United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

**Sixth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development**
VNR Workshop

**24 FEBRUARY 2020**
Elephant Hills Resort, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

# Strengthening evaluative thinking and evidence-based reporting in Voluntary National Reviews and local reviews
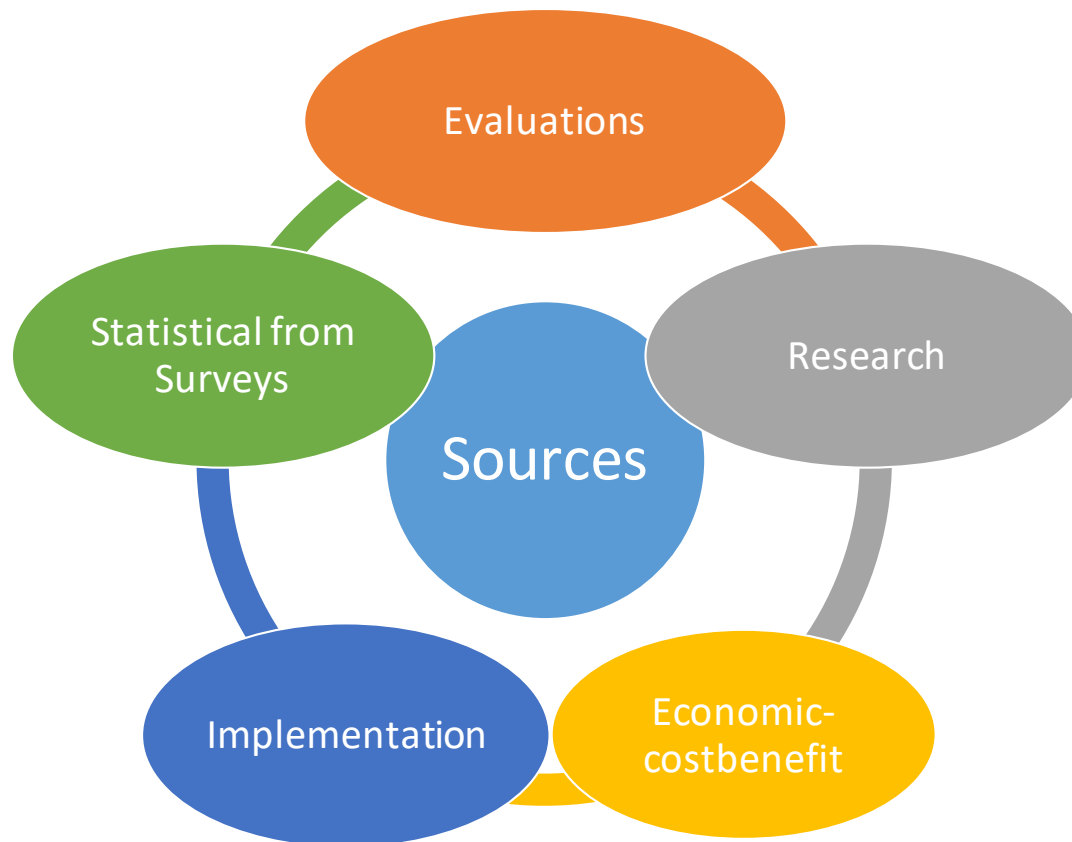
**Grace Chisamya**
**ECA**

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Agenda 2063
The Africa we Want

ideas for a prosperous Africa

- ✓ rigorous and based on evidence,

- ✓ informed by country-led evaluations and

- ✓ data which is high-quality, accessible, timely, reliable and disaggregated

- VNRs are not an end in themselves-taking stock of implementation

- In order to take stock, evidence is critical: to know what is working, what is not working, for who, where, under what circumstances, what needs to be done to accelerate implementation

- If SDGs and Agenda 2063 are to contribute to development- learning from implementation lessons is crucial- evidence is key for successful targets, plans and reporting

- Is not opinion

- Assertion backed by information- it has to meet certain criteria

- Independent, verifiable, objective

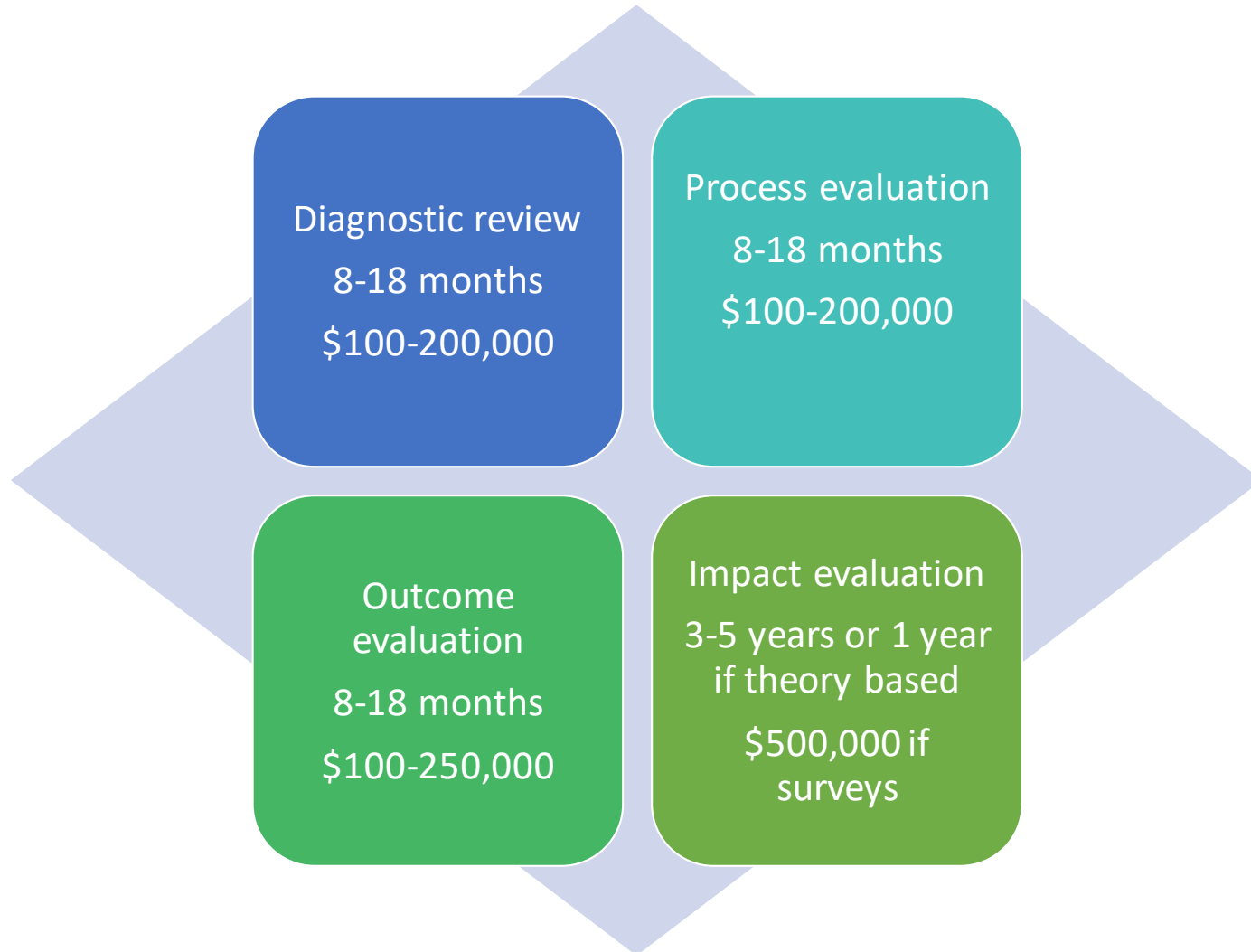- Seeks to understand if outcomes are being achieved, worthiness of achievements and how to improve

- Is different from monitoring that tracks whether you are achieving what you planned

- Serves the purposes of learning, accountability, decision making, knowledge, governance

- SDGs/ Agenda 2063 evaluations-not business as usual:

- ✓ Complementarities

- ✓ Systems approach

- ✓ Sustainability

- ✓ Gender equality and equity are central

- ✓ Underlying cause of inequality

- ✓ Giving voice and inclusion

- ✓ The 6thEVALSDGs/IIED briefing paper: analyzed 22 VNRs submitted in 2016:

- • Very little awareness of what evaluation is and its potential contribution to SDGs

- • Only 2 countries reported use of qualitative data

- • 16 of 22 countries established a governance system for M&E at a government level.

- ✓ In 2018, similar analysis of 42 VNRs submitted in 2017 was done extending on the 2016 analysis:

- • Showed improvements but still far from what could potentially be done

- ✓ Clear-AA analyzed 2019 VNRs from AA- use of monitoring data but not evaluation even when it is available. Monitoring is necessary but not sufficient

# Types of Evaluations and indicative time and costs

**Diagnostic review**
8-18 months
$100-200,000

**Process evaluation**
8-18 months
$100-200,000

**Outcome evaluation**
8-18 months
$100-250,000

**Impact evaluation**
3-5 years or 1 year if theory based
$500,000 if surveys

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- ❖ Rapid evaluations- 2 to 3 months- the need for appropriate expertise

- ❖ Evaluative workshop- 1 month-evaluative thinking, participatory

- ❖ Reviews-reflection process-progress and changes needed

- ❖ Creating an evaluation/research repository-use existing evaluation/research e.g. Uganda, Benin, South Africa

- African Evaluation Database

http://clearafred.wits.ac.za

- 3ie impact evaluation repository

https://www.3ieimpact.org/evidence-hub/impact-evaluation-repository

- Libraries

- Write to relevant sources

# Evidence (Gap) Maps

Presentations of availability of evidence for specific policy area e.g Uganda

Evidence maps or systematic reviews are available on the Campbell collaboration
https://www.campbellcollaboration.org/better-evidence.html

What is your experience and what lessons can you share on embedding evaluation evidence in countries planning processes, policies and VNR reporting?

# THANK YOU!

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**More: www.uneca.org/arfsd2020**