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# Monitoring, Evaluation and Voluntary Local Reviews

National Workshop on Localizing SDGs and the National Development Strategy: Progress through Voluntary Local Reviews in Mozambique

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## **SDGs Monitoring & Evaluation and Voluntary Local Reviews**

- The UNGA underlined the importance of evaluation within the transformative 2030 Agenda calling for:
  - the review and follow-up mechanisms to be informed by country-led evaluations, and
  - capacity-building support for developing countries including strengthening of national data systems and evaluation.
- This means evaluation should play a crucial role to support effective and efficient SDG implementation at all levels – national and sub-national.



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## **SDGs Monitoring & Evaluation and Voluntary Local Reviews**

- The 2030 Agenda is complex – **17 SDGs, 169 targets, 248 indicators for monitoring performance** (Global Indicator Framework, A/RES/71/313)
- 65% of SDG targets are linked to the work and mandates of local and regional governments
- Halfway to 2030, **more than half the world is being left behind**; progress on more than **50% of targets of the SDGs is weak** and insufficient; **30% have either seen no movement or regressed** below the 2015 baseline.
- Hence, **assessing progress, gaps and challenges at all levels** is of critical importance



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## **SDGs Monitoring & Evaluation and Voluntary Local Reviews**

- Helps countries understand how they are progressing on their SDG strategies and targets, and how they can get back on track
- An opportunity to improve policies, implementation strategies and programmes, and allocate resources accordingly
- M&E should not focus on *activity tracking and outcome harvesting* - it should support evidence-based planning, and effective and efficient SDG implementation.
- M&E progress at the local level poses challenges for local governments – task of selecting applicable and meaningful indicators not easy



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## **SDGs Monitoring & Evaluation and Voluntary Local Reviews**

- **Monitoring** is a systematic process of collecting, analyzing and using information to track progress towards achieving set results and to guide management decisions.
- Mozambique has the **National Planning and Monitoring System** that is guided by the **Government Five-Year Programme (PQG)**
- In 2016, a **Monitoring Tools and Systems Mapping (MTSM)** study was conducted on SDGs
- Study concluded that 74% of the SDG indicators were aligned with the **2015-19 Government Five-Year Programme**



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## **SDGs Monitoring & Evaluation and Voluntary Local Reviews**

- Of these, 38% were available in the national monitoring systems and were monitored on a regular basis
- 12% were partially collected, and 24% were not collected
- If we go to sub-national development plans (11 provinces, 161 districts, 408 administrative posts, 1,132 localities and 53 municipalities), was a similar mapping exercise conducted in the context of the **2020-24 Government Five-Year Program?**
- If not, how does this impact the SDG localization process (defining, implementing and monitoring strategies for achieving the SDGs)?



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## **SDGs Monitoring & Evaluation and Voluntary Local Reviews**

- **Evaluation** is an assessment, as systematic and impartial as possible, of a programme, strategy, policy, sector, operational area or institutional performance.
- It requires a set of criteria/parameters by which the information must be assessed. The goals of a particular project, process or policy determine what those criteria are.
- In the case of Mozambique, how has the **2020-24 National Framework of SDG Indicators** supported evaluation of SDGs at the national and local levels?



# Most Common Types of Evaluation

**Formative evaluation**: early stages. Ensures that a programme/activity is feasible, appropriate and acceptable before full implementation.

**Process/Implementation evaluation**: Focusses on programme implementation. Have programme activities been implemented as intended?

**Outcome/effectiveness evaluation**: focuses on whether expected results (changes in behaviors, attitudes etc) have changed in the target population

**Impact evaluation**: Asseses programme effectiveness in achieving its ultimate goals



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## **SDGs Monitoring & Evaluation and Voluntary Local Reviews**

- So simply put, M&E is a process to assess **what works** and **does not work**.
- It's a feedback mechanism key to understanding the impact, implementation, and cost-effectiveness of a program
- It can inform how to improve a programme, scale up (or down), or follow-up.
- M&E supports a culture of evidence-based policymaking
- Evaluation further helps countries to identify structural causes of inequalities through deeper analysis of power relationships, social norms and cultural beliefs (Equity-Focused and Gender-Responsive Evaluation).



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## **SDGs Monitoring & Evaluation and Voluntary Local Reviews**

- Evaluation also **gives voice to poor and vulnerable groups** and to **promote social justice** (Rights-based Approach).
- Hence, achieving the SDGs requires local action and local monitoring.
- A VLR is a data-driven review by a local or regional government on where the community stands in relation to SDGs.
- Conducting a VLR allows local and regional governments to measure themselves against the SDGs and how they can close gaps between their local realities and global and national implementation of the SDGs.

## Four Steps of Evaluation Development and Design

- **Identify the overall objective and use of the evaluation:** consult and engage with different stakeholder groups, e.g. CSOs, youth, parliamentarians
- **Prepare for the evaluation:** design participatory processes, define the scope and focus of the evaluation, and identify the policies and plans to be evaluated
- **Use 2030 Agenda principles (e.g. universality, LNOB, equity) to inform the evaluative criteria,** and use the principles to develop the evaluation questions;
- **Frame the evaluation** according to the logic of national policies, develop and cost a communication plan.



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## **Attributes of Sustainable Development Evaluation**

- Meaningful stakeholder engagement throughout the 4 steps, and co-generation of recommendations
- Mixed approaches to gathering evidence, from quantitative and qualitative sources
- Integrative analysis, which reviews policies or programs from the 3 pillars of sustainable development, viz; economic, social and environmental
- Assessing sustainable development interventions in current spatial, temporal, socioeconomic and environmental contexts; and
- Recognizing both upstream drivers and downstream effects, as well as impacts beyond national boundaries and across borders.



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## Early M&E Experiences of Countries-Challenges

- **Institutions**:

- Sustainable development has not been sufficiently integrated into all government sectors and management systems.
- Governmental work on sustainable development is poorly resourced when taking the required workload into consideration.
- Compartmentalization remains a core problem.

- **Ideas**: In practice, there are many disagreements over sustainable development solutions.



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## Early M&E Experiences of Countries-Challenges

- **Interests**: Short and long-term conflicts of interest, such as different dimensions of sustainable development, decrease the coherence and transformational power of politics.
  - Tightly defined commercial interests tend to outweigh sustainable development policy based on human rights
- **Information**: The systematic use of indicators and research data in decision making and societal learning is not enough.
  - Understanding of cross-sectorial sustainable development themes is underdeveloped



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## CONCLUSIONS

- SDG M&E can only make a difference if it is integrated into what countries or local authorities are already doing (national/local context matters)
- SDG M&E must also be integrated throughout the policy cycle
- A data revolution (in terms of geographic coverage, timeliness, level of disaggregation) is critical for achieving the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs
- The SDGs are not meant to impose an additional layer of policies on top of current ones, rather they serve as a compass for aligning a country's development plans with its global commitments





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## Group Exercise



Identify at least 1  
SDG you could  
consider for an  
evaluation in your  
district



What factors  
influenced your  
decision to evaluate  
that SDG(s)?



What are the  
strategic  
programmes to be  
considered under  
that SDG?



If you are to  
manage the  
evaluation, what  
steps would you  
take to ensure a  
successful HR and  
GEWE evaluation?



What support  
would you require  
to ensure a  
successful  
evaluation? and  
support from who?



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A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of a modern skyscraper with a glass facade, set against a bright blue sky filled with scattered white clouds. The building's lines converge towards the top of the frame, creating a sense of height and scale. The text 'Thank you.' is overlaid in the center of the image.

**Thank you.**