Gender Evaluation: A blind spot in SDG reporting

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TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD: AGENDA 2030

- A plan of action for people, planet and prosperity and to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom
- 17 Objectives with 169 targets inclusive and interconnected
- SDG 5 : Gender Equality and the empowerment of women and girls

EVALGENDER+

- Global multi-stakeholder partnership under EvalPartners to advance gender-equality through advocating for more equity focused and gender-responsive evaluation
- Equity-focused and gender responsive evaluation as an avenue to support accountability for gender equality commitments in the implementation of the SDGs.

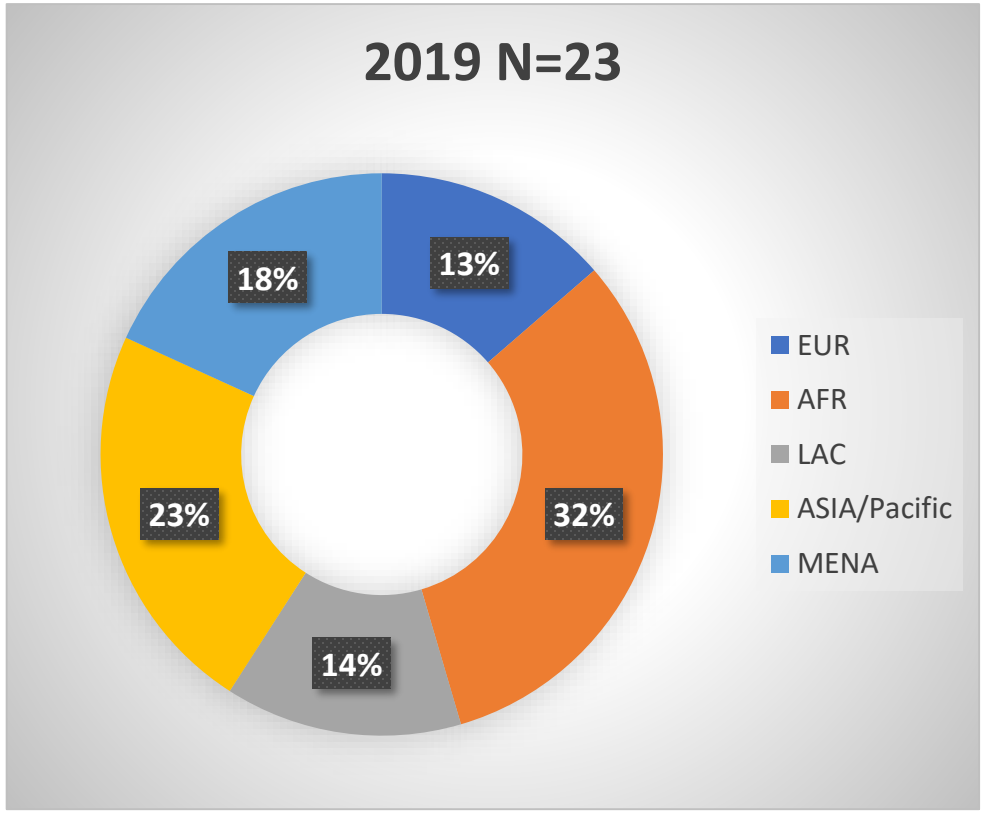
VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS 2018 – 2019

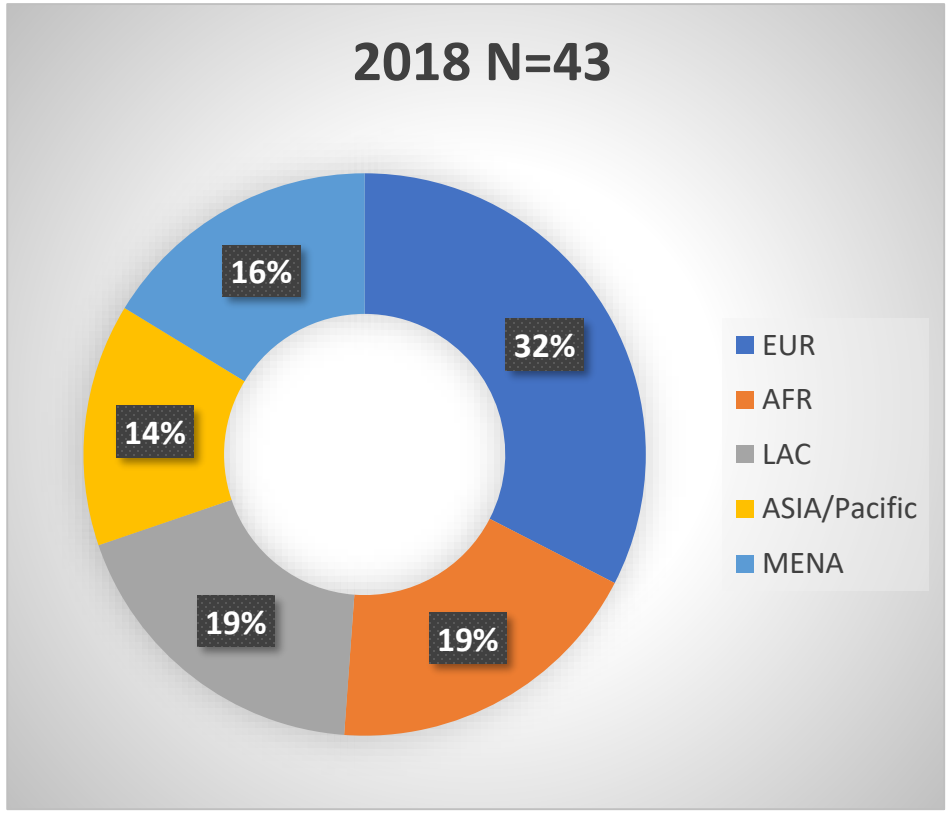
- Collaborative work to analyze 2018 (43) and 2019 (23) VNRs
- Understand the extent to which gender evaluative evidence was used to inform VNRs
- Understand the process and governance of VNRs reviews

ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

1. Use of ‘Evaluation’ and ‘Gender’ related keywords;
2. Reference to a governance system for measuring progress towards the SDGs;
3. Description of a methodological framework for the VNR review;
4. Integration of evaluation into SDG follow-up and review systems;
5. National frameworks, strategies, policies related to gender equality
6. Evidence of inclusion of marginalized voices (Leave no one behind) in VNRs, and
7. Evidence of plan(s) for a regular review of SDG progress at the national level, including the role of civil society in those processes

SAMPLE


2019 N=23
13%
32%
14%
23%
18%
EUR
AFR
LAC
ASIA/Pacific
MENA


2018 N=43
32%
19%
19%
14%
16%
EUR
AFR
LAC
ASIA/Pacific
MENA

Category	Common Findings
Keywords Review	Varying use of EFGR terminology, including “gender-responsive“; Nuances: Social inclusion= social participation; violence against women or children, LGBTQ almost never used, studies versus evaluations
Governance	Diversity of platforms and governing mechanisms for SDGs and their monitoring: Ministry of Planning with line ministries, Foreign Affairs, International Development, Treasury and National Statistics Bureaus, Commissions under Presidents; SDG coordination units. In 2019, there is mention of 2 M&E systems involved in SDGs reviews
Frameworks, Strategies, Policies	CEDAW, Beijing and other national laws gender equality are most often included Availability of M&E policies or systems is not apparent Gender is mainstreamed largely in sectors: health, education, employment with data disaggregated by sex; almost not reference to women’s machineries or women’s groups
No one left Behind	Wide range of context specific marginalized groups that should not be left behind: children ad women most commonly associated with LNOB, less so youth, elderly, disabled, indigenous, CSO mentioned, but academia rarely referenced

Category	Common Findings
Methods	Statistical analysis prevails, with instances of use of assessments and reviews. Participatory consultative processes cited almost everywhere Various tools and data collection mechanisms: analytical frameworks; specific SDG tools, analyses, monitoring system; participatory processes of engagement to conduct review
Evaluation	Evaluation referenced in the M&E context, with limited examples of use of evaluation evidence. The need for evaluations is sometimes highlighted as in case of Guyana, Tunisia, Chile, and in some cases past evaluations are used as evidence (Tunis), also commitment to invest in evaluation capacity in the future
Looking Ahead	Sometimes M&E systems mentioned, and sometimes Information systems through Statistical offices, with acknowledgement of evaluation, but not systematic plan to include evaluation systems in future reviews

LOOKING AHEAD

- Guyana *"Among the priorities is the fifth priority would be accelerating the pace of institutionalising monitoring and evaluation systems across whole of government which will reinforce result- based management and evidence based interventions to address the development challenges. This will see higher allocations of expenditure to M&E training and* ***more evaluations*** *being conducted along with other evaluation tools being mandatory*
- *Tunisie: "La principale mission du Conseil des pairs de l'égalité et l'équilibre des chances entre la femme et l'homme est d'intégrer* ***l'approche genre dans les politiques et plans de développement en Tunisie au niveau de la planification, la programmation, l'évaluation*** *et la budgétisation, dans le but d'éradiquer toutes les formes de discrimination femme homme et de réaliser l'égalité dans les droits et les obligations. »*

CONCLUSIONS

- Almost no inclusion of gender-responsive evaluative evidence and evidence from national evaluations on gender equality plans and strategies; however mention of gender equality frameworks such as CEDAW has increased
- Evaluative evidence is seen in some cases, however there is still limited use of evaluations to inform progress on SDGs. There is positive change from 2018 to 2019
- Access to disaggregated data by sex continues to be a challenge to monitor progress in most of countries analysed, however health and education targets are more often disaggregated by sex and there is good progress
- Inclusion of Civil Society VOPEs and Womens Groups in SDGs reviews are still weak, but with positive progress

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Engage with results of Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) framework for SDG readiness
- Promote resources and expertise from evaluation community, related to EFGR evidence
- Engage with gender machineries, to provide evidence for advocacy
- Evaluation processes elevate EFGR from an approach to a standalone evaluation criterion, which make them catalysts for transformative change, including in the 2030 Agenda.
- Strengthen evaluation of national gender policies, plans and strategies that can feed into VNRs processes
- Build/enhance partnerships between statistical commissions and evaluation communities to enable strong links between data, analysis and evaluation

THANK YOU