

## Monitoring and Evaluation for SDGs

Roundtable conducted on Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 09:00 am-11:00 am IST

**Host:** CoE-SA **Country:** India

**No of Attendees: 100**

**No of Countries: 14**

### Moderators :

1. Chelladurai Solomon - Founder Chairman, COE South Asia,
2. Karon Shaiva - Chief Impact Officer, MD, IDOBRO Impact Solutions

### Experts:

1. Dr Neeta Goel, National Program Officer, BMGF
2. Ms Mabel Abraham, CSR Group Head, L& T
3. Dr Krishna Belbase, Evaluation Expert, Nepal
4. Mr Ashwin Naidu, CSR, TATA Capital Financial Services
5. Mr Sundar N Mishra, SDG-NITI Aayog
6. Dr Teertha Raj Dhakal, Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers (OPMCM), Government of Nepal

### Summary:

The Roundtables at RISE World Summit are the core activity to encourage collaboration around the challenges the world faces. Subject matter experts enable breakthrough interactions to identify outcomes for post-event joint efforts and alliances, knowledge assets, and more for collective impact. More information on RISE Summit can be found at <https://risesummit.in/>

Collaboration across societal sectors has emerged as one of the key defining factors in accelerating sustainable development goals in the 21st century. The proposed roundtable aims to identify the multi-layered challenges of achieving the SDGs namely

- A. SDG programs and the partnership of governments, private/corporate and civil society/VOPEs,
- B. The importance of measuring and monitoring for managing the SDG programs, and
- C. Define collaborative advantage in achieving the SDG goals.

### Challenges:

The Roundtable was hosted by IDOBRO, Mumbai, and Co-hosted by Community of Evaluators, South Asia as part of RISE World Summit 2021. Ms Karon Shaiva welcomed the participants and invited Mr Chelladurai to start the discussions.

**Mr. Chelladurai Solomon** shared his view about the important aspect of the different stakeholders and also stated that they had good programs, but not necessarily a good partnership or collaboration to go on, He also mentioned the importance of building a partnership between the different stakeholders to develop expertise.

**Ms. Anita Goel**, Program Officer, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, mentioned that the challenges regarding establishing synergies and collaborations have to be met.

**Dr. Krishna** from New York spoke about the challenges of bringing different stakeholders together in terms of carrying out monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs. He spoke about the role of Corporate Social Responsibility and government bodies in providing concrete ideas and rendering their contribution towards monitoring and evaluation. He also mentioned the challenges faced towards the cultural division among the different groups in various regions.

**Ms. Sonal Zaveri**, Coordinator Gender and Equity Network South Asia mentioned the importance of incorporating SGD with Gender and also shared her views towards how gender and equity acted as a challenging factor in terms of knowledge, as well as skills and competencies.

**Mr. Mabel Abraham** spoke on the use of technology and the effect of the pandemic on the process of M&E. The challenges in understanding programs, understanding communities, especially during the pandemic, were multiplied, because all are so physically distanced, both in terms of monitoring and evaluation. The donors, the funders, the government, and the programs to be implemented in communities, themselves have had to quickly realigned to the new formats. Everyone in the ecosystem was looking at the effectiveness and the impacts of the investments being made, especially from a CSR point of view. The challenges on both sides need to have a design, which is fair, which fulfills the objective of providing feedback. He also spoke on the positive and negative effects of the pandemic and how it has given the call to work on the core issues such as poverty, access to education, health, nutrition, hunger which have thrown up unique challenges in the CSR domain.

**Teertha Dhakal** spoke about the four core challenges in government programs:

- Making the programs cost effective and viable, both socially, and politically
- Mainstreaming “Inclusion” as an agenda in the ongoing programs
- The issue to institutionalize the concept of 50 scenes in the progress of projects and programs in the government sector
- The sudden effect of the pandemic on the already planned CSR activities which are not functional

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Karon Shaiva- Chief Impact Officer, MD,  
IDOBRO Impact Solutions  
Monitoring and Evaluation of SDGs  
at RISE World Summit 2021

**Mr. Sundar Narayan Mishra**, NITI Aayog, New Delhi spoke about the diversity of people's needs and how particular programs have come up as a challenging factor, especially in the context of the Indian scenario. He also mentioned the variety of expectations and experiences that the civil society faced towards building tasks which made it difficult to have a continuous process.

**Ms. Karon Shaiva** mentioned that the problem with the data is the lack of differentiation between microdata and macro data. Often, we are tied up with macro data and unless we have the microdata, we will

not be able to share anything truly, gain insights and understand the gaps. She also mentioned that the cooperation of people is required in gathering microdata.

**Mr. Mishra** mentioned that one of the greatest challenges faced is the lack of availability of real-time data. Mr. Mishra stated the importance of monitoring and evaluation - if we were not able to measure progress, then it would be difficult to make progress, because whatever is measured gets done eventually.

### **Capabilities & Solutions:**

**Dr. Krishna** suggested that government bodies be enabled to encourage the private sector to engage & take ownership of community projects, paving the way for sharing a common vision for prosperity.

**Mr. Krishna Belbase** made it clear that many countries had incorporated monitoring and evaluation principles helping to measure their accountability and learning. He suggested that not only government aided programs, but even the public sector programs also have a strong M&E system which will support their accountability. Thus, the public and other sectors have to come together to promote the enormous amount of capacity development which has to be carried out systematically in building meaningful partnerships as well. He also stated the benefits of having a strong civil society engagement in monitoring and evaluation among various developed countries which can be measured by 69 more indicators.

**Ms. Sonal Zaveri**, coordinator of Gender and Equity Network South Asia suggested that the data collected from the communities & findings made, be shared with the communities, for better decision-taking and making suitable changes to the program.

**Teertha Dhakal** focused on partnerships between the private sector and civil society, which are having a significant role in implementing any program, especially in SDGs. They can be assigned the responsibility of monitoring and evaluation so that the burden on the government to carry out these activities will be minimized and efficient results will be assured. She gave the example of Nepal, which has encouraged partnerships in which UN agencies and academia were engaged. These activities are also incorporated in the five-year evaluation Action Plan.

### **Collaboration:**

**Ms. Anita Goel**, Program Officer- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation suggested that designing evaluations of interventions can bring everyone together and also enable the importance of building local capacity so that the locals, who are more familiar with the context, can also be engaged in conducting evaluations. She also said that evaluation can help us to focus on a few things, one is helping us to assess what works for whom and in what context, and then it helps us to identify who is getting left out so that development can be inclusive. She also mentioned that it is important to identify whether the vulnerable population also benefits from it and also help us to understand, to what extent, did we meet our goals, so, for example, if books or school supplies are distributed, would it automatically mean that children are learning. She also stated that evaluation can help to ensure that the concerned population is using the resources/facilities appropriately allotted to them or not. She stated that evaluation can help us emphasize the sustainable part of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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There is an extremely important need to incorporate emergency preparedness among the communities

Anita Miya -Aga Khan Agency for Habitat-Mumbai  
Monitoring and Evaluation of SDGs  
at RISE World Summit 2021

**Mr. Mabel Abraham** put forward his point on partnership and stated that having clear set goals, boundaries, and definable areas are very key for the success of partnerships.

**Mr. Sundar Narayan Mishra**, NITI Aayog, New Delhi. He talked about the monitoring environment and measuring data on SDGs, especially of the work done by the Government .

**Mr. Mishra** spoke about the national indicator framework which is led and developed by the Ministry of Statistics, in collaboration with “My Care” and other ministries and state governments, it has at this point in time 302 indicators. Besides this, a lot of states have come up with state indicator frameworks and also some of them have come up with district indicators. He mentioned there are 21 states who have state indicator frameworks and are speaking to the local priorities and local requirements of those particular states and about 12 states that have district-level indicator frameworks.

#### **Way Forward:**

**Ms. Anita Miya** spoke on the emergency preparedness and how developmental impacts have been shown but communities have been pushed back to poverty, so there is an extremely important need to incorporate emergency preparedness among the communities. This also needs to be incorporated in SDG.

**Mr. Kumar Moorthy Iyer** commented that as things stood today, CSR activities are depending on the profits that the companies make and are considered secondary. This is to be changed. A better way would be to look at the CSR activities first. Allocate a fixed amount of the budget for the CSR and then go for the profit. Otherwise in the long run, if profits are not made , there will not be any CSR activities. Adding to it Mr. Moorthy stated that there should be proper interaction between the companies as well as the local government regarding the tax money and ensure that the tax money collected is used in the local region itself.

**Mr. Gana Ojha** stated that along with the public and private partnership, people partnership is to be given importance; also trust-building is important for healthy partnerships. Mr. Gana Ojha also stated that society should promote complementarity rather than competition and for that cooperation is vital.

**Ms. Neeta Goel** stated that building trust also needs transparency and accountability. Also, she spoke about the importance of community institutions and community-based organizations.

**Mr Amit Dutta** from the KPMG stated that for social welfare, the creation of an open data system between the government and various other stakeholders is very much needed and this will indeed help in gaining insights into what's happening in the larger external ecosystem.

**Mrs. Karon Shaiva** concluded by thanking all the participants for a fruitful and insightful discussion.

#### **Note:**

*For a more detailed understanding of the session outcomes, kindly access a complete recording at <https://youtube.com/channel/UC2UI5Nf1yN0E5hifaSVQpEw>*

*A LinkedIn group has been created by RISE World Summit Team to foster collaboration between participants. <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12494977>*

*More information on RISE Summit can be found at <https://risesummit.in>*