

Title: "Advancing Evaluation Capacities in Complex Environments: Insights from Yemen's Experience"

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Abstract:

In the context of protracted conflict and humanitarian challenges, Yemen has made significant strides in developing its national evaluation capacities. This study, conducted by EvalYemen, critically examines the strategies, challenges, and opportunities encountered in fostering a robust evaluation culture within a fragile state context.

The research focuses on five key areas:

1. Adaptation of evaluation methodologies to conflict-sensitive environments, ensuring relevance and applicability
2. Multi-stakeholder engagement strategies, encompassing government entities, civil society organizations, and international partners
3. Development of local evaluation expertise through structured capacity-building initiatives
4. Innovative use of technology to overcome access limitations and security concerns
5. Alignment of evaluation practices with SDG implementation and monitoring frameworks

Our analysis, based on qualitative data from interviews with 11 M&E practitioners and stakeholders, demonstrates that even in complex situations, it is feasible to cultivate a culture of evidence-based decision-making and accountability. We present empirical evidence illustrating how evaluation has informed policy formulation and programmatic decisions in Yemen, contributing to enhanced efficacy of development interventions and humanitarian responses.

This study provides valuable insights for nations facing similar challenges and aims to stimulate dialogue on the pivotal role of evaluation in supporting sustainable development within fragile contexts. By sharing Yemen's experiences and lessons learned, we contribute to the global discourse on strengthening national evaluation capacities in diverse and challenging environments.

Keywords: Monitoring and Evaluation, Yemen, Conflict-Affected States, Capacity Building, National Evaluation Systems