



# ReportAGE

July 2018

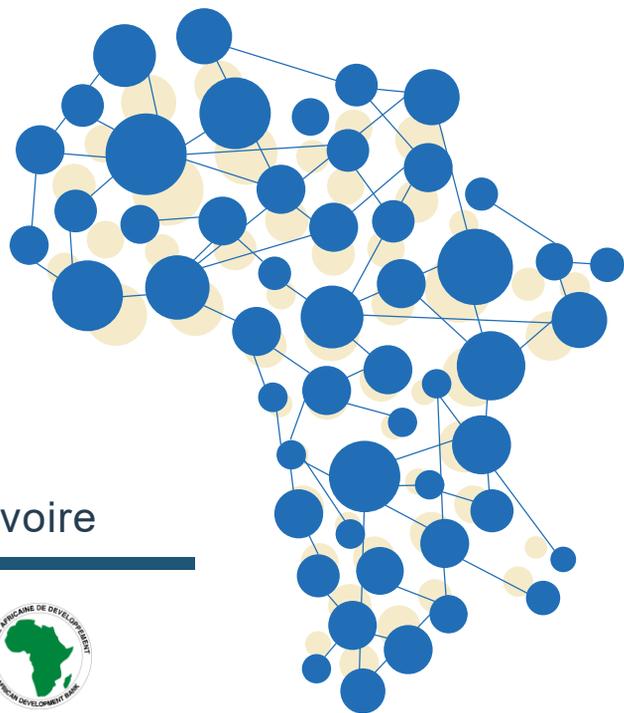
**Mark your diary**

## 9<sup>th</sup> AfrEA Conference

AfrEA is continuing engagement with various development partners in Cote D'Ivoire and globally for the 9<sup>th</sup> AfrEA Conference. The conference strands will be announced in the next *ReportAge*.

### Accelerating Africa's Development: Strengthening National Evaluation Ecosystems

March 2019 Abidjan | Cote d'Ivoire



#### NEWS FROM OUR VOPES

- ALGERIA – page 2
- MALI – page 2
- TANZANIA – page 3
- COTE D'IVOIRE – page 4
- ZIMBABWE – page 5
- SOUTH AFRICA – page 6

As umbrella VOPE supporting national evaluation in Africa, AfrEA is encouraged by the myriad of M&E activities our members are undertaking across the continent. Increasingly we notice the development and implementation of national evaluation policies in partnership with government ministries, as well as the strengthening of Secretariats and the crafting of long-term strategic plans. This month we feature six VOPES from the northern, western, eastern and southern regions.





# EvalDZ engages Algerian government

**The Algerian Association for the Promotion of Development Evaluation (EvalDZ) discussed the evaluation of public policies in Algiers and is engaging more actively with the Algerian ministry of finance.**

## Study day on evaluation public policy

EvalDZ organised a study day on the evaluation of public policies (EPP) on May 5, 2018 in Algiers. The event was co-organised with the Higher Institute of Management and Planning (ISGP).

The study day started with an introductory paper in which the President of EvalDZ, Mohamed Bouchakour, put the theme of the study day in context.

It was followed by two panels, led by three national experts namely Mr Bouras Djoudi, an expert of the National Economic and Social Council, Prof. Mohamed Cherif Belmihoub and Prof. Rafik Bouklia. The panels were:

**Panel 1: Why evaluation of public policies (EPP)?**

**Panel 2: how does one implement EPP?**

This event brought together some 50 participants from various backgrounds including academics, PhD students, MPs, former Ministers, members of the General Inspectorate of Finance and members of EvalDZ.

## Closer alignment with finance ministry

On the evening of Ramadan, on 11 June, 2018, EvalDZ organised a conference-debate. The conference was moderated by Madam Lotfia Harbi, an evaluation expert and a member of the EvalDZ Board. Approximately 50 participants attended the conference and actively took part in the debate.

On 27 June, 2018, the Association was invited to participate in an evaluation workshop organised by the General Inspectorate of Finance. This invitation was as a result of a desire to align the Ministry of Finance closer to EvalDZ. It also started collaboration around the projects identified as priorities to strengthen national capacities and thus promote the practice of evaluation.

As part of the preparation of the next Parliamentary Forum for Evaluation to be held in Colombo Sri Lanka between 17 to 19 September 2018, interactions have been initiated with the National People's Assembly and the General Inspectorate of Finance, in order to identify a Member of Parliament and a senior official to take part in this Forum.

# APEM in talks with Malian finance ministry to build VOPE capacity



**APEM group picture taken at an evaluation event earlier this year.**

In the third week of June, APEM held preparatory sessions towards its participation in the Tenth Malian Symposium on Applied Science (MSAS) 2018. The event will be held from 22 to 27 July in Bamako. APEM's presentation will focus on the following two themes:

**Theme 1:** Stakeholder assessment and challenges in the context of development assistance: Case of Sahel 21-TSF in the Kolokani area.

**Theme 2:** Evaluation of public policies: Case of Mali

APEM also held exchange meetings with the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Directorate General of Budget and Public Debt on to ensure its participation in the Institutional Capacity Building Programme of AfrEA VOPes.



# TanEA in implementing phase of five-year strategic plan

**The Tanzanian Evaluation Association (TanEA) is working with the planning ministry on a national M&E policy in line with its strategic plan.**

In 2017 TanEA crafted a five-year Strategic Plan covering 2017-2021. 2018 is the second year of implementing the strategic plan. This plan aims to position TanEA as the focal point of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) in Tanzania. Overall, the strategic plan has four outcomes outlined as follows:

**Outcome 1:** The Government of Tanzania and the Parliament strengthened the M&E systems, which are guided by evaluation policy

**Outcome 2:** Government and civil society produce improved quality M&E products and make evidence-based decisions

**Outcome 3:** Strong and effective TanEA that is professionally all-inclusive and living up to its vision and mission

**Outcome 4:** Individual evaluators and commissioners of evaluation produce improved quality of evaluation reports

Under each outcome there are several outputs to be implemented over time. Between June and July a number of activities were implemented:

## Dialogue between TanEA and Ministry of Finance & Planning

In an effort to partly realise outcome 1, the TanEA Secretariat took the initiative of engaging the State Minister, President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government Authorities (PO RALG) to sell the idea of having a National Monitoring and Evaluation Policy (NMEP). The State Minister Mr Seleman Jaffo accepted the idea.

A series of meetings were organised between TanEA and officials of PO RALG. Eventually, PO RALG linked TanEA to the Ministry of Finance and Planning (MoFP) who has the mandate for policy making process.

TanEA prepared a concept paper which was presented and in principle, the planning ministry accepted the idea of having in place a National Monitoring and Evaluation Policy.

The MoFP proposed a task force that will kick-start the policy drafting process. A tentative timetable and budget was prepared. What remains now is to solicit funds that will make it possible for the Task Force to start drafting the NEMP.

## Assessing M&E needs in Local Government Authorities

The rapid assessment of Local Government Authorities' (LGAs) M&E management capacity is built on TanEA's vision to embrace an evaluation culture within government.

Local authorities require a culture that seeks information on its performance to better manage and deliver programmes and services through learnings picked up from evaluations in support of social and economic development.

The main objective of the assessment of LGAs is to identify the current capacity to conduct, manage and use evaluations as well as determining the M&E capacity needs.

The gathered information will be shared with a wider stakeholder forum to agree the way for a robust M&E framework.

The long-term aim is to conduct and use evaluations and draw lessons for improving development management.

The rapid assessment has been done in five LGAs namely Mbeya City, Ilala District Council, Morogoro District Council, Mtwara District Council, Dodoma District Council and Iringa District Council.

A report is currently being finalised and thereafter will be shared with relevant stakeholders for further actions.



**TanEA is rolling out rapid assessments of local government authorities in Tanzania. Already, the VOPE has assessed five authorities, including Mbeya City, Ilala District Council, Morogoro District Council, Mtwara District Council, Dodoma District Council and Iringa District Council. Reports will soon be shared with stakeholders for action.**



continuing from pg. 3

## TanEA plans MEL week in November

### Preparation for the Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning Week

TanEA in collaboration with Data for Development (D4D) is planning the annual MEL Week that will be held at Hyatt Kilimanjaro Hotel on 13-14 November 2018. D4D is a project implemented by Mendez England & Associates an international development company that provides solutions for social progress in the U.S. and abroad. The D4D project is funded by the USAID Mission in Tanzania.

Currently a series of meetings are held for the preparation of the first national MEL Week. Different stakeholders from inside and outside the country are expected to attend. Papers will be presented together with some exhibitions.

A proposed one-day training will take place after the conference from 15 November onwards. To further maximise the use of resources, the TanEA Secretariat is planning to conduct its Annual General Meeting (AGM) during MEL Week.

### Formation of Thematic Groups

Since TanEA has no full time staff for spearheading the implementation of the strategic plan it was thought that it is using members' expertise through the formation of Thematic Teams in alignment with the strategic plan.

In the coming months, TanEA will focus on the following:

### Data analysis training

Data for Development (D4D) has organised training on data analysis from 19 to 20 July 2018. Five members from TanEA will attend the planned training.

### Searching for own office space

Currently TanEA is housed by Mzumbe University in a small room which cannot accommodate all assets owned by TanEA. The VOPE is currently searching for a larger office which it plans to cover with membership fees.

### Establishing M&E online courses

As a member benefit, as well as to build the capacity of Young and Emerging Evaluators, TanEA contemplates to establish online courses. Dr Nyange, Mr Ruta, Dr Lwezaura and Dr Mwijande have been tasked to lay down the groundwork for this initiative. Ms Gladness Kampa has been given the task of website administrator as well as coordinating social media on M&E issues among TanEA members. The website administrator is responsible for uploading and updating the TanEA website.

## E4D training workshop, Abidjan

2IEval's Gold Evaluation Excellence Award now in 4<sup>th</sup> year – winners announced in early August.



The award ceremony for the winners of the 4<sup>th</sup> Gold Evaluation Excellence Award will take place on Thursday, 2 August at the Tiama Hotel, Abidjan.

The award organised by the Ivorian Initiative for Evaluation (2IEval) in collaboration with the CIRES Economic Policy Analysis Cell (CAPEC), aims to promote Excellence and Evaluation Made in Côte d'Ivoire, by rewarding students, researchers, projects/programmers, structures/institutions, consulting firms as well as of IT solutions designers.



As part of capacity building in research and evaluation, implemented by the USAID/West Africa Evidence for Development (E4D) project, the Ivorian Initiative for Evaluation (2IEval) participated in a training workshop from 20 to 27 June.

The workshop covered Performance Evaluation, Communication, Administration and Finance and included participants from Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania and Togo.

Samuel Kouakou who was a co-facilitator of the workshop, presenting the activities implemented by AfrEA in the framework of the partnership with E4D.



# SAMEA prepares for MERL Tech and capacity building workshops

The South African Monitoring & Evaluation Association (SAMEA) continues to cultivate a vibrant M&E community in South Africa. Here's some of the activities that took place or are in the pipeline.

## August: MERL Tech

### Exploring the role of technology in monitoring, evaluation, research & learning (MERL) in development

In early August, SAMEA is participating in the MERL Tech Jozi conference, bringing together over 100 monitoring, evaluation, research and learning (MERL) peers that will see live demos of new tools and approaches in MERL.

Digital data, new media and information technologies are changing fast. The past five years have seen technology-enabled MERL growing by leaps and bounds.

From adaptive management and 'developmental evaluation'; to faster, higher quality data collection; to remote data gathering through sensors and self-reporting by mobile; to big data and social media analytics; to story-triggered methodologies – the field is in constant flux with emerging methods, tools and approaches.

Alongside these new initiatives we are seeing increasing documentation and assessment of technology-enabled MERL initiatives. Good practice guidelines and new frameworks are emerging and agency-level efforts are making new initiatives easier to start, build on and improve.

The swarm of ethical questions related to these new methods and approaches has spurred greater attention to areas such as responsible data practice and the development of policies, guidelines and minimum ethical frameworks and standards for digital data. Championing the above is a growing and diversifying community of MERL practitioners, assembling from a variety of fields.

**G:ENESIS**  
UNLOCKING VALUE

**dial** Digital  
Impact  
Alliance

**Jozihub**

**PRAEKELT  
ORG**

**MERL TECH**

## October: M&E workshops

The 2018 SAMEA M&E Capacity Building Workshop Series will be held in Johannesburg from 22 to 23 October at the Hilton Hotel Sandton.

## July: ATLAS.ti webinar

### Using ATLAS.ti for monitoring and evaluation processes – an overview

In July, Lauren Wildschut, academic coordinator of the Monitoring & Evaluation Programme at CREST, Stellenbosch University, presented a webinar on the intersection between ATLAS.ti and M&E.

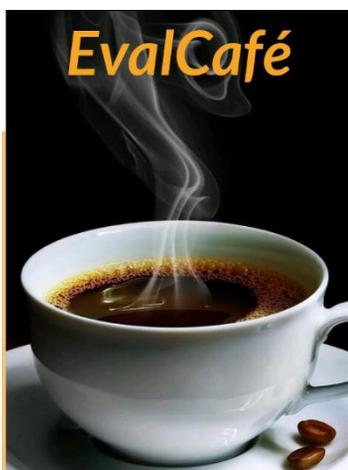
The webinar focussed on making sense of programme documents, data analysis and reporting and took on a 'show & tell' format.

## June: EvalCafé

Lack of diversity in the evaluation sector in South Africa remains a discussion point. Several initiatives could

encourage the growth and diversification of the sector, including considerations about young and emerging evaluators.

An EvalCafé hosted by SAMEA in June, addressed some of the questions around diversity and transformation in South Africa's M&E sector.





# UNICEF Zimbabwe supports ZEA's strategic plan 2018-2020

**The Zimbabwe Evaluation Association (ZEA) seeks to build partnerships with policy makers, network with organisations and individuals to promote a culture of evaluation in Zimbabwe. The VOPE set up its Secretariat in July.**

UNICEF Zimbabwe supported the development of ZEA's 2018-2020 strategic plan which identifies capacity building initiatives relevant to the Zimbabwe context.

The SP provides both a broad framework allowing for the ongoing formulation of new activities and partnerships and an outline of specific tasks towards the attainment of the goals and objectives of the Association.

In support of the strategy, UNICEF has availed funding to ZA, to build the capacity of the institution.

## **New Secretariat**

To support ZEA's strategy implementation a full-time Secretariat was appointed on 1 July 2018 to oversee the day-to-day activities of the association.

The setting up of a Secretariat allows ZEA to effectively serve as the institution that links the three pillars (evaluation culture, institutional and individual capacities in evaluation) as specified in the EvalAgenda 2020 in Zimbabwe.

## **HACT & FACE Form Training**

On 4 July 2018, the Secretariat and board members attended a UNICEF training on the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) and on the purpose and use of the Funding Authorisation and Certificate of Expenditure FACE form. The training served as an in-house induction for the Secretariat and as part of institutional capacity building for ZEA.

## **Consultancies**

ZEA has a number of consultancies lined up. ZEA members are encouraged to apply for the consultancy positions; which can be found posted on our website and Facebook page and through Kubatana.net

## **Upcoming activities**

### **Membership Development**

To increase the reach of ZEA and open up opportunities for engagement amongst stakeholders; strengthen skills for quality evaluation & utilisation of evaluation findings.

### **Situational Analysis of Evaluation in Zimbabwe**

To assess evaluation practice in Zimbabwe and examine the factors driving the production and utilisation of evaluations by governments, CSOs, and development partners.

### **Learn and Share events**

A series of Learn and Share forums are planned for the year to promote exchange and networking between researchers, academia, private sector and evaluation practitioners. The first forum will take place in the first week of August 2018.

### **Communication Strategy**

To develop a communication strategy for advocacy and communication through a consultant.

### **Resource Mobilisation Strategy**

The RMS will be developed with a consultant and will provide a framework for mobilising resources.

### **Evaluation Workshops**

To increase knowledge, appreciation and use of evaluation amongst stakeholders resulting in the establishment of M&E technical working groups.



## **Join ZEA**

ZEA invites new members to join and be part of the evaluation community in Zimbabwe.

Email: [nndhlovu@zea.org.zw](mailto:nndhlovu@zea.org.zw)