



ReportAGE

January 2018

AfrEA & USAID launch evaluation certification programme



USAID/WA-E4D launched a free online certificate programme aimed at developing research and evaluation skills

As part of efforts to promote the development of research and evaluation skills of institutions and individuals in West and Central Africa, USAID/West Africa's Evidence for Development (E4D), in conjunction with AfrEA launched a free online certificate programme in health project evaluation and operations research.

Launched on 19 January 2019 it is aimed at all members of AfrEA and national evaluation associations in the Sub-Saharan Africa sub-region.

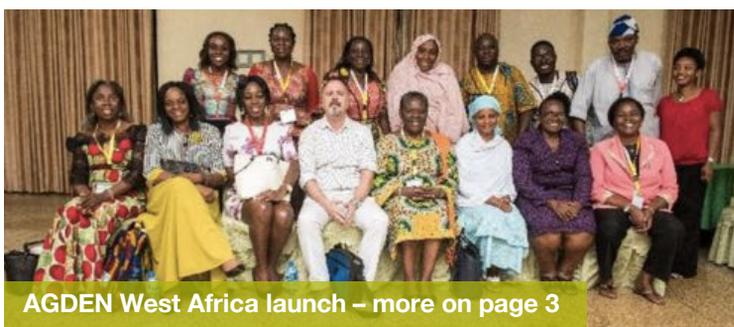
Hosted on AfrEA's website, the online courses are intended to strengthen research and evaluation capacity of researchers throughout the sub-region.

Specifically, the programme aims to:

- Increase the availability and utilisation of evidence-based information using online dialogue and peer-to-peer learning
- Strengthen the capacities of AfrEA members to conduct research and evaluation activities
- Develop a platform for mainstreaming evaluation discussions and dissemination of evaluation results
- Present monitoring and evaluation principles as integrated concepts and
- Support south-to-south exchange in order to inform decisions and policies on the post-2015 development agenda

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New executive committee for Burundi VOPE



From left to right: Ms Ndikumasabo Nadine, deputy legal representative; Mr. Blaise Gahungu representative of emerging evaluators; legal representative and head of committee Mr Augustin Ngendakuriyo; Ms Daphrose Ndayikeje treasurer and; Mr Zénobé Niragira, former deputy legal representative of the outgoing Committee, and newly appointed secretary-general

The National Evaluation Network of Burundi (RNEB) has established new bodies in accordance with Act No. 1/02 of 27 January 2017, which provides an organic framework for non-profit associations.

A new executive committee, composed of five members, was set up in October 2017.



The National Evaluation Network of Burundi (RNEB) received peer-to-peer mentoring from the Uganda Evaluation Association (UEA) through the Peer Learning Project (P2P)

The election coincided with a coaching visit of the AfrEA delegation to Burundi from 29 to 30 September 2017 as part of the Peer Learning Project (P2P) supported by AfrEA, which established a partnership between the Uganda Evaluation Association (UEA) and RNEB to strengthen its capacity.

The delegation comprised of Rosetti Nabbumba, chairperson of UEA and representative of East African representative of AfrEA and Dr. Kingsley Arkorful, Executive Director of AfrEA.

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“USAID/West Africa is committed to expand the evidence base, building a strong network of local research institutions and acting as a convener and catalyst so that data is available and in public health programming,” – Sheila Mensah regional health office USAID/West Africa.

AfrEA E4D free online health programming course registration open 29 January

“Conducting operations research and evaluations and disseminating the findings is key to our work. The online certificate programme is therefore meant to build on the research and evaluation skills in West and Central Africa, and beyond, so these skills will be sustained after the life of the E4D project,” said Tanou Diallo, Chief of Party of the USAID/West Africa’s E4D.

“AfrEA’s mandate is to build and strengthen evaluation capacity in Africa. It has become increasingly urgent that as many evaluators as possible access different platforms to increase their capacity to meet the rising demand for evaluations. The online platform will reach out widely to our VOPEs and members in both French and English. We hope that the increased capacity will contribute to evaluators to undertake quality evaluations as well as influence governments in using evaluation results for evidence based decision making,” said Adeline Sibanda, President of AfrEA.



Africa Gender & Development Evaluators Network Anglophone West Africa (AGDEN) is born



Florence Etta with guests during the AGDEN launch social gathering



Denis Jobin from UNICEF and guests during the launch on 6 December 2017

It has been a long time coming, but it is finally here! AGDEN West Africa was officially launched on Wednesday 6 December 2017.

AGDEN's mandate is to strengthen the effectiveness and gender responsiveness of development programmes and projects to human rights, break the isolation of African evaluators, build capacity and provide networking opportunities.

Although the Network has existed since 2002, it has not had a solid presence in the West African sub-region. It is therefore exciting to report this milestone achievement.

The launch of AGDEN West Africa happened through the efforts and persistence of one of its dedicated members, Florence Etta with support of an Nigerian Association of Evaluators Board member Dr Rukaiyatu.

The event was planned to coincide with the 3rd Annual Conference of the NAE, which was held on Wednesday, 6 December 2017 at the Chelsea Hotel Abuja, Nigeria.

The launch comprised a series of events including a workshop, launch meeting and a social networking session.

The Workshop titled *Accountability in Development: Gender & Equity Responsive Evaluation in the SDG Era* was facilitated by Florence Etta from Nairobi and Abigail Abandoh-Sam from Accra.

The facilitation was very engaging and the workshop identified gaps and capacity deficits amongst evaluation professionals and enthusiasts in the sector.

The launch meeting was graced with the presence of evaluation practitioners from across Nigeria and more importantly, the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs.

The highlight of the meeting was the self-identification and acclamation of AGDEN Nigeria regional Representatives for the South-West, South-South and North.

The Representatives will act as focal points for rallying and communicating news and information to members as well as work at a structure and framework for the Network in Nigeria.

The event proved to be time well spent. There is huge potential for untapped resources both from government, the private sector and individuals to grow gender responsive evaluation practice in the country.

AGDEN is keen to look for ways to harness this potential.

The Network is also poised to build on the energy created at the launch to grow it further and respond to the aspirations of members especially with mentorship and capacity building opportunities.



Send us your VOPE news!

This article was written by **Akaaimo Trasie N.** Please send African evaluation updates from the continent to Abigail Korda: adkorda@afrea.org



ZaMEA participates in Rapid Results Initiative (RRI) in Zambia



Group photo of participants of the MfDR week



PSDIJ and ZaMEA Chair Dr Jolly Kamwanga, John Njovu & national coordinator of PSDIJ, Mushuma Mulenga in planning with the RRI team



AfrEA treasurer John T Njovu actively participated in the facilitation of the RRI

The Zambian Government through the Private Sector Development Industrialisation and Job Creation (PSDIJC) and Ministry of National Development Planning (MNDP) has embarked on a **100 Days Rapid Results Initiatives (RRIs)** for the Doing Business Reforms implementation.

This means that some reforms which have been picked as part of this initiative have to be implemented within 100 days for which results must show. The initiative was undertaken by PSDIJC, MNDP in partnership with the Zambia Monitoring and Evaluation Association (ZaMEA) as the Zambian Community of Practice. The African Development Bank (AfDB) funded the facilitation of the process.

RRI is an initiative for monitoring results of implementation being used worldwide. In Zambia PSDIJC decided to use this initiative to fast-track implementation of the Doing Business Reforms which looks at 10 indicators of starting a business to the time the business closes up.

To kick start the RRI, a three days RRI Capacity Building Workshop was held from 26-28 July 2017 with 46 participants in attendance.

John Njovu was invited by the MNDP to participate in a planning meeting in July 2017, following his participation in the Management for Development Results (MfDR) week (20-23 March 2017).

He became a member of the RRI core group that prepared for the RRI Capacity Building Workshop in July and the official launch of the RRI. During the workshop, the participants came up with eight areas for reforms and proposed RRIs that they intended their institutions to implement.

An RRI review workshop was held at Chaminuka Lodge in Lusaka from 29-30 November 2017.



Have you submitted your proposal?



The African Evaluation Journal (AEJ), AfrEA's peer-reviewed journal is calling authors to submit articles for its special 2018 **Social Impact Measurement in Africa** edition.

The social impact measurement theme is particularly relevant and timely given the demonstrated need for better assessing the financial and social return of impact investment, market-based solutions to poverty, and innovative finance initiatives including social enterprises, both within and outside of the African continent.

Furthermore, as this is a relatively new industry, any improvements in social impact measurement performance is likely to foster learning among investors and, as a result, to benefit the society as a whole.

Interested authors are requested to submit abstracts not exceeding 500 words in length.

The abstract should outline the scope and focus of the paper, the sources of the information and evidence used, as well as the corresponding key findings and conclusions.

The abstract should reflect the relevance of the paper to the theme. All abstract submissions will go through a rigorous selection process. Please submit abstract to alynaw@genesis-analytics.com

Peer-to-Peer Initiative in Djibouti

The Association Djiboutienne d'Évaluation (ADE) in partnership with the Société Québécoise d'Évaluation de Programmes (SQEP) implemented a Peer-to-Peer project supported by EvalPartners.

The activities took place in 2017 in Djibouti. An assessment of the state of the national evaluation system (NES) was carried out focusing on two major sectors in Djibouti: food security and education.

All relevant stakeholders, ministries, NGOs, international agencies and academics were contacted.

An interview series and analysis of available evaluation reports provided a preliminary assessment of the maturity level of the NES.

The focus was on existing demand for evaluation, individual and organisational capacities in evaluation, the enabling environment, and unfavorable constraints to the achievement and use of evaluation, evaluation leadership and values supporting evaluative approaches.

While the distinction between monitoring and evaluation is fairly clear, evaluative approaches could benefit from a closer relationship with diagnostic studies.

The restitution workshop was held at the Palais du Peuple on 10 October 2017.



African Perspectives of South-to-South Gender Responsive Curriculum Development

The South to South project sponsored by EvalPartners aimed to compile and analyse existing initiatives and cases from the rich experiences of the Global South to mainstream culturally and gender responsive evaluation knowledge.

The Africa Gender and Development Evaluation Network (AGDEN) component of the project included an African wide investigation including the 35 African VOPEs and individual evaluators.

Interaction at the 8th AfrEA conference in Kampala, Uganda and a special meeting in Nairobi (Kenya) contributed to the information.

It was clear from the process that language and culture are main factors to consider when developing equity-focused and gender-responsive (EFGR) evaluation capacity development.

The use of case studies significantly enhanced the development and delivery of EFGR curricula.

Blog on rethinking DAC

Former AfrEA President Zenda Ofir has completed a series of blog posts on rethinking the DAC evaluation criteria.

"It is important to engage with this topic because it is quite likely that a formal DAC criteria revision process will be launched in the near future. The Global South, in the spirit of South-South Collaboration in Evaluation, should give some thought to arguments and positions that can strengthen our own understanding of evaluation criteria of importance. This will help ensure that our perspectives feed on equal footing into any global discussions related to evaluation criteria as general standards in (development) evaluation" – Awuor Ponge

The series of posts can be found at <http://zendaofir.com/>.