LEAVING **NO**
ONE BEHIND:
EVALUATION
for **2030**

2019 National Evaluation
Capacities Conference

وزارة التخطيط والمتابعة والإصلاح الإداري
Ministry of Planning, Monitoring
and Administrative Reform

Sri Lanka Experience

Asela Kalugampitiya

UNICEF

@undp_evaluation   **#NECdev**

Policy background for SDGs

- Adoption of the Sri Lanka Sustainable Development Act, No.19 in October 2017. This Act provides a legal framework and sets forth the provisions to facilitate sustainable development in the country.
- A high level Sustainable Development Council provides a multi-stakeholder approach to sustainable development.
- The Sri Lankan Vision 2025: A Country Enriched strongly aligns with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Parliamentary Select Committee (PSC) on the SDGs has been created to facilitate the implementation of the SDGs. The PSC provides guidelines and directions to mainstream the SDGs into the national budget.
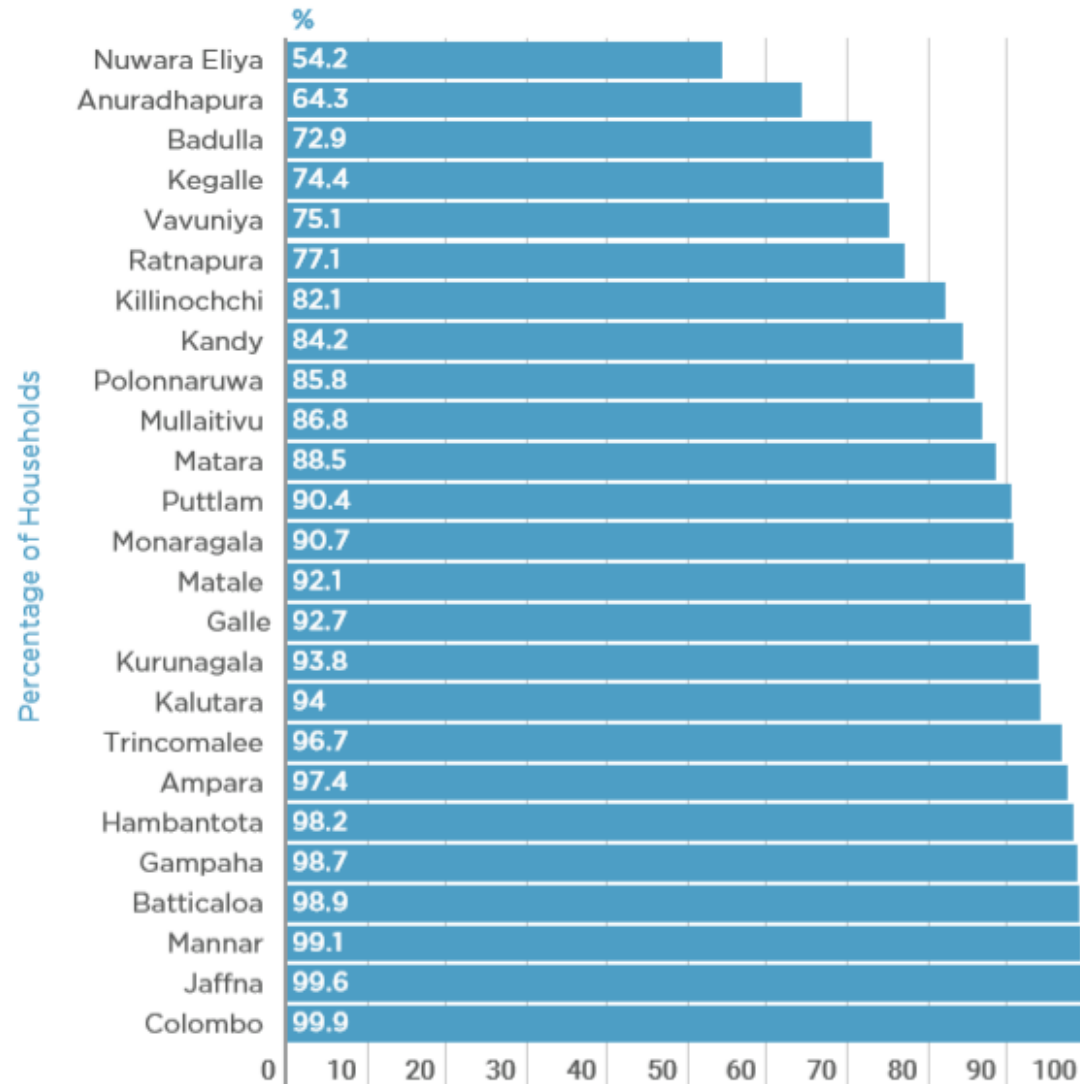
VNR process

- Sri Lanka presented Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2018.
- Established Task Force to lead the process
- Road map for VNR process
- Collaborative and inclusive process
- The stakeholder consultation process started one year before the VNR presentation.
- Stakeholder consultation included the relevant ministries, national statistics office, M&E department, civil society, evaluation community, academia, United Nations and other interest groups.
- A series of stakeholder consultations were conducted.
- UNESCAP provided technical support for the stakeholder consultation facilitation and the report.
- Used both qualitative and quantitative data
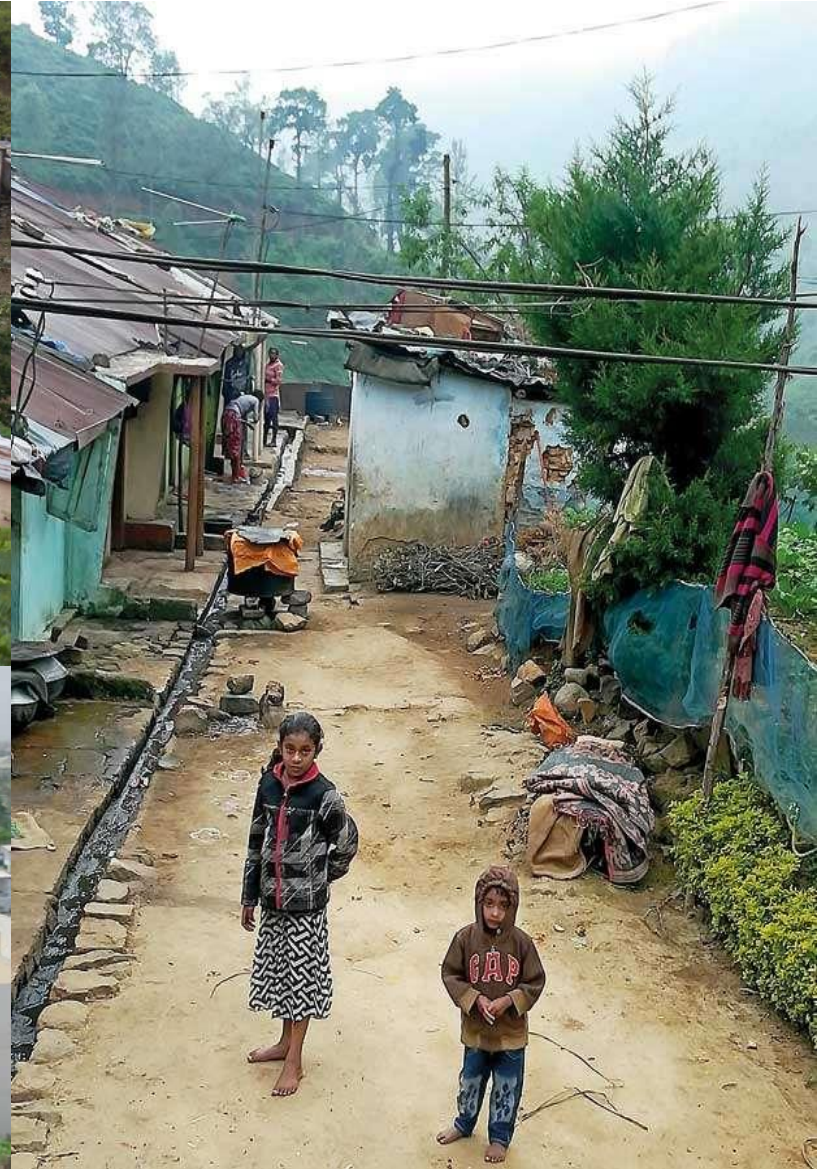
Incorporating Evidence in the VNR

- National statistics office is the main source of information for indicators identified for SDGs.
- The ministries provided monitoring and other available data available with them. But no major evaluations conducted by relevant ministries aiming to support with evidence.
- Civil society verified/ cross checked info provided by ministries.
- Civil society organizations got together and started to prepare a parallel report.
- There was no evaluation of national development program prior to preparation of the VNR

Figure 4.1: Access to Safe Drinking Water in 2016 by District

District	%
Nuwara Eliya	54.2
Anuradhapura	64.3
Badulla	72.9
Kegalle	74.4
Vavuniya	75.1
Ratnapura	77.1
Killinochchi	82.1
Kandy	84.2
Polonnaruwa	85.8
Mullaitivu	86.8
Matara	88.5
Puttlam	90.4
Monaragala	90.7
Matale	92.1
Galle	92.7
Kurunagala	93.8
Kalutara	94
Trincomalee	96.7
Ampara	97.4
Hambantota	98.2
Gampaha	98.7
Batticaloa	98.9
Mannar	99.1
Jaffna	99.6
Colombo	99.9

Percentage of Households

No one left behind

Access to safe drinking water by district

Evolution of the National Evaluation System

- National Evaluation Policy and System equally improved simultaneously with the VNR process
- Sri Lanka Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation was established in 2016
- Two parliamentary debates were conducted on NEPS in 2016
- Sri Lanka National Evaluation Policy was approved on 26 Jun 2018
- DPMM developed National Evaluation Policy Framework for implementation of NEP
- Parliamentary Select Committee on Evaluation was established in 2018
- National Evaluation Bill was drafted in 2019
- Parliament and universities partnered to use evidence generated by academic institutions
- PRU is being capacitated to provide brief evaluation reports to policy makers
- Academic courses on evaluation (PGDinM&E, MSc in Evaluation)

Key highlights

- Sri Lanka VNR clearly mentions progress of NEPS and use of data
- Role played by the civil society
- NEPS emerged significantly (SLPFE and Center for Evaluation won American Evaluation Association Advocacy for Evaluation Award 2019)

Lessons Learnt

- Needs to strengthen use of evidence in VNRs (existing evaluation reports, evaluation of national program before the VNR etc)
- Use of evidence to see "who is left behind" needs to be strengthened
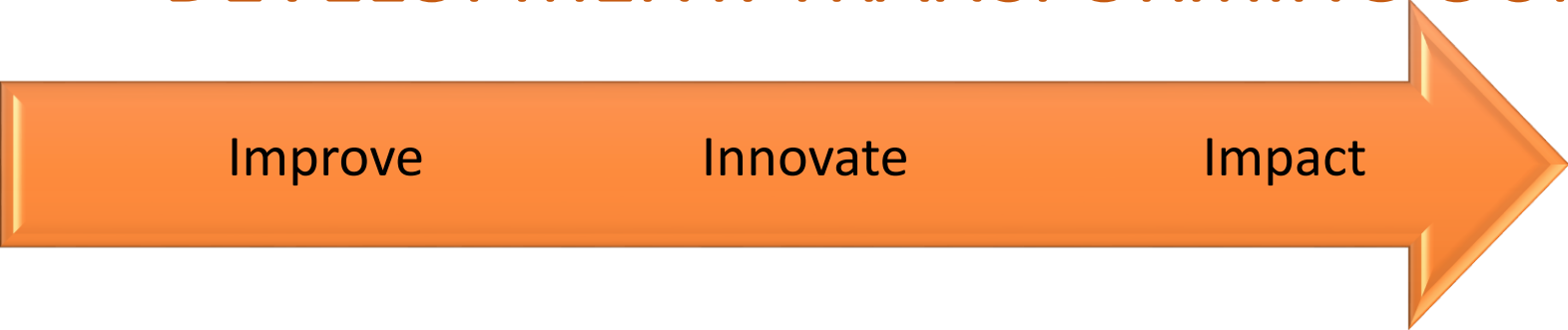
Activity:
Action Planning

➢ Each country has different strengths, weaknesses in M&E system.

➢ A VNR is an opportunity to identify gaps and strengthen the evaluation system

➢ It can highlight areas that need more evaluation activities for accountability and learning for the SDGs.

➢ It can promote more readiness for evaluations (at the design stage)

➢ Particularly for those "left behind".

Road map
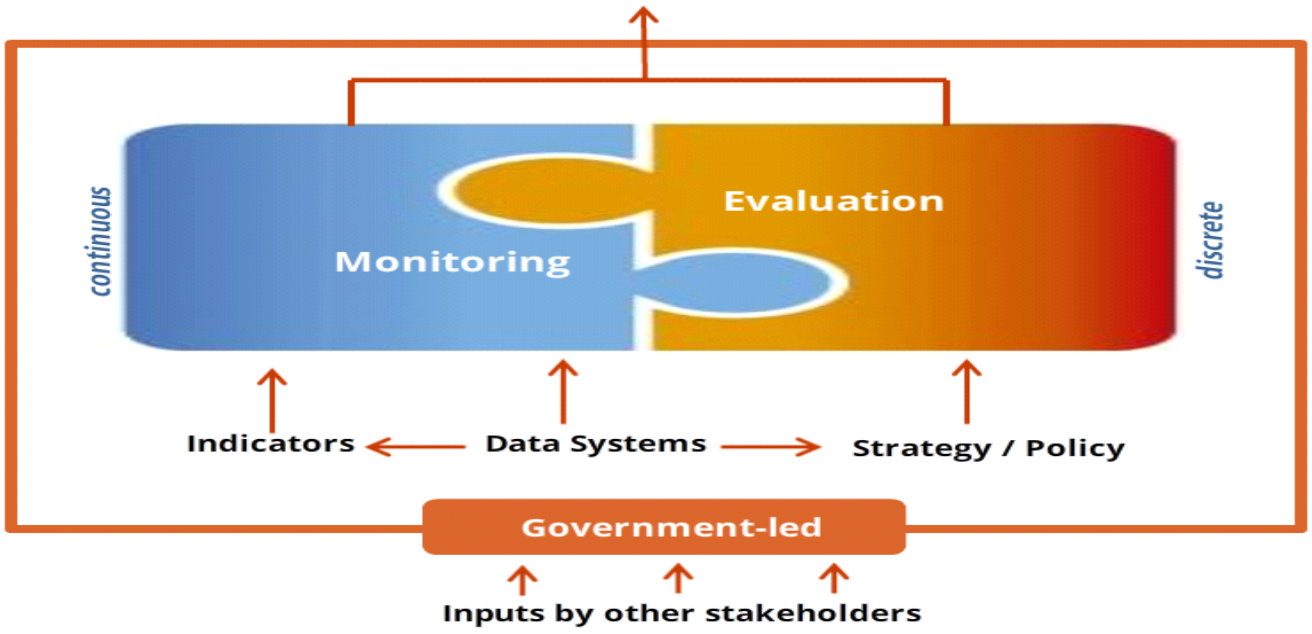# for evaluation, VNRs & the SDGs

Your road map should bring together the priorities and actions that you have identified in previous workshop session covering:

- What is the highest priority to strengthen the National Evaluation System (Session 1)

- What sources of evidence are already available and where are the gaps? (Session 2)

- Who can be contacted to help fill the gaps – particularly on those "left behind"? (Session 3)

- How can evaluation "champions" be engaged? (Session 4)

2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD

Improve   Innovate   Impact

Regular:
- **Global Review** (SDG Progress Report / National Presentations)
- **Regional Review**
- **National Review** (National Report)

continuous

Evaluation

Monitoring

discrete

Indicators ← **Data Systems** → **Strategy / Policy**

Government-led

Inputs by other stakeholders