



Wilton Park

Programme

Tracking development progress and evaluating development partnerships in the post-2015 era

Monday 12 – Wednesday 14 December 2016 | WP1504

This Wilton Park meeting will shine light on the post-2015 journey towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Discussion will focus on the key policy issues that development partnerships should be designed to address in the post-2015 era and draw the implications for the evaluation community.

A transformative development consensus

The global goals formally endorsed by 193 heads of states in September 2015 are transformative, reflect universal aspirations and add up to a new development compact.

Partnership is an overarching cross cutting theme for a post-2015 agenda that embodies the imperative need for strengthened solidarity across sectors and borders: without broad based partnerships, the financial and human resources needed to implement the SDGs would not materialise. Whether embedded in north-south or south-south cooperation the new development compact would need to emphasise social and environmental sustainability and equity so as to 'leave no one behind'.

In pursuit of this overarching 'stretch goal' the new development policy directions would embody the concerns and target the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable. It would promote innovative coalitions that bring together the public, private and voluntary sectors across the following interlocking domains:

- **People** - ending poverty and hunger and promoting equity in an emphatic, culturally

In association with



With support from



rich and healthy environment;

- **Planet** - ensuring essential ecosystem services: clean air, potable water, food, a stable climate and a healthy and biodiversity rich environment;
- **Prosperity** - promoting economic, social and technological progress in harmony with nature;
- **Peace** - freedom from fear, from mental and emotional stress in peaceful, non-violent, just and inclusive societies.

An unprecedented evaluation challenge

Official attention has been overwhelmingly focused on the selection of indicators designed to track global progress towards the SDG targets. In order to be useful and relevant to all partners indicators need to be grounded in a systematic evaluative process. Beyond informing the monitoring process, high quality evaluations are needed not only for public accountability but also for drawing lessons of development experience.

In order to generate results, evaluation will have to reflect the distinctive challenges faced by individual countries and their development partners. In particular, evaluations will need to take explicit account of data constraints and the institutional capacities for interpretation and evaluation that are available on the ground. The UN Summit Outcome document states that sovereign member states should take the lead in tracking progress and evaluating outcomes to strengthen social learning in line with national circumstances and priorities. Individual countries should develop their own priorities and a phased approach to reach the SDG targets, keeping in mind their specific needs, strengths and capabilities.

Development cooperation should also be informed by high-quality, accessible, timely, reliable country-led evaluations and the quality of partnerships should be regularly and independently assessed. Given the close inter-dependence among the new global goals and taking account of the interconnectedness of the international system, new development coalitions will have to be created across borders and across sectors to tackle global and regional threats to the planet, international peace and prosperity.

Ethical approaches, up-to-date methods and efficient processes will have to be fashioned to inform development evaluation coalitions and address the social and environmental sustainability dimensions of the new global goals.

The new development policy directions blaze new frontiers and aim at extraordinarily ambitious targets in a period of severe geopolitical stress, major international economic uncertainties and unprecedented fiscal constraints. The resulting complexity will have to be factored in the design of country-led programmes and multi-country development initiatives.

Partnerships that mobilise the energy and innovation of market focused interventions (as explored in the Wilton Park 2015 meeting on New Frontiers for Evaluation) as well as the community level assets of the civil society, will have to be put to work to strengthen accountability, transparency and social impact. At the international level the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation that emerged from the Paris, Accra and Busan processes should take on board the evaluation challenge of the new global goals.

Two major partnership challenges will have to be tackled in parallel: firstly lessons learnt from hard won experience and contemporary policy research; secondly, the evaluation

community should raise its game in order to meet unprecedented demands as envisaged by the new Global Evaluation Agenda endorsed in Kathmandu (Nepal) at the culmination of EvalYear 2015.

This will require new evaluation governance structures; new evaluation methods and tools; active engagement of the private sector and civil society; effective use of the new information technologies and a far reaching evaluation capacity building programme.

In association with Department for International Development (DFID), International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS) and Centre for Development Impact (CDI)

With support from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and Global Environment Facility (GEF), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)

Monday 12 December

1300-1430

Participants arrive and buffet lunch available

1500

Welcome and Introduction

Chair: Robin Hart

Director of Programmes, Wilton Park, Steyning

Rob D van den Berg

President, International Development Evaluation Association, Burgess Hill

1520-1645

1. Setting the stage: the SDGs and the evaluation challenge

The policy challenges of achieving the SDGs and the 5 Ps

This session will provide an overview of the post-2015 development agenda with specific reference to challenges faced by evaluation and evaluators.

Attention will be given to discussing and analysing policy challenges presented by the SDGs. To be achieved considerable action must be taken across an unprecedented breadth of fields and types of interventions – five 5 Ps, 17 goals and 169 targets. The levels of complexity generate legitimate questions regarding data, effectiveness, theories and methodologies. When utilised effectively evaluation can provide evidence-based answers to these questions. However, as a consequence of changes in the development agenda, evaluators are not well placed to respond to current need across the full breadth of the agenda. Additionally, valuable lessons can be learned from varied approaches, tools and methodologies.

What are the key evaluation challenges? How have evaluators been altering their approaches for the SDGs? Across the 5 Ps, 17 goals and 169 targets, where are the current methodological weaknesses? What are the current data gaps in monitoring SDG progress?

Michael Anderson

Visiting Fellow, Centre for Global Development, London

Saraswathi Menon

Former Member (Rtd) UN Peacebuilding Panel, UN Peacebuilding Support Office; Sociologist, New York

1645-1730

Photograph followed by tea/coffee

1730-1900

2. Partnerships as a cross-cutting issue

How to mobilise the widest range of stakeholders to meet the SDGs including public, private and voluntary sectors? How to ensure broad combination of local, regional and global actors including public agencies, local communities, development institutions, non-governmental organisations, foundations, private corporations, banks, other financial intermediaries, etc? What will be the balance between aid and non-aid policies?

The delineation of distinctive accountabilities and reciprocal obligations needed for equitable risk taking and efficient progress towards collective impact will call for new evaluation approaches and processes. How to evaluate the non-aid policies as well as aid policies? Shifting development evaluation towards the private sector and market led initiatives, as well as towards non aid policy instruments such as trade, migration, foreign direct investment, intellectual property flows and environmental policies. How to achieve participatory and democratic evaluation and what role for the voluntary sector in this?

Chair: Caroline Heider

Director-General, Senior Vice President, Independent Evaluation Group, World Bank, Washington DC

Arjan Schuthof

Representative of the Netherlands, Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, The Hague

Colin Kirk

Director, Evaluation Office, UNICEF, New York

Lidia Fromm Cea

Executive Director, Mesoamerica Integration and Development Project, Antigua Cuscatlán, El Salvador

Holly Dublin

Senior Adviser, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Nairobi

1900-1910

Briefing for Session 4 facilitators and Session 5 expert commentators in the Library

1900

Reception followed by dinner

Speaker: Melissa Leach

Director, Institute of Development Studies, Brighton

Tuesday 13 December

0800-0845

Breakfast

0900-1000

3. Heeding lessons of experience from the MDGs

SDGs 2-5 address a set of challenges that were central to the Millennium Development Goals agenda: reducing the incidence of hunger; achieving food security; improving nutrition; promoting sustainable agriculture; ensuring healthy lives; promoting well-being for all ages; ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education; promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all; achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls. What hard won lessons of development experience were secured during the pivotal 1990-2015 period?

Chair: Myles Wickstead

Member, Wilton Park Advisory Council; Visiting Professor, International Relations, King's College London; Associate Professor, Exeter University

Brian Tomlinson

Executive Director, AidWatch Canada, Nova Scotia

Momodou Touray

Poverty Research Director, Development Initiatives, Nairobi

Andrea Ordóñez

Research and Partnership Coordinator, Southern Voice on Post-MDG International Development Goals, Quito

1000-1015

Tea/coffee

1015-1200

4. Policy challenges raised by the SDGs: people, prosperity, planet and peace

Introduction followed by open discussion

Moderator: Maliha Khan

Independent Consultant, London

Open space session including expert pitch, open space discussion, feedback and summary.

1. **Absolute poverty elimination by 2030?**
 - **Aasha Kapur Mehta**, Professor of Economics, Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi
 - **Justin Ram**, Director Economics, Caribbean Development Bank, St Michael
2. **Tackling income inequality and equity**
 - **Rituu Nanda**, Evaluation Facilitator and Consultant, New Delhi
 - **Elizabeth Stuart**, Head, Growth, Poverty and Inequality Programme, Overseas Development Institute, London
3. **Promotion of economic, social and technological progress in harmony with nature**
 - **Clemencia Vela**, Independent International Evaluator, Quito
 - **James Mackie**, Head of Learning and Quality Support, European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM), Maastricht
4. **Promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns**
 - **Hamdiya Ismaila**, General Manager, Venture Capital Trust Fund, Accra
 - **Hazel Taylor**, Head of Business Development, London
5. **Sustainable resource management and climate action**
 - **Jo Puri**, Deputy Executive Director and Head of Evaluation, International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), New Delhi
 - **Andrew Norton**, Director, International Institute of Environment and Development, London
6. **Connecting the peace and prosperity agendas**
 - **Frances Stewart**, Emeritus Professor, Development Economics, University of Oxford
 - **Jessica Toale**, Executive Director, Centre for Development Results, London

1200-1300

5. Policy challenges raised by the SDGs: feedback and implications for thematic evaluation

Chair: Maliha Khan

Independent Consultant, London

Feedback from session 4 to group and reflection from panel of expert commentators

Oscar Garcia

Director, Independent Evaluation Office, International Fund for Agricultural Development

(IFAD), Rome

Alison Evans

Chief Commissioner, Independent Commission for Aid Impact, London

Gonzalo Hernández Licona

Executive Secretary, National Evaluation Council, Mexico City

1315-1430

Lunch

1440-1500

Briefing for Session 6 facilitators in the Common Room

1500-1715

6. Raising the evaluation game

Introduction in plenary of 5 themes, each led by the first named below, followed by parallel discussions.

Introduction in Plenary (1500-1530); Tea and coffee (1530-1545); discussion in groups (1545-1715)

1. Ethics

To leave no one behind is a moral aspiration. Growing gaps in wealth, well-being and opportunity between the top 1% and the rest of the population undermine the public interest. Evaluation has been slow to bring concrete evidence to bear regarding the social, environmental and distributional impact of interventions.

Current evaluation guidelines do not address equity concerns, eg the imperative of assessing impact on vulnerable or neglected groups, the extent to which access to resources and services is fair, the institutional arrangements on legal and human rights, etc. Evaluation criteria and method have not reflected adequate concern for social consequences and the needs of future generations.

Shekhar Singh

Independent Expert, New Delhi

Helen Simons

Professor Emeritus of Education and Evaluation, Southampton Education School, University of Southampton

2. Evaluation governance

Evaluation is a collaborative enterprise. It connects diverse stakeholders and it adopts distinct processes and practices depending on the emphasis given to accountability and learning. What structures of evaluation governance are best suited to favour democracy, ensure transparency, promote independence and encourage organisational and social learning?

Richard Levin

Director-General, National School of Government, Pretoria

Cristina Magro

Partner, Rio Academy; Independent Consultant, International Development Evaluation Association, Belo Horizonte

Juha Uitto

Director, Independent Evaluation Office, Global Environment Facility, Washington DC

3. Models and methods

The SDGs offer the opportunity to take stock of the wide diversity of evaluation approaches and tools available to practitioners. How can the social impact of a wide range of development instruments be measured? What combination of evaluation models and what mixture of methods would best serve the values embedded in the SDGs (eg human rights, social inclusion, gender equity, the environment, etc)?

Chris Barnett

Director, Centre for Development Impact, Hove

Jos Vaessen

Special Advisor on Methodology of the Independent Evaluation Group, The World Bank Group, Washington DC

Jo Puri

Deputy Executive Director and Head of Evaluation, International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), New Delhi

4. Diversification

Without the active and creative involvement of the private sector and the civil society the SDGs will not be met. Evaluation should reach out to all actors with a stake in the SDGs. This has major implications for evaluation practices which are currently not adapted to the delivery of just in time inputs into decision making. A special challenge is formed by efforts in the private sector to take care of public goods through impact investing and social corporate responsibility, which CDI has called the 'new frontiers for evaluation'.

Ted Jackson

President, ET Jackson and Associates, Ottawa

John Gargani

President, American Evaluation Association, Washington DC

Karim Harji

Co-Founder and Director, Research and Impact, Purpose Capital, Toronto

5. Digitalisation

Some information technologies have only begun to be tapped. Yet they offer huge promise. They can facilitate participatory evaluation processes, open up opportunities for just in time tracking of development interventions and put big data to work for development and evaluation.

Linda Raftree

Independent Consultant; Convener, Technology Salon NYC; Co-Organiser, Merl Tech, New York

Carole Excell

Acting Director, Environmental Democracy Practice, World Resource Institute, Washington DC

1715-1730

Tea/coffee

1730-1830

7. Feedback and implications for country-led evaluation

Chair: Sulley Gariba

High Commissioner of Ghana to Canada, Ottawa

1830-1840

8. Completion of online eQuestionnaire

1840-1855

9. Country case studies - introduction

Chair: Penny Hawkins

Former Head of Evaluation, Department for International Development; Independent Expert Glasgow

1900

Reception followed by dinner

Wednesday 14 December

0800-0845

Breakfast and checkout

0900-0905

Final day – introduction

Chair: Robin Hart

Director of Programmes, Wilton Park, Steyning

0905-1015

10. Country case studies - discussion

Discussion in parallel groups on real life case studies focused on the design and implementation of country led SDG evaluations. An opportunity to test some of the ideas, concepts and solutions identified in prior sessions.

1. Mexico

Gonzalo Hernández Licona

Executive Secretary, National Evaluation Council, Mexico City

2. Finland

Sami Pirkkala

Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Helsinki

Riitta Oksanen

Senior Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Helsinki

3. General perspectives on country level challenges and capacity needs: panel discussion

Composition of panel to be announced

1015-1045

11. Country case studies – feedback

1045-1100

Tea/coffee

1100-1200

12. New evaluation capacity development strategy

The SDG evaluation agenda and its county-led dimension imply a huge evaluation capacity development (ECD) challenge that the conference will probe with a view to the identification of concrete initiatives on the demand and supply sides of evaluation. Should ECD be embedded in development interventions focused on governance reform, transparency and accountability? What role should civil society organisations play? How should parliament be involved?

Chair: Indran Naidoo

Director, Independent Evaluation Office, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), New York

Susan Tamondong

Vice President, International Development Evaluation Association, Manila

Thierry Zomahoun

President and Chief Executive, African Institute for Mathematical Sciences, Kigali

1200-1300

13. Tracking development progress and evaluating development partnerships in the post-2015 era: next steps

Chair: Myles Wickstead

Member, Wilton Park Advisory Council; Visiting Professor, International Relations, King's College London; Associate Professor, Exeter University

1300

Lunch

1400

Participants depart