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# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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**Evaluation Systems and Capacities for Evaluating  
Progress Towards the Sustainable Development Goals  
UNDP & UNICEF Asia Pacific Case Studies  
Sri Lanka**

Thursday 19 October 2017. NEC, Istanbul

# Sri Lanka Case Study :

## Country Context - National Evaluation Systems

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### **Policy :**

- ▶ Department of Project Management & Monitoring (DPMM) under new Ministry of Development Assignments leading development of a National Evaluation Policy since 2016.
- ▶ **Sustainable Development Council Bill also passed by Parliament showing the high level political commitment**
- ▶ Based on the Government policy framework “ Vision 2025: A Country Enriched’ which aligned to SDG 2030 Agenda the Public Investment Programme has also prepared by the Department of National Planning prioritizing some localized indicators.

### **System**

- ▶ National Monitoring Focal point – DPMM take lead on project monitoring and reporting.
- ▶ Department of Census & Statistics (DCS) has reviewed alignment of SDGs and will maintain a central repository for SDGs data.

### **Resources for evaluation.**

- ▶ “ Budget Call 2018”– Line Agencies were called to mainstream their activities with SDGs by the Department of National Budget .
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# Sri Lanka Case Study Emerging Findings: National Evaluation Capacities for the SDGs

Enabling Environment	Institutional capacity	Individual capacity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft <a href="#">National Evaluation policy</a> is under preparation by DPMM strategies and guidelines for NEP implementation being developed.</li> <li>• Sustainable Development Council Bill passed by Parliament</li> <li>• <a href="#">strengthen coordination of monitoring and institutional structure – Vision 2025</a></li> <li>• “ Budget Call 2018”– Line Agencies were called to mainstream their activities with SDGs by NBD</li> <li>• <a href="#">Policy decision to strengthen the monitoring activities through establishing “Monitoring Cells” in key line ministries</a></li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">DPMM taking lead on Monitoring</a> reporting mainly on physical/financial progress; outcome evaluation is not systematic.</p> <p><a href="#">Consultative Committee for SDGs established</a></p> <p>Individual Ministries in different stages of data collection and to be <a href="#">systemically linked</a> with <a href="#">mainstreaming SDG s</a>; little integration yet occurring.</p> <p>DCS reviewed and aligned SDGs indicators to maintain a repository for data.</p> <p><a href="#">SLPFE, SLEvA together with other NGOs prmoting ECD.</a></p>	<p>Some internal public sector training on M&amp;E is occurring, mainly at national level</p> <p>Donor evaluations carried out scientifically.</p> <p>M&amp;E training for individuals through NGOs and SLEvA ;</p> <p>M&amp;E certificate/diploma courses by University of Sri Jayawardanapura &amp; SLEvA</p>

# Sri Lanka Case Study Emerging Findings: National Evaluation System/Capacities for the SDGs

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## Key strengths

- National Evaluation policy being finalized
- High level commitment to evaluation and the SDGs' implementation
- Evaluation Culture is emerging (joint evaluations, impact assessments, independent evaluation)
- DCS & DPMM working on improving systematic approach to data gathering, analysis and planning; evaluation used to increase public accountability and transparency
- Government Policy for capacity building promoting M&E training
- Establishment of Centre for Evaluation at University of Sri Jayawardanapura



## Sri Lanka Case Study Emerging Findings: National Evaluation System/Capacities for the SDGs

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### ▶ **Key weaknesses**

- ▶ Delays in schedules for policy, system and operational changes for M&E prevent implementation
  - ▶ Approach to the SDGs not well-coordinated or linked across government – need development of monitoring guidelines to manage diversity of progress reporting and to improve quality
  - ▶ **Application of lessons learned need to be systematic, and needs a sound policy, internal circular issuance and awareness on how to apply the policy**
  - ▶ **More work required on integrating datasets between agencies and need a single common uniform system**
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# Concluding Remarks and Next Steps

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## **Enabling environment:**

Establishment of Sustainable Development Council need to be further facilitation and fast-tracking needed for:

- (i) synergizing SDGs, and learning
- (ii) approval for draft National Evaluation Policy and strategies ; and,
- (iii) **develop monitoring guidelines and standards for evaluation.**

## **Institutional capacity:**

- ▶ **Substantial investment required to develop a common data platform (integrated data systems) to improve data quality, completeness and use**
- ▶ Improve data sharing through a new/ upgraded data portal for statistics and evaluation results.

## ▶ **Individual capacity:**

- ▶ **Increase accessibility of periphery agencies for training courses to build capacity and knowledge more widely of SDGs and evaluation**
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