

A Stocktake on Culturally Responsive Evaluations in and outside the UN System

UNEG EPE Session 3: Evaluation as a transformative process

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“Cultural diversity provides fresh ideas and perspectives that enrich our lives in countless ways, allowing us all to grow and thrive together.”

Overview

- Part I What is culturally responsive evaluation?
- Part II Findings from the stocktake in and outside the UN system
- Part III Challenges in applying culturally responsive evaluation
- Part IV Lessons learned for the future

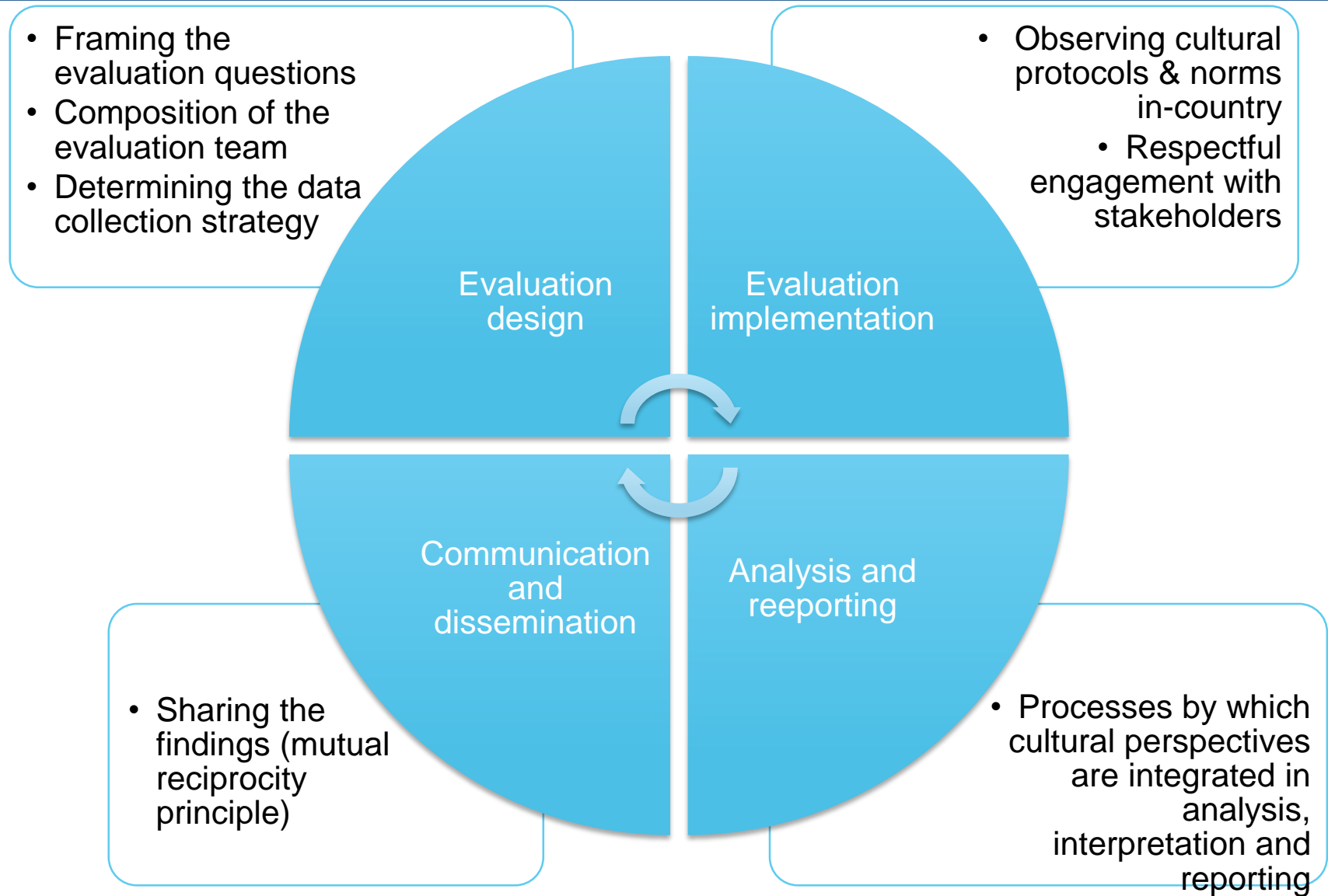
Understanding Culturally Responsive Evaluation (CRE)

- Evaluation cannot be separated from the sociocultural contexts within which social programmes are implemented
- CRE honours the cultural context by bringing shared life experience and understanding to evaluation
- Principles: integrity and validity, ethics, indigenous knowledge, privilege and power
- Added value is enhanced credibility and utility
- Integrating cultural perspectives ensures that evaluations contribute to transformative change

Purpose of Stocktake

- Collect information on past efforts and lessons learned on integrating culture into evaluations in the UN
- Identify good practices outside the UN
- Distil lessons learned from academic literature
- Act as a catalyst for the engagement of UNEG on this issue

Framework for Analysing CRE



Key insights of the stocktake

- References to cultural dimensions remain limited in evaluations
- Cultural diversity and competence are not considered in team composition
- Context overviews tend to overlook cultural dimensions
- A CRE approach can be applied without explicit references to culture

Challenges in applying a CRE approach

- Limited understanding of the concept of culture as well as the links between culture and gender and human rights
- CRE approach difficult to apply to non culturally responsive programmes
- Inclusion of evaluation team members with shared living experiences
- Restrained time and resources for integrating a CRE approach

Lessons Learned for the Future

- Encourage an explicit focus on the cultural context of the evaluand
- Develop Terms of Reference that consider the impact of cultural context in analysis of findings
- Ensure evaluation teams are culturally diverse and have shared living experiences in the cultural contexts
- Adopt a flexible evaluation approach that takes into account various contexts

For further information

Discussion Document online at:

<http://www.uneval.org>

and

<http://www.unesco.org/ios>

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