

Country 1: Federal Republic of Good intentions

The Federal Republic of Good Intentions is under a government administration that highly values the use of evidence to inform public policy decisions. The Executive branch acknowledges that the results of M&E activities provide useful information to keep the country in the road of achieving the stated goals in the national plan.

Thanks to an M&E capacity building program provided by the Global Evaluation Initiative to a selected group of public officers within various ministries, the evaluation needs of the public sector were identified, and specific evaluation types were selected, such as design, process, and results evaluations. Under the coordination of the Ministry of Planning, a national evaluation agenda was developed, accompanied with operative handbooks with specific steps to develop each stage of the evaluation process.

The M&E program also included a monitoring module where the participants learned how to define relevant and pertinent indicators, as well as how to collect indicator data. The participants were also exposed to different monitoring tools such as the Results Indicator Matrix, and specific handbooks were developed to guide the implementation of the monitoring functions using the matrix.

The M&E activities are currently being developed at a federal level, and there is a good coordination of the M&E functions by the Ministry of Planning. There are periodic meetings with the heads of different Ministries to review the M&E information and for the participants to provide feedback on the process. For example, on the last meeting, the Minister of Finance mentioned that there is not sufficient information being generated from the M&E activities to guide the budgeting process. Also, she stated that the little information provided is not timely.

In terms of evidence use, the Ministries are using the results of M&E activities to design new interventions, improve old ones, as well as for transparency purposes to report to the highest level of the Executive branch and external donors/loaners such as international development banks. However, a culture of evaluation has not been developed that promotes the demand and use of results by citizens, CSOs, the media, among other actors.

The biggest challenge faced by the Republic of Good Intentions is the lack of approved normative frameworks that institutionalize the M&E activities. There are initial drafts of a national M&E policy, but the necessary congressional majority has not been achieved in supporting the approval of the framework. If the bill is not passed, all the advances accomplished by the current administration may be completely erased if the priorities of the next government in charge are different.

Shock: Due to changes in the government, there is a new minister in the Ministry of Planning. As there is no clear mandate assigning responsibility for coordinating M&E activities to this ministry, the new head suspended the implementation of the national evaluation agenda due to "new priorities". The rest of ministers are worried about this new decision and are relying on the Cabinet Secretary to do something.