Reflections on a Human Rights Based Approach to Evaluation: 
*Focus on Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups Participation*

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Content

- Definitions
- Evaluation Findings
- Evaluation Practice at UNFPA EO
- Evaluation Reports
Definitions
Defining “vulnerable and marginalized”

Who?

Individual
Erosion of human development achievements and their sustainability

Particular group
Vulnerable and Marginalized groups experience high vulnerability and suffer discrimination in access to resources/power

Community
Vulnerability extends further to the community level when there is limited to no access to services and/or employment

Structural Drivers of Vulnerability

Multiple intersecting structural factors, such as:

- Social / cultural norms and values
- Interconnected social categorizations (i.e., race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, socio-economic status etc.)
- Access to resources and opportunities
- Laws and policies
At the Center of UNFPA Bull’s Eye

Population dynamics

Young people including adolescents

Achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health, promote reproductive rights, reduce maternal mortality, and accelerate progress on the ICPD agenda and MDG 5 (A & B)

Women

To improve the lives of ...

Human rights

The goal ...

Enabled by ...

Gender equality
Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups within the Context of Family Planning

- The poorest of the poor and women living in poverty
- Adolescents and youth
- Women survivors of violence
- People living with HIV and women living with HIV
- Female sex workers
- Minorities and indigenous people
- Women living with disabilities
- Refugees and internally displaced persons
- Women living under occupation
- Ageing populations and “populations of humanitarian concern”
Vulnerable and Marginalized Adolescents and Youth

- Adolescents and youth are a heterogeneous group
- Face multiple and intersecting vulnerabilities along various dimensions of identity:
  - Location (rural/urban)
  - Gender
  - Sexual Orientation/Gender Identify (other)
  - Age
  - In/Out of School
  - Marriage status
  - Pregnancy status
  - HIV/AIDS status
Evaluation Findings
Human rights-based programming

- Emphasises the process as well as the outcome of programming
- Draws attention to the most marginalised populations
- Extends and deepens participation
- Interventions should lead to equitable benefits
- Ensures local ownership of development processes
- Strengthens accountability of all actors

FP Evaluation Focus and Corresponding HR principles

- Ensuring access for all (*non-discrimination*)
- Commodities, logistics and procurement (*availability*)
- Organisation of health facilities (*accessibility*)
- Quality of care (*acceptability, quality, informed decision-making, privacy and confidentiality*)
- Comprehensive sexuality education (*accessibility*)
- Humanitarian context (*right to accessible services*)
- Participation by potential and actual users (*participation*)
Family Planning

Visible and vocal global leader as advocate for human rights-based approach to programming and for rights and needs of VMGs (mainly youth)

Lack of shared understanding on how to operationalize and implement a HRBA for family planning at country level

- In some contexts, issue of balance between the push for accelerated family planning results and promotion of a human-rights-based approach
- Focused programme attention on rights to access/expanded method mix with less attention to quality and voluntary choice in contraceptive service delivery
- Resource constraints hinder systematic situation analyses to support to vulnerable and marginalised groups programmes, despite commitment to meet VMG needs
- Operational implications of the objective to “target the needs of the most vulnerable” is unclear including how to manage trade-offs between allocating resources to reach VMGs and contributing to FP2020 targets
Adolescent and Youth (1/2)

UNFPA has been at the vanguard of calling for the respect, protection and fulfillment of the human rights of adolescents and youth

- Long-standing commitment to meeting needs of marginalised and vulnerable adolescents, yet lack of conceptual clarity on “vulnerable” and “marginalized”

- Stronger in identifying (via needs assessments) VMG, with continued challenges in ensuring systematic participation of VMG in consultation, programme design, and reach

- Nonetheless, efforts to incorporate marginalised and vulnerable A&Y in programming, particularly adolescent girls, has increased since 2008

- Programming has a particular focus (and strong results) on two VMG: adolescent girls and young populations at risk of HIV

- However, adolescents and youth programming has not focused sufficiently on young adolescent girls aged 10 to 14 years, with more support needed in the collection, analysis and use of data (on this group)
UNFPA has contributed to the increased availability and use of sexual and reproductive health services and the availability of SRH education for A&Y

- Increased availability of SRH education and information and availability and use of SRH services for A&Y generally

- Reduced legal and policy barriers to sexual and reproductive health services increased use by young people

- Similarly, **multi-sectoral and mainstreamed service programmes that engaged communities** improved accessibility for young people and comprehensiveness of services

- Particularly important contributions to increasing the use of youth-friendly health services and SRH education and information for **in-and out-of-school youth**

- However, gender based violence services – critical for GBV survivors (a identified VMG) – were not regularly integrated in youth-friendly health services
Evaluation Practice
Principles to Ensure an Ethical, Human Rights and Gender Responsive Approach to Evaluation

1. Respect for confidentiality

2. Respect for dignity and diversity

3. Equality, inclusion and non-discrimination

4. Participation by those involved in the intervention as well as those directly affected by rights violations, including vulnerable and marginalized communities

5. Wide ranging and broad consultation with consideration for gender balance

6. Transparency and reporting back to stakeholders

7. Avoidance of harm

8. Avoidance of conflict of interest
Translating Principles into Action

Gender and HR expertise incorporated in the evaluation team and reference group which includes representatives of VMGs.

Stakeholder Analysis is performed, and diverse groups identified (including beneficiaries and those most affected by rights violations).

Evaluation questions on HR and GE including vis-a-vis VMGs. HR and GE is a crosscutting theme running through other areas of investigation.

Methodology: use of mixed methods, data triangulation, and participation of stakeholders in evaluation, including in validation.

Data collection: stakeholders groups consulted and awareness of bias in privileging certain ways of “knowing”; social and communicating skills.

Indicators and data disaggregation: incl. indicators that specifically address HR and GE. Disaggregating data by gender, race/ethnic group, age, rural/urban, disabilities, sexual orientation, income, HIV/AIDS status, literacy and education level etc.

Dissemination planned with VMGs and directed at diverse groups.
• In A&Y Evaluation, youth consultants were core team members in each of 5 country case studies
• Yet, challenges remain in reflecting the plurality and diversity of A&Y in team

Gender and HR expertise incorporated in the evaluation team and reference group which includes representatives of VMGs
Evaluation Reference Group

**UNEG Guidance:** Ensure participation of a range of stakeholders notably NGOs and community groups at the forefront of advancing the work in communities and, ideally, final beneficiaries

Evaluation Reference groups contained to: participation of UNFPA business units at headquarters, regional and country levels and external partners (e.g., other UN agencies; development cooperation agencies)

NGOs, representatives of VMGs directly affected by rights violations are not included in the ERG

- Setting up of national reference groups (countries selected as case studies) in currently ongoing evaluations (RMNCAH/H4+; GBV evaluations): inclusion of national NGOs and CSOs
**Theory of Change: Pathways of Change (2/2)**

Area 5: VULNERABLE AND MARGINALISED GROUPS

Evaluation questions on HR and GE including vis-a-vis VMGs. HR and GE is a **transversal theme** running through other areas of investigation.

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### Evaluation Questions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation questions</th>
<th>Evaluation criteria</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FP</strong> Enabling environment to ensure family planning information and exercise of</td>
<td>Relevance, effectiveness</td>
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<td>rights</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FP</strong> Vulnerable and marginalised groups; identify needs, resource allocation and</td>
<td>Relevance, effectiveness, efficiency</td>
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<td>promotion of rights</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FP</strong> Rights-based approach; access, quality of care, and support to CO for rights-</td>
<td>Relevance, effectiveness</td>
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<tr>
<td>based approach</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FP</strong> Supply-side activities improving access to quality voluntary family planning</td>
<td>Relevance, effectiveness, sustainability</td>
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<td><strong>A&amp;Y</strong> Support to A&amp;Y, particularly the most marginalized and vulnerable, aligned</td>
<td>Relevance</td>
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<td>with UNFPA policies, government priorities, and needs/plans of A&amp;Y</td>
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<td><strong>A&amp;Y</strong> Human rights, gender responsive and culturally sensitive approaches to A&amp;Y</td>
<td>Relevance</td>
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<td>programming, with marginalized and vulnerable A&amp;Y, particularly young adolescent</td>
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<td>girls, prioritized</td>
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<td><strong>A&amp;Y</strong> Evidence-based policies and programs incorporate the needs and rights of A&amp;Y</td>
<td>Effectiveness and Sustainability</td>
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<td>with increased priority on adolescent girls in national development policies and</td>
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<td>programs</td>
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<td><strong>A&amp;Y</strong> Increased leadership, participation and empowerment, especially for VM A&amp;Y</td>
<td>Effectiveness and Sustainability</td>
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<td>particularly adolescent girls</td>
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*HR and GE is a cross-cutting theme running through other areas of investigation*
Stakeholder Mapping/Analysis (1/3)

Stakeholder Analysis is performed, and diverse groups identified (including beneficiaries and those most affected by rights violations).

### Family Planning
- UNFPA: 31%
- UN agencies and international DPs: 21%
- Central Government bodies: 18%
- Reg/ District govn bodies: 10%
- INGOs/NGOs/ CSOs: 8%
- Users: 13%

### Adolescents and Youth
- A&Y beneficiaries: 43%
- UNFPA: 18%
- National NGOs, CSOs & academia: 14%
- Government partners: 11%
- International NGOs and CSOs: 7%
- Users: 5%
- Donors: 2%
Stakeholder Mapping/Analysis (2/3)

Guidance: (1) Systematically consider gender and geographic balance in stakeholder make-up; (2) Aim to deepen the level of disaggregation of stakeholders; (3) Genuinely engage with a range of stakeholders (rights bearers, women’s rights groups etc.)

- Binary gender (female/male) systematically considered; geographical spread driven by interventions
- Depth of disaggregation constrained by obstacles/limitations during the country visits
- Participation of VMGs largely based on incentives and structured around evaluator’s communication skills set/style; engagement largely limited to the data collection
Stakeholder Mapping/Analysis (3/3)

Evaluation of UNFPA Support to Prevention, Response to and Elimination of GBV: An expanded stakeholder mapping

In line with the human rights-based approach, a systems-based approach used to map the key stakeholders in UNFPA’s interventions, disaggregated by human rights roles and gender analysis where relevant.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholding role and challenge</th>
<th>Stakeholders</th>
<th>Human rights roles</th>
<th>Gender analysis</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sources of motivation (intended ultimate beneficiaries and agents for change)</td>
<td>Women-Across the life cycle</td>
<td>Rights holders</td>
<td>Gender identities (M, F, L, G, B, T, I)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Young women (20-30), Adolescent girls (15-20), Young adolescent girls (10-15)</td>
<td>Primary duty bearers (as agents of change, as heads of households and assumed/traditional decision-makers)</td>
<td>Intersectional identities</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Older women</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Educational level (non, in, out, post, public/religious)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Men-across the life cycle</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Marriage / union (divorce, head of household de facto/de jure)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Young men, Adolescent boys, Young adolescent boys</td>
<td>Rights holders</td>
<td>- Motherhood / fatherhood (parenthood i.e. beyond childbearing)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Older men</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Legal registration (at birth, census, marriage)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Young girls Under 5</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Race; ethnicity; origin; caste</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Young boys Under 5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Data Collection

Methods
- Facebook e-round tables
- Youth consultants in case studies
- Limited plurality/diversity of A&Y
- Roe of COs and potential bias

Evaluation
- Attitudes
- Behaviors
- Findings
- Confidentiality
  - Communities’ understanding
- Balance risks/problems vs. assets and strengths
- Record keeping/ownership
- Managing tensions/conflicts
- Learning

Validation
- Methodology
  - Use of mixed methods, data triangulation, and participation of stakeholders in evaluation, including in validation

Context Matters
- Confidentiality
- Communities’ understanding
- Balance risks/problems vs. assets and strengths
- Record keeping/ownership
- Managing tensions/conflicts
- Learning

Facebook e-round tables
Youth consultants in case studies
Limited plurality/diversity of A&Y
Roe of COs and potential bias
"UNFPA does a great job in collecting age-disaggregated data, but should do more in presenting and spreading it."
Jennifer Villas, 28, Uruguay

"Youth programming has to involve young people in all phases of the programmes design, implementation, M&E to go beyond punctual meetings with always the same 5 young people to get their advice."
M’ossa Rekhi, 26, Tunisia

"Training and capacity building forums come and go but to empower young people they need mentorship."
Leila Wanjiru, 27, Kenya

"Sexual and reproductive health is a basis to guarantee many other things in adolescence, but sometimes young people need something else and this requires widening the focus to meet our needs."
Peter Yini Temescone, 23, Botswana

"UNFPA works through youth centers and other youth organisations to identify marginalised and vulnerable youth."
Christian Ngomerezy, 23, Democratic Republic of Congo

"UNFPA established Youth Advisory Panels in countries in Asia such as Nepal, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Bangladesh and also supported the establishment of National Youth Peer Education Networks in China and Myanmar."
Myat Sandi Min, 24, Myanmar

"Y-PEER faces challenges with each new generation of peers. A follow up programme could fill this gap by encouraging Y-PEERS to continue their activism (after they age out of the programme) and remain connected to the UNFPA mandate."
Irina Ianevskia, 31, Macedonia

Selected quotes from the eRoundtable discussion with 83 past and current UNFPA youth advocates
Countries covered by the eRoundtable discussion (total 63)
Dissemination

Dissemination to:

- VMGs not involved in elaboration of dissemination plans from the onset; at times discussions in-countries with some groups.

- Results of evaluations are not actively disseminated to VMGs; Use of multiple mediums yet not accessible to VMGs nor tailored to cultural contexts → Use of e-round tables (A&Y)

Dissemination about VMGs’ Sexual and Reproductive Rights: opposition based on use of “progressive” language in independent evaluation reports.

UNEG Guidance: (1) Reflect collectively on dissemination plan and work to ensure that final beneficiaries/rights help inform the dissemination plan; (2) Further explore how to ensure that results of the evaluation reach/are accessible to final beneficiaries and community groups; (3) Disseminate results through multiple mediums (and tailor information accordingly).
Underlying challenges to the Participation of VMGs

**Time and Resources**
- Participatory approaches take time, expertise, and increased (or redistributed) budget

**Institutional**
- Ensuring buy in/commitment at highest level
- Ensuring HRBA to evaluation, while maintaining cultural sensitivity

**Analytical**
- Importance of understanding gender and human rights as analytical categories

**Epistemological**
- Plurality: valuing knowledge/information from diverse sources and shared in different formats; understanding and valuing difference
Evaluation Reports
Evaluation Reports (1/2)

Available at http://www.unfpa.org/admin-resource/evaluation-unfpa-support-family-planning-2008-2013

Evaluation Reports (2/2)

Available at http://www.unfpa.org/admin-resource/evaluation-unfpa-support-family-planning-2008-2013
Contact  Charpentier@unfpa.org and Raaber@unfpa.org

Visit UNFPA Evaluation Office webpage at  http://www.unfpa.org/evaluation