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SENEGAL: TOOLS FOR PROGRESS IN NATIONAL EVALUATION SYSTEMS: EXPERIENCES USING THE NATIONAL DIAGNOSTICS TOOL



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INTRODUCTION

The Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as part of its evaluation capacity-building initiatives, chose Senegal, along with other pilot countries, to test its online self-assessment tool, with a view to analysing the current national monitoring and evaluation system and to propose a national strategy for public policy evaluation. The Office of Economic Forecasting (Bureau de prospective économique (BPE), attached to the Secretariat General of the Government of Senegal, is responsible for piloting the deployment of the tool in Senegal.

Senegal used the IEO tool to diagnose its evaluation capacities, determine needs and establish action points for the development of a national framework for the evaluation of national development strategies, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is in this context that the BPE participated in the National Evaluation Capacities Conference to share the experience of Senegal in collaboration with the IEO.

This contribution aims to present the methodological approach and the process used by BPE to adapt the self-assessment tool to carry out the diagnosis of Senegal's evaluation capacities and develop a draft national policy for public policy evaluation.

METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH FOR THE DIAGNOSTIC OF EVALUATION CAPACITIES

The diagnostic process was based on the four phases recommended by the IEO.

PHASE 1. PLANNING AND BUILDING OWNERSHIP OF THE DIAGNOSTIC PROCESS

To meet the requirements of this phase, the BPE organized a national workshop to launch the diagnostic process with major stakeholders (public administration, technical and financial partners, civil society, etc.) in August 2018. During this workshop, the IEO self-assessment tool and how it worked were presented to the stakeholders and a Steering Committee was set up to guide the process.

Figure 1. The four phases of the national self-assessment diagnostic tool



Source: UNDP IEO

Following the launch workshop, the BPE developed a concept note on the objectives and the necessary resources, then proceeded to the effective launch of the diagnostic process with quantitative and qualitative surveys.

PHASE 2. PREPARATION OF THE INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR THE DIAGNOSTIC PROCESS

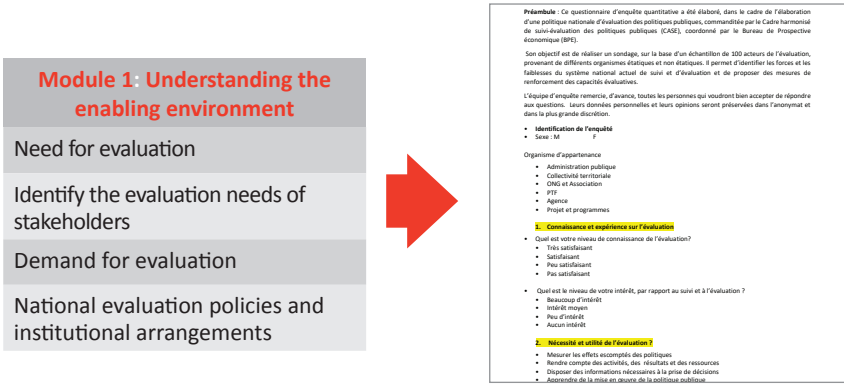
To prepare the information necessary for the process, the BPE first translated the various modules of the IEO online self-assessment tool from English to French. The themes and questions of the four modules were then brought together to develop an online questionnaire and an interview guide for stakeholders.

Data analysis required the triangulation of the information collected by the quantitative survey (questionnaires sent online) which was then completed by the qualitative survey (interviews with the main stakeholders using the interview guide).

Understanding the enabling environment



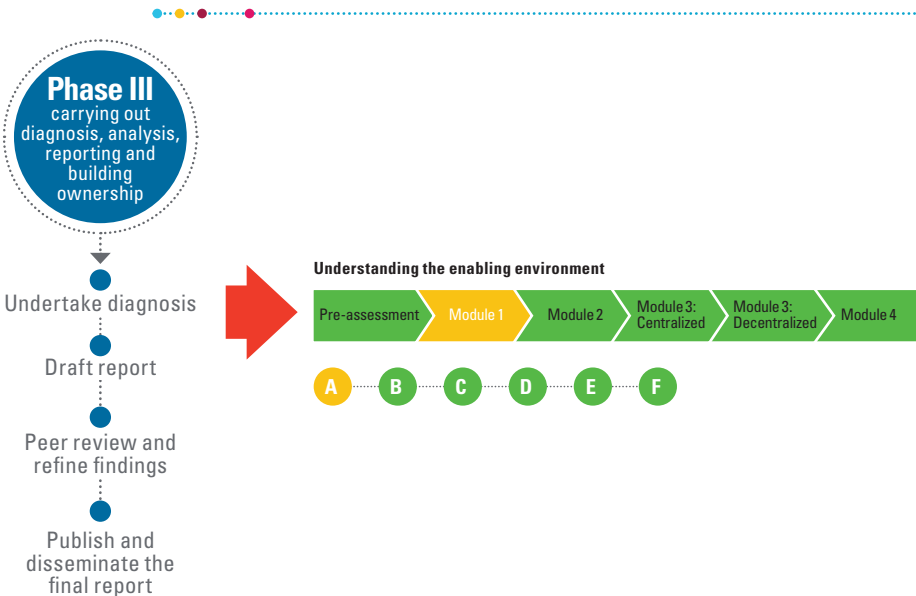
Figure 2. Example of how the questionnaire was elaborated by the BPE based on the first module of the IEO online assessment tool



PHASE 3. CARRYING OUT THE DIAGNOSTIC: THE ANALYSIS, PREPARATION OF REPORTS AND APPROPRIATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE DIAGNOSTIC

A. Responses to the questions of the four modules of the IEO online self-assessment tool

The activities were carried out using the four modules of the tool. The data collected made it possible to answer the questions for each module.



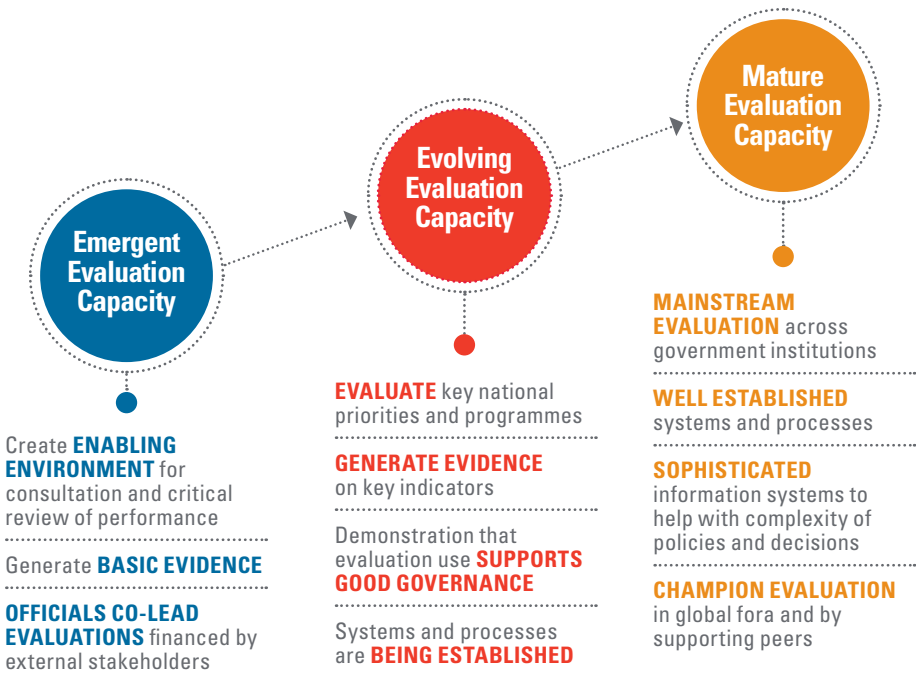
B. Preparation of the draft report

A diagnostic capacity assessment report was prepared and submitted to the Steering Committee for review. The various reports generated by the IEO online tool were used to draft the diagnostic report.

Country: SENEGAL			
Part 1: DIAGNOSTICS			
THE LEVEL OF EVALUATION CAPACITIES BASED ON THE ASSESSMENT/STOCK-TAKING OF DATA SYSTEMS, MONITORING AND EVALUATION	EVOLVING	23	CALCULATION BASED ON SCORING OF MODULE 1- SECTION D > 24 TO 36 MATURE > 12 TO 23 IS EVOLVING < 12 EMERGENT
REPORT CARD ON CONNECTING NATIONAL SYSTEMS AND AGENDA 2030 TO NATIONAL EVALUATION SYSTEMS			
			Score: 3 is high, 1 is low, 0 is no activity
Parameter			11-Oct-2019
Has the government taken measures to increase awareness about the SDGs among citizens? Such measures have been:			3
Has the government taken measures to map national plans against SDG priorities? Such measures have been:			3
Has the government prioritized integrating the SDGs into national plans and strategies? The government has:			3

The results obtained by the online self-assessment tool made it possible to assess the level of evaluative capacities in Senegal and to position it on the different levels identified by the IEO. The answers to the modules' questions also made it possible to justify the results generated by the tool and to support the argument.

Figure 3. The different levels of capacities, according to the IEO online tool



PHASE 4. UNDERTAKE FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

On the basis of the results of the diagnostic, a draft national evaluation policy was developed and submitted by experts from the BPE to the Steering Committee for validation. After the adoption of the national evaluation policy, a second assessment of evaluation capacities will be planned using the IEO online self-assessment tool to compare with the first assessment and measure the achievements obtained.

CONCLUSION

The online self-assessment tool developed by the UNDP IEO made it possible for the BPE to have a structured approach to assessing evaluation capacities in Senegal, making the link with the SDGs and developing a draft national policy for public policy evaluation, coordinated by the BPE. This enriching experience will be continued by training major stakeholders involved in the evaluation process in order to promote understanding and ownership of the tool in Senegal.