

OCB META EVALUATION

Evaluation of SEU managed Evaluations 2017-2021

Lunch and Learn Session

PRESENTERS

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Objectives of the Session

- Establish a **shared understanding** of the nature, purpose, and scope of the OCB meta-evaluation.
- Share **findings, conclusions,** and **recommendations** from the OCB meta-evaluation.
- Hear **responses from** the meta-evaluation **commissioner** and **primary intended user.**
- **Ask and answer questions** about evaluation and meta-evaluation generally, including about this meta-evaluation specifically.
- Learn more about the **nature of evaluations and their use.**

Meta-eval Scope: What, How, Why?

What, how, and why are we meta-evaluating at OCB?

- **Purpose:** Establish a shared concept of quality, assess quality and value, and identify the factors of quality and value.
- **Scope:** 31 evaluations from 2017-2021; the evaluation system that commissioned, managed, and used these evaluations.
- **Methods:** Interviews, focus groups, surveys, document reviews, checklists, rubrics, numerical weight and sum methodology.
- **Intended Use:** Guide decision-making to sustain and improve the quality of OCB evaluation function.

Key Premise: General Logic of Evaluation

How does evaluation differ from research?

1. **Establish criteria of merit.** On what dimensions must the object of evaluation do well?
2. **Construct standards.** How well should the object of evaluation perform?
3. **Measure performance and compare with standards.** How well did the object of evaluation perform?
4. **Synthesize and integrate data into judgment.** What is the merit or worth of the object of evaluation?

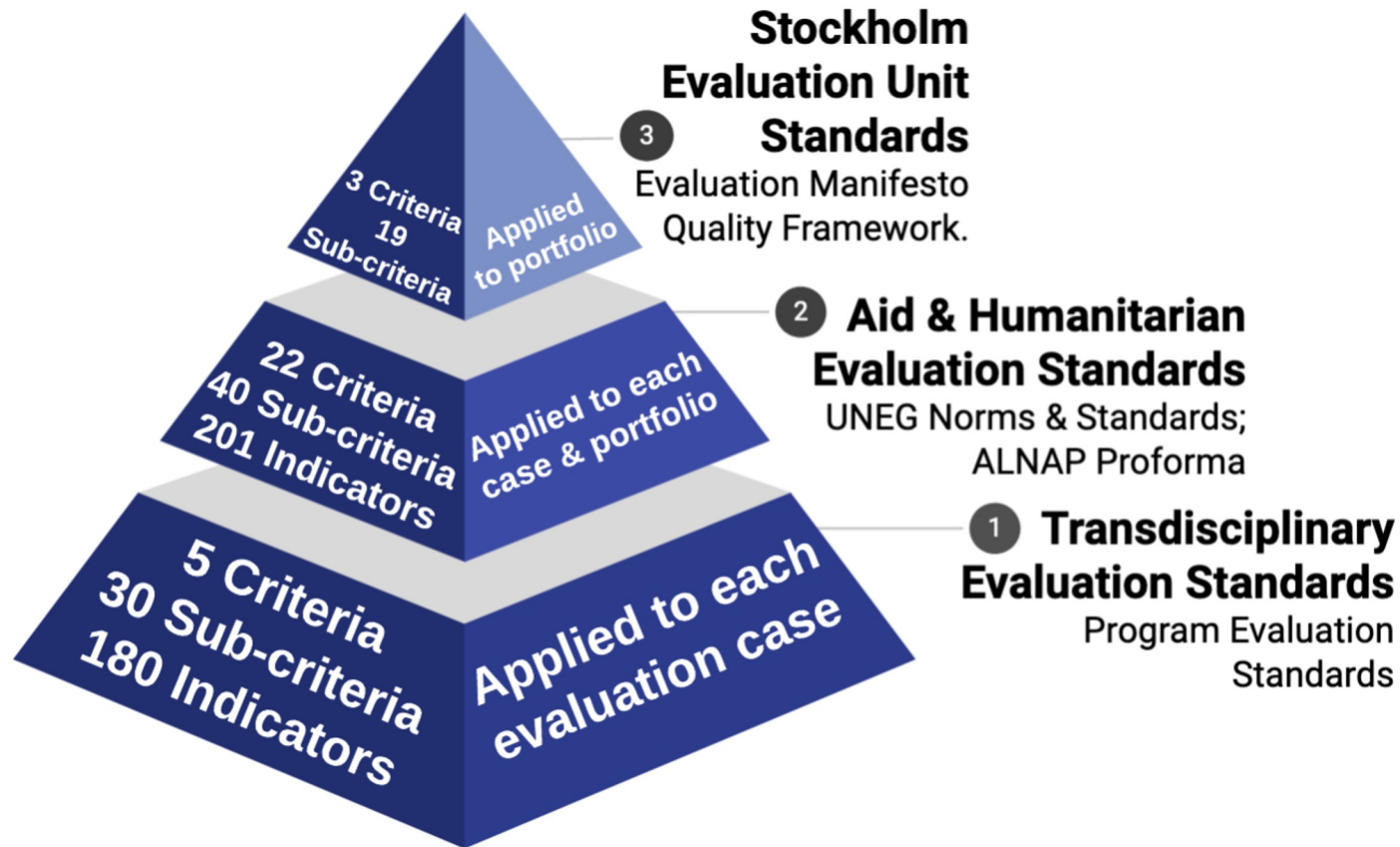
Meta-evaluation applies this logic to evaluate evaluation practice.

Meta-eval Findings: Definition of Quality?

Meta-eval Question 1: How does OCB *define* evaluation quality?

- **Evaluation quality understood *tacitly* through OCB staff values about systematic inquiry and evidence.** Examples include transparency, credibility, impartiality, accuracy, utility, use, and culture of evaluation.
- **Evaluation quality understood *explicitly* through evaluation policy documents, especially the Evaluation Manifesto.** The main quality dimensions include values, use, and the methods of evaluation.
- **A synthesis of quality frameworks constitutes the definition of quality for this study.** This includes the Program Evaluation Standards, the ALNAP Proforma, the UNEG Norms & Standards, and the SEU EMQF.

Key Concept: **Meta-evaluation Framework**



30 evaluation criteria

89 evaluation sub-criteria

223 indicators for each case

6913 judgements of quality across 31 cases

Meta-eval Findings: Degree of Quality?

Meta-eval Question 2: What is the *quality* of evaluation at OCB?

(Poor—Fair—Good—Very Good—Excellent)

1. Program Evaluation Standards: **GOOD (60%)**
2. ALNAP Proforma: **VERY GOOD (80%)**
3. UNEG Norms & Standards: **GOOD**
4. SEU Evaluation Manifesto Quality Framework: **VERY GOOD**

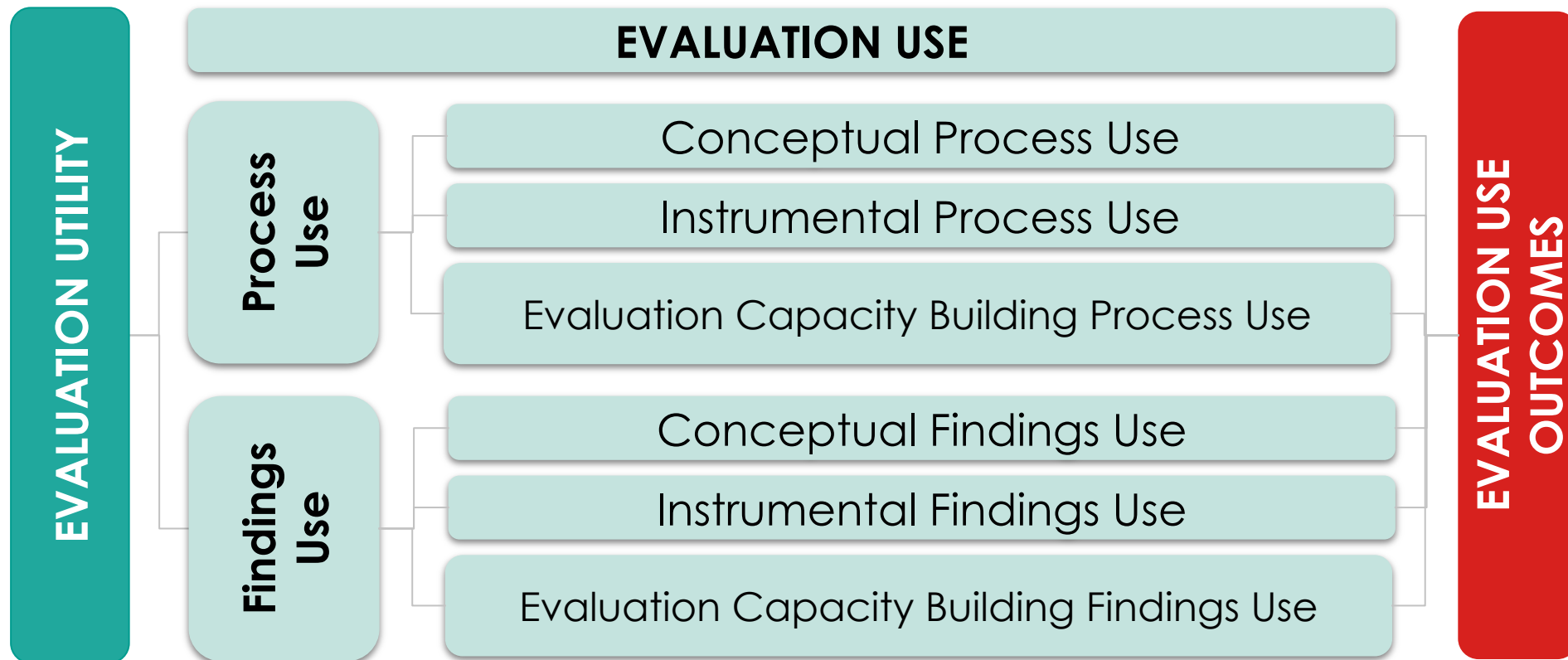
Meta-eval Findings: Degree of Value?

Meta-eval Question 3: What is the *value* of evaluation at OCB?

- **Most evaluations were used by multiple intended users for multiple intended uses.** 71% of evaluation cases (n= 22/31) reported use, with the average evaluation having 2 types of evaluation use.
- **Some evaluations saw positive effects of evaluation use.** 29% of evaluation cases (n= 9/31) reported outcomes of use, most outcomes were positive, though the average degree of use and influence was low.
- **Cost/Utility for the evaluation portfolio is good.** 45% of evaluation cases (n=14/31) had positive *UTILITY* z-scores that were higher than budget z-scores.
- **Quality is improving.** There is a positive correlation ($r = 0.568$, $p = 0.001$) between evaluation quality scores and years.

Key Premise: Nature of Evaluation Use

How do we define evaluation use and influence?



Meta-eval Findings: Factors of Quality?

Meta-eval Question 4: What are the *factors* of eval quality at OCB?

- **Performance Gaps Indicate Policy Gaps:** Systematically unmet standards across cases indicate areas for updated evaluation policy.
- **Eval Process Bookends Important:** Scoping and Follow-up have major influences on evaluation quality.
- **Competent Evaluators and Engaged Participants:** most reported factors of success and failure for highest and lowest performing cases.
- **Mitigate Reoccurring Limitations:** short timelines, lack of project documentation, lack of monitoring data, low participant availability
- **Align Expectations and Plan for Intended Use:** commissioners, managers, ops contacts, and evaluators share responsibility for quality.

Conclusions

1. Definitions of Eval Quality at OCB are **Emerging** and **Defensible**.
2. Evaluation Quality at OCB is **GOOD** to **VERY GOOD**.
3. Evaluation Use at OCB is **GOOD**. Outcomes of Evaluation Use are **FAIR**. Full Extent of Evaluation Use and Outcomes is **Still Unknown**.
4. The OCB is Receiving **GOOD** Value from the Evaluation Function.
5. The Evaluation System at OCB is **Well Functioning** and **Healthy**.
6. Meta-evaluation **Findings** and **Recommendations** Provide OCB a **Roadmap** for **Sustaining** and **Improving** Quality and Value.

Recommendations

1. **Strengthen** the Evaluability Assessment Function.
2. **Re-invest** in Documenting Evaluation Use and Influence.
3. **Demand** Stronger Evaluative Logic, Reasoning, and Valuing.
4. **Formalize** the Internal Meta-evaluation Function.
5. **Adopt** Transformative Evaluation Policies.

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