDGs open up a completely new world of evaluation and challenges

- Asking new questions, much broader, much 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.

## 2. Gender Perspectives

1. Gender and social equity perspective (distributional impacts) – **vulnerable & excluded**
2. Gender and social inclusion perspective (but need to account for intersection of gender with other social variables (race, ethnicity, caste))
3. Gender: Women and men (but can mean more)
4. North (Developed) / South (Developing) perspectives



## A. Inequity Perspective

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- It is a rare program or policy that benefits all people uniformly
  - There are winners and losers in most interventions
  - Differential impact on the vulnerable
  - Some are excluded – deliberately or inadvertently
- Two key evaluation and program planning questions relating to equity:
  - How can interventions be planned to address inequities?
  - Are those who are intended to benefit from the intervention the ones who actually benefit?

# Equity-focused Evaluation #1

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- Focuses on **who** engages with the program
- Moves beyond a focus on outputs (how many households were served) towards a better understanding of **who** was served and where the program recipients belonged in the continuum of need
- The **theory of change** focused on inequities is different than the theory of change focused on effectiveness
  - Move from *average* impact/improvements to *distribution* of impacts/improvements

## Equity-focused Evaluation #2

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- Questions need to be raised about building evaluation capacities of programs, organizations and systems – long-term dynamic processes
- What types of evidence can an evaluation generate that can help with concrete actions toward inequities? => theory of influence.
- The role of evaluations in addressing equity has not been the basis of a systematic inquiry
  - What system-level **contexts** are necessary to reduce inequities
  - What **mechanisms** are in play in reducing inequities?
  - What kinds of evaluation **capacities** are needed for systems and individuals to evaluate inequities?

# Concluding Remarks on Gender Evaluation

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- Gendered aspects of energy and energy efficiency are understudied
  - Need for more rigorous empirical research – especially if we are to achieve ambitious energy savings and emissions reduction goals (adoption and use of EE technologies)
  - Need for gender balance in research teams
- Evaluators will need to evaluate the possible uneven distribution of burdens as a result of energy saving in households
  - Gender balance need in evaluation teams
- **Bottom Line:** If gender impacts are not evaluated, they are unlikely to be given any attention (**true for vulnerable & excluded**)

# Contact Information

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# Time for Questions

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