IOM Evaluation Strategy 2021-2023

Objective

To contribute to strengthening IOM's Assessment of evidence and achievements, institutional learning and performance.
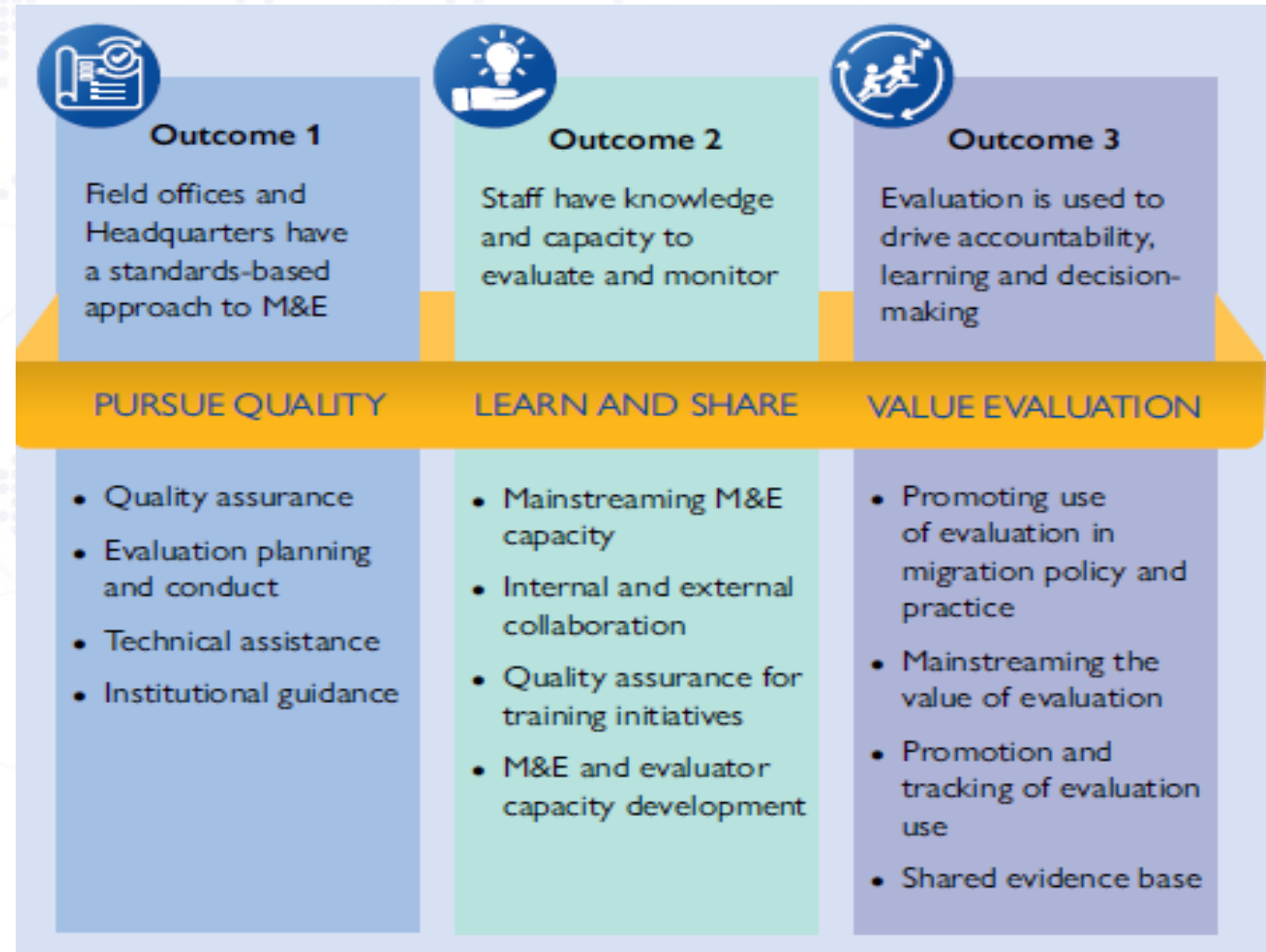
Outcome 1 – Pursue Quality

- Quality Management of evaluations
- Central Evaluations of strategic importance

Outcome 2 – Learn and Share

- M&E Guidelines learning webinars
- Expanding M&E network and related activities

Outcome 3 – Value Evaluation

- Evaluation use and utility norm
- International presence of IOM central Evaluation

Outcome 1
Field offices and Headquarters have a standards-based approach to M&E

Outcome 2
Staff have knowledge and capacity to evaluate and monitor

Outcome 3
Evaluation is used to drive accountability, learning and decision-making

PURSUE QUALITY

- Quality assurance
- Evaluation planning and conduct
- Technical assistance
- Institutional guidance

LEARN AND SHARE

- Mainstreaming M&E capacity
- Internal and external collaboration
- Quality assurance for training initiatives
- M&E and evaluator capacity development

VALUE EVALUATION

- Promoting use of evaluation in migration policy and practice
- Mainstreaming the value of evaluation
- Promotion and tracking of evaluation use
- Shared evidence base

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IOM Evaluation Workplan 2021-2022

Workplan

- The Biennial Evaluation Workplan 2021-2022 includes a selection of central evaluations of strategic importance that are being conducted by the Evaluation Function.

- In its criteria the Evaluation function also considers the interest of Member States and donors for specific topics expressed in various occasions, of the international community as debated for instance within the UN Evaluation Group or based on commitments taken through IOM policies and/or Council resolutions.

A total of 8 central evaluations have been selected:

i) Covid-19 and IOM's operational response

ii) IOM's contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

iii) Countering Xenophobia, Discrimination and enhancing social cohesion

iv) Thematic evaluation of Labour migration and Labour mobility initiatives

v) IOM Results Based Management

vi) IOM and the Humanitarian, Peace and Development Nexus

vii) IOM Regional Strategy "IOM East and Horn of Africa Strategy 2020-2024 (pilot)

viii) Review of the follow-up of the 2017 Gender Evaluation and MOPAN gender recommendations

IOM Management Response to the Peer Review

IOM welcomes the first UNEG Peer Review of the Evaluation Function and notes with appreciation that it builds on findings and recommendations from the previous MOPAN assessment.

The review comes at a timely moment, as IOM seeks to strengthen its planning, evaluation and reporting, under the auspices of the Internal Governance Framework, but also with evaluation being identified as a critical function to bolster IOM's capacities as a learning organization.

We take note of the extensive recommendations made in the peer review report and concur with the overarching statement that a strong evaluation function is critical to the future of the Organization, ensuring its effectiveness at a time when IOM's operations and global footprint continues to expand.

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Recommendations subject to SCPF consultation

Recommendation 3

Strengthening the relationship between OIG/Evaluation and Governing Bodies

IOM Administration agrees with the recommendation that greater visibility could be paid to the work of OIG/Evaluation and that its transfer to the new department is a good opportunity to revise its reporting to the Governing Bodies, not being anymore included in a section of the OIG report to the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance.

Recommendation 5

Financing the Evaluation Function

IOM Administration takes note of the recommendation and will further examine the feasibility of such an interesting suggestion. The project-based nature of IOM's operating model means that it is hard to dedicate predictable, long-term funding to the Evaluation Unit. IOM's leadership is in ongoing discussions with IOM's Member States to reform the core budget of the Organization, which would increase flexibility to invest in core functions such as Evaluation & Monitoring.

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Recommendations subject to SCPF consultation (continued)

Recommendation 10

Updating the Evaluation Policy to enhance independence, credibility, and integrity of the Evaluation Function

IOM Administration agrees with the recommendation that the IOM Evaluation policy published in 2018 needs to be revised and has no objection to have it approved by IOM Governing Bodies.

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Recommendations for IOM consideration

Recommendation 1

OIG Charter to be revised and define in greater detail the evaluation function, its independence, and its contribution to the organization

IOM Administration takes note of the recommendation, which recognizes the need to review the location of the IOM central evaluation function and has already undertaken steps to address it in the ongoing Organizational re-structure. The current functions of Monitoring and Evaluation will be moved under a specific unit of the new Department of Strategic Planning and Organizational Performance that reports to the Director General.

Recommendation 4

Dissociating the Monitoring function from the centralized Evaluation function

IOM Administration takes note of the recommendation and confirms that discussions around the functions that should fall under the responsibility of the Evaluation and Monitoring unit will continue. In line with the recommendation above, the move of the unit may also positively impact efforts to separate the evaluation and monitoring functions, as it opens the door to a reconfiguration of functions in the long-term.

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Recommendations for IOM consideration

Recommendation 6

Producing central evaluations work plans that include financial needs and performance indicators

IOM Administration takes good note of the recommendation and agrees that more information, including financial, can be integrated in OIG/Evaluation central evaluation biennial work plan, which is finalized keeping full independence on the strategic selection of central evaluations to be conducted.

Recommendation 7

Increasing the coverage and utility of decentralized evaluations

IOM Administration agrees with the recommendation and suggestions, and they will be analyzed in the framework of the study on IOM decentralized evaluation function to be conducted in 2022. IOM agrees that references to self-evaluation should be removed and that the IOM Project Handbook and IOM Evaluation Policy be revised not to make anymore evaluation mandatory for all projects, which proved to be difficult to implement fully. The suggestions made for the criteria will be examined further in the framework of the study.

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Recommendations for IOM consideration

Recommendation 8

Strengthening the decentralized Evaluation function

IOM Administration agrees with the recommendation and is currently reviewing the grading of several core positions including the Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Officers, which may also require an adjustment of their roles and responsibilities including their formal relationship with the future Monitoring and Evaluation unit.

Recommendation 9

Credibility: Improving Evaluations with Quality Assurance Systems

IOM Administration agrees with the recommendation and confirms that several activities are already on-going in that regard.

Recommendations for IOM consideration

Recommendation 2

Strengthening the role of the Audit and Oversight Advisory Committee (AOAC) in advocating for a robust Evaluation Function

Following the revision of OIG's charter, the Audit and Oversight Advisory Committee (AOAC) Terms of Reference are also under review to reflect these changes. The Administration agrees with the recommendation that IOM's central evaluation function performance continues to be reviewed by the AOAC and endorses the recommendations made on the composition of the AOAC and tasks related to further strengthen the evaluation function with senior-level expertise.

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THANK YOU

David Knight
IGF Coordinator
dknight@iom.int