

UNEG – HEIG Humanitarian Evaluation Interest Group

AGM briefing – SO 3 session

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Overview

- Current composition and governance
- Overview on 2017-18 work plan
- Update on progress:
 - WS 1: Guidance on evaluating Humanitarian Principles
 - WS 2: Mapping and synthesis of evaluative evidence on the Humanitarian-Development NEXUS
 - WS 3: Reaching out to other WG/SO's & Embedding Humanitarian Evaluation into UNEG work
- Questions and options moving forward for AGM consideration

Background and overview

Membership

2017-18: 12 agencies

FAO – IOM – OCHA - UNDP
UNFPA – UNHCR - UNICEF
UNICRI – UNRWA –
UNWOMEN – WFP – WHO

(observer) ALNAP

Governance and resourcing

- WFP and UNHCR (co-convenors)
- **In-kind:** management time: FAO; UNHCR; WHO; WFP
- **Funding:** FAO (editing nexus study)
- Again, no funding requested from UNEG Secretariat in 2017/18



2017-18 Work Plan overview

Contributing to SO3 – Outcome 3.3

“Humanitarian Evaluation specificities appropriately considered in UNEG’s work”

Three planned activities:

- 1) Follow up to HEIG study on ‘Reflecting Humanitarian Principles in Evaluation’
- 2) Resume HEIG’s work on the Hum-Dev Nexus
- 3) Improve linkages with other SOs and work streams, and explore options for closer collaboration and inputs to specific normative products and guidance.

Act. 1: Pilot the Draft Guidance on Evaluating Humanitarian Principles

2017 aim: “pilot to test the developed draft guidance” in a context of diverse needs / views on topic

Achievements

- **August 2017**, *Revised Draft Guidance* with multiple options made available as a reference
- **Sept 2017**, a *testing tool* made available to members with an informal testing by members as/if needed



Act. 1: Next steps

April 2018 HEIG members survey confirmed

(i) a number of agencies have been testing the Guidance, and (ii) a majority support use of HEIG as an exchange of practice forum (thematic agenda setting of HEIG)

- keep the draft guidance as “a reference material that agencies can use as / if / when applicable”
- **QIV-2018** more formal invitation to members to share experiences

Act. 2: Mapping of evaluations on the Humanitarian-Development NEXUS

Achievements:

Mapping and synthesis of evaluations released as a HEIG reference document (April 2018)

Management time: FAO, UNHCR, WHO

Financial support received from: FAO in 2018 and UNDP, FAO and UNHCR in 2017.

Act. 2: Mapping of evaluations on the NEXUS

- Post-WHS; 8 focus countries; eval. last 8-10 yrs
- Multiplicity of definitions and entry points
- Weak demand and supply
- Differences in Hum and Dev cohorts + eval with combined focus (DRR; resilience; PB and Human Security)
- Nexus lens more useful to inform **(a)** evaluation scoping decisions **(b)** analysis of relevance, sustainability (connectedness) and coherence



Act. 2: NEXUS

Options moving forward

- Survey results confirmed relevance of and interest in the topic (possibly beyond HEIG)
- Further **consultations needed on how best HEIG could engage on this topic** – also taking into account MTR results and other SOs work plans.
- Suggestion to focus on sharing and discussing the mapping more proactively in 2018-19. *[This is also in light of prioritizing activity 3 of the HEIG workplan]*



Act. 3 – Embedding Hum. Evaluation across UNEG SOs

Barely activated this year (no success in the outreach done) mainly due lack of capacity, and disconnect with broader UNEG work plan.

Next steps suggested

- ✓ Prioritize this activity in next year with more proactive outreach and embedding HEIG members in other SOs (incl. normative work)
- ✓ Identify during and following AGM upcoming work led by other SOs to which HEIG could provide support, expertise, consolidated HEIG inputs, and insight from a Hum. Eval. perspective

Additional input:

HEIG members survey results

Survey conducted in preparation to the AGM to gather feedback on HEIG relevance, modalities, and areas of work.

Few highlights:

Purpose and relevance of HEIG re-confirmed

Modalities to be reviewed:

- Call for more regular interactions – however smaller and larger Eval Offices reflected the struggle to maintain regular engagement
- More focus on communication and on outreach to other SOs.

Going forward – proposal for next year

LESS focus on producing new content

MORE on communication of products made available

MORE on exchange of practice through regular interactions

MORE outreach to other SOs and Interest Groups:

- a) Link to other UNEG work (reviving Activity 3)
- b) Focus on communicating, disseminating, supporting and learning from 2017-18 activities; and
- c) More regular interaction among HEIG members (including learning from DEIG experience)



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Few words of caution

- Need to take into account the MTR results
- Focus on embedding HE - given the challenge of following 'in real time' what other UNEG groups plan / deliver
- Effort to reach out to (especially normative) groups need to be sustained;
- Need enhanced engagement by members, and confirmation of co-conveners (for 2018/2019) beyond UNHCR



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