

A Call to Action

Evaluation that fully reflects the knowledge, realities and philosophies of the Global South

The South to South Initiative (S2SE) is spearheaded by the five Global South regional evaluation associations (also known as Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation) from Africa, South Asia, Asia Pacific, the Caribbean and Latin America.

S2SE aims to elevate the substantial, but underutilized, indigenous knowledge, theory and capacities of the Global South, and to reverse the asymmetries in decision-making, resources and knowledge in the global evaluation ecosystem.

Despite good progress in building the global evaluation architecture over the past 20 years, very little has been done to address the power asymmetries in evaluation meant to serve the Global South.

The vast majority of development investments, evaluation theories and practices worldwide are based on worldviews and values, and authority and resource systems of powerful institutions, primarily in the Global North. Decisions about what is evaluated, how, and for whom, remain largely the prerogative of the Global North despite impressive indigenous knowledge assets and capacities in the Global South.

There is, among many, a sense of deep concern that many inequalities persist.

The global evaluation leadership now has the experience and maturity to collectively recognize the substantial assets of the Global South and to act to reverse the asymmetries in the evaluation ecosystem in which we all work.

Phase 1 (2018–2021) of the S2SE Initiative will mount a global campaign to collaboratively achieve the following Objectives.

Objective 1:

Awareness, capacity and incentives

Expand awareness of the aim of S2SE, build capacity and create incentives for the engagement of southern evaluators in decisions about what is evaluated, with whom, for whom and how – both within and beyond the aid and public sector agenda.

Objective 2:

Visibility, positioning and influence

Engage in decision-making for that shape evaluation in the Global South and worldwide, in order to ensure that the perspectives of Global South evaluators are central in determining agendas, resource flows and governance of evaluation and development, particularly as it pertains to the Global South.

Objective 3:

Knowledge, research and evidence from the Global South

Elevate the visibility and influence of Global South knowledge, research and evidence by publishing and communicating existing work, and generating new knowledge, research and evidence of what works in development in the Global South – why, how, for whom and under what circumstances.

Objective 4:

New spaces and new players driving change

Enhance the influence of southern evaluators in new spaces and with new players who are driving global change in the Global South, including those from private sector, impact investing, innovation, new markets, global movements working across boundaries and other south-south collaborations.



Goal

To address and reverse global asymmetries in the evaluation ecosystem so that the priorities, experiences, contexts and philosophies of the Global South fully contribute to the sustainable development of all nations

Impact

More effective, sustained development informed by evaluation that reflects the knowledge, realities and philosophies of the Global South

Long-term outcomes

- The global evaluation ecosystem benefits from Global South knowledge, methods, realities and philosophies
- Global South leaders create new markets for evaluation in the Global South
- Global South evaluation is widely adopted and used
- Global South evaluators are increasingly influential and confident
- Global South realities and philosophies enrich global evaluation

Short-term outcomes

- Next generation evaluators acquire Global South knowledge and capacities
- South-South and Triangular Cooperation enhanced
- Growing demand for Global South evaluation theories and practices
- Systematised S2SE knowledge widely available and shared extensively
- Early adopters demonstrate the benefits of Global South evaluation
- Influential actors value the Global South contributions
- Increased profile of S2SE

Workstream outputs

Awareness, capacity and incentives

- Global South evaluation data and examples
- Landscape of key influencers
- Prize competition winners
- Global South evaluation capacity development
- Outreach events
- Business model

Visibility, positioning and influence

- Critical engagement map
- Quick wins
- Pilots for complex change
- Portfolio of cases
- Phase 2 proposal for scale

Knowledge and evidence

- Global South inventory of evaluative knowledge
- Published Global South work
- Innovation - new forms of knowledge, evidence
- Portfolio of products

New spaces and new players

- Map of new spaces/players
- Experiments with new players
- Deeper understanding of innovation
- New approaches and frameworks
- Emerging business model for new spaces

Inputs

Global South leadership, credibility, brand

Global South relationships and networks

Convening power

Global South sectoral and regional expertise

Body of Global South evidence and lessons