



Standards for enhancing meaningful engagement of youth in evaluation

Concept note

1. What is this about?

Enhancing meaningful youth engagement in evaluation is critical for equity and social justice in response to COVID-19 and climate crises, and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. With this idea, the [Youth in Evaluation celebrations](#) on 23 May 2022 marked the launch of a manifesto ([read](#)) on meaningful engagement of youth and young evaluators in evaluation. In a month since its launch, the manifesto has been adopted by about 80 organizations and 270 individuals, including international development organizations, governments, VOPEs, academia, youth organizations, private sector and NGOs. By adopting the manifesto, the organizations and individuals commit to undertake strategic and concerted efforts to build capacities of young and emerging evaluators and engage youth and young evaluators meaningfully in all stages of evaluation.

2. Why do we need standards on youth in engagement in evaluation?

For real change, the commitments in the manifesto needed to be translated into practice. To support this, the standards serve as a tool for promoting self-accountability and improving practice for enhancing meaningful engagement of youth in evaluation.

3. What will the standards contain?

The standards will be organized around six dimensions: (1) leadership and accountability; (2) practice; (3) advocacy and capacity development; (4) knowledge management and communications; (5) human resources; and (6) financial resources. Each dimension will include three to five performance indicators to determine the extent of the progress made.

Tailored and specific standards will be developed for each typology of stakeholder groups such as (1) international development organizations, (2) VOPEs, (3) governments, (4) youth organizations, (5) academia, and (6) NGOs/private sector. See Annex 1 as an example of (draft) proposed standards for international development organizations.

4. Who should be involved?

Intergenerational and participatory consultations will co-create and roll out specific standards for each stakeholder group. This is critical for wide ownership and implementation of the standards. The consultations would also serve as an advocacy mechanism and networking platform with each stakeholder group.

For each standard, a task force will be established following self-nomination. This will include youth representatives, representatives from the stakeholder group and Eval4Action partners/manifesto adoptees/regional communication hub members. In cooperation with Eval4Action, the task force will be responsible for organizing and leading the stakeholder consultation, finalizing the standards and coordinating with other task forces (as needed). Together the task forces will support the launch of the standards in early 2023. The task force members are expected to devote around 1-2 hours per week initially and 2-3 hours per month once standards are finalized. The Eval4Action global team will undertake the overall coordination of the initiative.

Responsibilities of the task force includes:

1. Finalize the concept note for the development of the standards
2. Organize consultations to engage key actors from the stakeholder group for development of the standards
3. Finalize the standards considering inputs from the consultation and the task force members
4. Create awareness among the stakeholder group on the standards
5. Create a plan for the coordinated launch of the standards and support the launch
6. Develop a mechanism to follow up on the uptake of the standards with the stakeholders (focus on self-monitoring and reporting)
7. Review the progress in a timely manner and feature good practices
8. Review the standards for necessary updates

5. Timeline

The timeline includes the following key milestones (but not limited to them):

- Call for self-nominations for the 6 task forces – 30 July 2022
- Finalization of task forces - 15 Aug 2022
- Finalization of the concept note – 31 Aug 2022
- Task force organizes consultations for development of standards – September – November 2022
- Finalization of standards – 15 December 2022
- Awareness raising and launch of the standards – February 2023
- Monitor standards – February 2023 onwards

Annex 1: (DRAFT) Standards for international development organizations to meaningfully engage youth and young and emerging evaluators in evaluation

1. **LEADERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY:** Leadership in the organization is committed to youth in evaluation

| Approaching minimum requirement | Meeting minimum requirement | Exceeds minimum requirement |
|--|---|--|
| Regular discussion, consultations and communication with evaluation staff, senior management and key stakeholders on organization's commitment to meaningful engagement of youth in evaluation | Inclusion of engagement with youth in evaluation in the Evaluation Policy of the organization | Reporting on the engagement of youth in evaluation each year in the annual report on evaluation, against commitment in the Evaluation Policy |

2. **PRACTICE:** Organization's evaluation guidelines and tools include youth participation in all evaluation phases, focusing on the diversity of youth.

| Approaching minimum requirement | Meeting minimum requirement | Exceeds minimum requirement |
|--|--|--|
| Including youth as: - <u>Key informants</u> , to provide perspectives and evidence during the evaluation data collection, with a special focus on underrepresented youth groups | Including youth as: - <u>Key informants</u> , to provide perspectives and evidence during the evaluation data collection, with a special focus on underrepresented youth groups - <u>Co-evaluators</u> , who conduct the evaluation together with senior evaluation team members | Including youth as: - <u>Key informants</u> , to provide perspectives and evidence during the evaluation data collection, with a special focus on underrepresented youth groups - <u>Co-evaluators</u> , who conduct the evaluation together with senior evaluation team members |

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| | <p>-Advisors, who contribute insights to key deliverables of the evaluation process</p> | <p>-Advisors, who contribute insights to key deliverables of the evaluation process</p> <p>-Decision-makers, who lead/co-lead and guide/co-guide the evaluation process, alone or together with the commissioners and/or managers of the evaluation process</p> |
|--|--|---|

3. **ADVOCACY AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT:** Mobilize national governments and local partners to meaningfully engage youth in evaluation

| Approaching minimum requirement | Meeting minimum requirement | Exceeds minimum requirement |
|---|---|---|
| Contacted key stakeholders to meaningfully engage youth in evaluation | Regular advocacy with key stakeholders to meaningfully engage youth in evaluation | Providing technical and monetary support to key stakeholders to meaningfully engage youth in evaluation |

4. **KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS:** Promote value of engaging youth in evaluation through communications and knowledge management

| Approaching minimum requirement | Meeting minimum requirement | Exceeds minimum requirement |
|---|--|--|
| Align internal and external communications to spotlight the importance of youth in evaluation | Regular utilization of digital communications platforms including social media to support advocacy for youth in evaluation | <p>-Document experiences and lessons learned in engaging youth in evaluation</p> <p>-Specific digital and social media communication drives and events to advocate for youth in evaluation</p> |

5. **HUMAN RESOURCES:** Facilitating access of young professionals to the evaluation labour market

| Approaching minimum requirement | Meeting minimum requirement | Exceeds minimum requirement |
|--|--|--|
| New M&E positions, evaluation internships and/or consultancies for young professionals initiated | At least 10% of M&E positions, evaluation internships and/or consultancy offered to a young professional | More than 10% of new M&E positions, evaluation internships and/or consultancies offered to young professionals |

6. **FINANCIAL RESOURCES:** Allocation of necessary resources to support meaningful engagement of youth in evaluation in the annual budget

| Approaching minimum requirement | Meeting minimum requirement | Exceeds minimum requirement |
|--|---|---|
| Discussions initiated to insert funds for youth in evaluation in funding proposals for donors and in organization's budget | Up to 10% of funds for evaluation capacity development allocated to activities to support youth in evaluation | More than 10% of funds for evaluation capacity development allocated to activities to support youth in evaluation |