UNITAR HLPF SIDE EVENT

Using a systems thinking approach for evaluating progress on the SDGs

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Objective of this Session

- Importance of evaluation for the SDGs
- Applying systems thinking for the SDGs and evaluation
- Training exercises and take away challenges
A Systems - Approach

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

Continuous
- Monitoring
- Evaluation

Discrete
- Indicators
- Data Systems
- Strategy / Policy

Government-led
- Inputs by other stakeholders

Improve Innovate Impact
A Systems - Approach

- Characteristics of a system: A set of things working together as parts of a mechanism or an interconnecting network; a complex whole; parts that inter-relate and influence collective function.
A Systems Approach for the SDGs

• SDGs cover multiple, complex systems: natural systems, social systems, transport system, health systems, education systems

• Example of a complex system – our own bodies comprise nervous, blood, skeletal, digestive systems, amongst others...
Exercise 1: World systems in your hands
MONITOR
Tracking the pulse - continuous

REVIEW
Heart beat & rate – indicator of life and well-being

EVALUATION
Diagnose concerns - before death occurs
Understand patterns
Prevent future threats to well-being
Contribute knowledge to better future health

Evaluation critical for systems analysis
Different causes for increased heart rate
Exercise 2

- Select at least 2 SDGs that are important to your own context
- Consider what systems are most important to connect them
- Explain why these systems are important
- Suggest where evaluation could assist to find causes for issues in the systems
What can you do in future?

Examples:

- Commit learning more about systems thinking (see suggested readings)
- arrange for more training in your organisation on systems thinking and evaluation,
- Start dialogue on how systems related to SDGs you are interested in could be improved.