

Reflecting on Gender Equality and Human Rights in Evaluation



Sri Lanka Evaluation Association



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

About UN Women

UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement these standards. It stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on five priority areas: increasing women's leadership and participation; ending violence against women; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.

First published in January 2012

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

East and Southeast Asia Regional Office

United Nations Building, 5th Floor

Rajdamnern Nok Avenue

Bangkok 10200 THAILAND

Tel: 66 2 288 2093

Fax: 66 2 280 6030

E-mail: info.th@unwomen.org

www.unwomen.org

www.unwomen.org/about-us/evaluation

www.unwomen-eseasia.org

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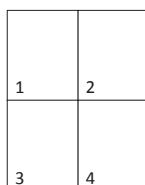
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Foreword

Under UN Women Evaluation Strategy for 2011-2013, UN Women Evaluation Office (EO) has been promoting accountability and knowledge of public policies for gender equality and women's human rights by supporting capacities of regional evaluation networks and national Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) systems.

As part of the networking and partnership activities, UN Women EO supported 2011 Sri Lanka Evaluation Association (SLEvA) international conference by providing bursaries to four practitioners/researchers who have been working in the area of gender and evaluation. The UN Women bursaries recipients presented their research findings at the conference on 6-9 June, 2011 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

After presenting their research topics "Embedding Social Transformative Approach within Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)", "Evaluation of Partnerships: Approaches and models available to evaluators", "Case-based Gender Process Monitoring" and "Shared Measurement: A new frontier in learning based evaluation" in the conference, the bursaries recipients developed articles in their expertise areas. The Regional Evaluation Specialist (RES) of UN Women EO, Yumiko Kanemitsu, consulted the research process with the bursaries recipients and a peer review was undertaken by the group of the four practitioners/researchers in collaboration with M&E Unit of the Sub-Regional Office (SRO) for South Asia as well as the RES. The whole process took six months starting from mid-June to December 2011.

This evaluation publication is consisting of the four different topics written by the UN Women bursaries recipients for 2011 SLEvA international conference. The four topics are depicting the current situation challenging evaluation on gender equality and human rights.

UN Women EO believes that the practitioners supported have gained further insights of their research topics in gender and evaluation during the consultation and the peer-review process. We trust that this evaluation publication will contribute to a long-term network among the bursaries recipients and with UN Women and SLEvA, and to further evaluation capacities and knowledge in the Asian region.

We hope that this evaluation publication provides a basis for further research, exploration and discussions among evaluation and field practitioners on advancing gender equality and women's empowerment, and that it can contribute to building transparent and accountable national M&E systems.



Belen Sanz
Chief, Evaluation Office, UN Women
January 2012

Acknowledgement

This publication was based on collaborative work supported by various people. UN Women EO would particularly like to thank Soma De Silva (SLEvA), who has supported the four researchers' presentations during the 2011 International Conference on 6-9 June in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Also, special thanks go to Ada Ocampo (UNICEF). It would not have been possible to collaborate with SLEvA without her help and support.

UN Women EO would like to express its deep gratitude to the four UN Women bursaries recipients, who presented their expertise in evaluation, gender equality and human rights by writing the articles for this journal: Pradeep Narayanan (Institute of Participatory Practice (Praxis)), Lalitha Vaidyanathan (FSG), Natalia Kosheleva (Process Consultancy), and Kyoko Kusakabe (Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)).

UN Women EO benefitted from excellent collaboration with the Sub-Regional Offices (SROs) for East and South East Asia and for South Asia and would like to thank Moni Pizani, Shoko Ishikawa, Montira Narkvichien, Anne Stenhammer, Sushma Kapoor, Shreyasi Jha and Rajat Khanna. Finally, the coordination and dedicated support of Yumiko Kanemitsu, UN Women regional evaluation specialist for Asia Pacific has been invaluable in this project bearing fruit.



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Embedding Social Transformative Approach within Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Case story of evolving an M&E framework for a community mobilization programme that focuses on addressing issues of stigma and rights violations of female sex workers

By Pradeep Narayanan, Head, Research and Consultancies at Praxis Institute for Participatory Practices



*By Pradeep Narayanan
Head, Research and Consultancies at
Praxis Institute for Participatory Practices*

Email: pradeepn@praxisindia.org

ABSTRACT

The shift in development thinking towards a community mobilization approach has led to the burgeoning of several agencies and projects adopting it over the last decade. While attempts have been made to demystify community mobilization, it continues to be an abstract, immeasurable term, making monitoring and evaluation (M&E) a big challenge. This paper argues that the monitoring of community mobilization processes requires embedding the transformative aspects of community mobilization into the processes itself. Using the example of community mobilization among female sex workers and utilization of their intimate knowledge of vulnerability to overcome the barriers they face and realize reduced HIV risk and greater self-reliance through their collective action, the paper demonstrates how M&E can be governed by principles of participation and empowerment, which recognize power relationships at the micro- and macro-level. The key challenge was to evolve a usable framework, which did not create a blueprint for community mobilization,

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