

National Evaluation Policy of Sri Lanka

1. Introduction

Evaluation is a systematic and objective assessment of policies, programmes, ongoing or completed projects and institutions. Evaluation findings are helpful to determine the relevance and fulfilment of objectives, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of projects, programmes and policies. A National Policy on Evaluation supported by a conducive environment for its implementation ensures : Sustainable implementation of policies, programmes and projects; efficient utilization of resources; and evidence based decision making by incorporating lessons learnt.

2. Purpose

Purpose of the NEP is to create an inductive environment for achieving National Development Goals through improved policy-making, planning, budgeting, monitoring and; accountability in implementation.

3. Principles of the National Evaluation Policy

The NEP is based on the following principles:

- 3.1 *Managing for Development Results* will be the guiding principle throughout the development process.
- 3.2 *Good governance* will be ensured through sharing of evaluation information and utilization of recommendations.
- 3.3 *Evaluation Culture* will be promoted as an essential precondition for sustainable evaluation

4. Policy Statements

- 4.1 Evaluation will be recognized as the most appropriate learning and feedback mechanism for decision making.
- 4.2 An appropriate institutional arrangement will be created within the existing system to ensure implementation of NEP.
- 4.3 Appropriate tools, scientific methods and information systems will be promoted to enhance professionalism in evaluation.

- 4.4 Joint and participatory approaches in evidence-based evaluation will be promoted for transparency, shared responsibility, reliability and knowledge sharing.
- 4.5 Capacity building of stakeholders engaged in the implementation of the NEP will be recognized.
- 4.6 Allocation of adequate resources for evaluation will be acknowledged.
- 4.7 Evaluation information will be made available in easily accessible modes.

5. Goals of the National Evaluation Policy

- 5.1 Enhance evidence-based decision-making and planning
- 5.2 Ensure relevance, efficiency and effectiveness in resource utilization and sustainability of development results
- 5.3 Ensure transparency and accountability at all levels of results-delivery
- 5.4 Promote best practices and lessons learnt while minimizing failures and negative impacts of policies, programmes and projects.
- 5.5 Create an evaluation culture in the country

6. Applicability and Scope

This NEP encompasses all policies and all national, provincial and local level programmes and projects that are implemented in Sri Lanka. In respect of donor-funded projects, evaluation guidelines as specified by the donor can be applied in line with national guidelines on evaluation.

7. Implementation of NEP

7.1 Institutional arrangement and responsibilities:

- 7.1.1. The Department of Project Management and Monitoring (DPMM) will be the *National Focal Point* to implement the NEP. The DPMM through the subject ministry will:
 - a. Provide leadership, guidance, and support for implementation of NEP at national, provincial and local authority levels.
 - b. Facilitate capacity building of all relevant institutions for planning, monitoring and evaluation for professional evaluation.

- c. Set ethics, standards, and guidelines to ensure the quality of evaluation.
- d. Review the implementation of the NEP in collaboration with line ministries and other relevant institutions.
- e. Encourage the use of findings and recommendations of evaluations in decision-making and policy-formulation.
- f. Report important findings that arise from evaluations to the Cabinet of Ministers to facilitate informed decision making.

7.1.2 All line ministries, Provincial Councils, Local Authorities and other institutions/ organization will be partners of NEP implementation as stipulated in the guidelines.

8. Glossary

Evaluation Culture	An action-oriented perspective that actively seeks solutions to problems, trying out tentative ones, weighing the results and consequence of actions, all within an endless cycle of supposition-action-evidence-revision that characterizes good science and good management (Trochim,2006)
Evidence-based Decision-making	A process for <i>making decisions</i> about a program, practice, or policy that is grounded in the best available research <i>evidence</i> and informed by experiential <i>evidence</i> from the relevant field.(UNAIDS, 2008)
Joint Evaluation	Evaluations involving multiple donors or both donor and recipient countries (OECD, 2013).
Managing for Development Results/ RBM	A management strategy focusing on performance and achievement of outputs, outcomes and impact. (Sida, 2007)
Monitoring	The capture, analysis, and reporting of project performance, usually as compared to plan. , (State of Michigan, 2013)
On-going (mid-term) Evaluation	Evaluation performed towards the middle of the period of implementation of the intervention. (Sida, 2007)
Participatory Evaluation	Evaluation method in which representatives of agencies and stakeholders (including beneficiaries) work together in designing, carrying out and interpreting an evaluation. (Sida, 2007)
Stakeholder	Agencies, organizations, groups or individuals who have a direct or indirect interest in the development intervention or its evaluation.(Sida, 2007)

Sustainability	The continuation of benefits from a development intervention after major development assistance has been completed. The probability of continued long-term benefits. The resilience to risk of the net benefit flows over time. (Sida, 2007)
Subject Ministry	Ministry in-charge of the subjects of monitoring and evaluation
Other institutions/ Organizations	Private/NGO/ CBO

References:

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