



C O N C E P T N O T E

AfrEA @ 25

1999 - 2024

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN
AFRICA-ROOTED EVALUATION: BUILDING A
STRONGER FUTURE TOGETHER

16 – 18 JUNE 2025

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA



African Evaluation Association
Association Africaine d'Évaluation

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF
AFRICAN EVALUATION EXCELLENCE

CÉLÉBRER 25 ANS D'EXCELLENCE
DE L'ÉVALUATION AFRICAINE

This event is organised by the African Evaluation Association (AfrEA), in collaboration with the Ethiopian Evaluation Association (EEvA).



INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

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The African Evaluation Association (AfrEA), a leading force in evaluation capacity building and advocacy across Africa, will celebrate its 25th anniversary in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from the 16th to the 18th June 2025. Established in 1999, AfrEA has played a pivotal role in fostering a vibrant evaluation community in Africa. This momentous occasion presents an opportunity to acknowledge AfrEA's achievements, celebrate its contributions to African development, and chart a course for the future.

1.2 Background

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AfrEA, headquartered in Accra, Ghana, serves as a crucial nexus for national evaluation associations (VOPEs), individual evaluators, and institutions across Africa. Through its diverse membership, which has grown significantly over the past 25 years, AfrEA champions the creation and growth of national evaluation associations, currently supporting 40 VOPEs across the continent. Additionally, AfrEA boasts over 3,000 individual members and enjoys partnerships with 14 development organizations.

AfrEA is a multilingual organization, reflecting the richness and diversity of the continent, with members from English-, French-, and Portuguese-speaking Africa. The organization has a proven track record of successful conferences, having hosted 11 editions in various African countries, with the most recent one held in Kigali, Rwanda, in March 2024.

1.3 Mission and objectives of AfrEA

AfrEA's unwavering dedication to strengthening African evaluation capacity for sustainable development is evident in its mission and objectives:

Supporting evaluations that contribute to real, long-lasting development across Africa.



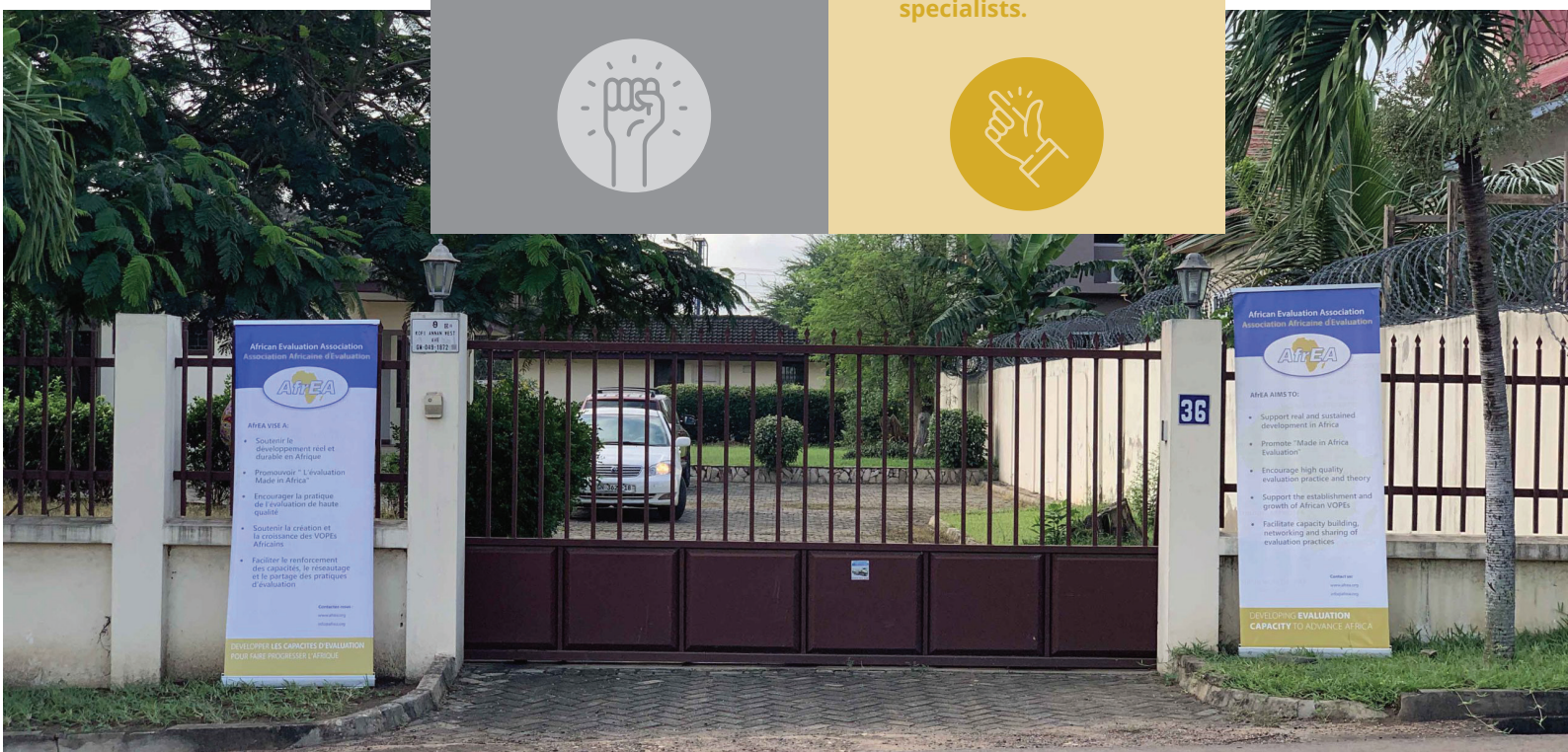
Promoting African-rooted and African-led evaluation, fostering the sharing of African evaluation perspectives.



Encouraging the development and documentation of high-quality evaluation practices, innovations, and theories through the African Evaluation Journal.



Facilitating capacity-building, networking, and the sharing of evaluation theories, techniques, and tools among evaluators, decision-makers, researchers, and development specialists.



AfrEA SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

2.1 Silver Jubilee Celebration Goals

The AfrEA Silver Jubilee aims to achieve a multi-faceted goal, which will be accomplished through a series of interconnected objectives as described below:

2.1.1. Reflect on AfrEA's History and its Key Milestones

This is crucial as it provides an opportunity to acknowledge past achievements, learn from challenges, and chart a strategic course for the future of evaluation in Africa, ensuring that the organization's growth and impact are recognized and leveraged for continued advancement of the field.

2.1.2. Acknowledge and Celebrate the Contributions of AfrEA members

This is vital as it fosters a sense of community and appreciation, motivates continued engagement, and highlights the collective efforts that have shaped the evaluation landscape in Africa, reinforcing the value of collaboration in achieving shared goals.

2.1.3. Building Partnerships for the attainment of African Union's Agenda 2063

Strengthening support for evidence-based policies aligned with the African Union's Agenda 2063, and building a partnership with the AU would enhance the relevance and impact of evaluation practices in Africa, aligning them with continental development goals and fostering a more integrated approach to monitoring and assessing progress towards the "Africa We Want" vision.

2.1.4 Facilitate High-Level Discussions with the African Union

Facilitating high-level discussions with the African Union during the event in Addis would be crucial for strengthening the alignment between evaluation practices and Agenda 2063, potentially leading to enhanced collaboration in monitoring and assessing progress towards Africa's development goals and fostering a more integrated approach to evidence-based policymaking across the continent.

2.1.5. Secure AU Endorsement of a Resolution on Advancing Evaluation in Africa

This would be instrumental in elevating the importance of evaluation within the continent, providing a strong political mandate that supports the integration of robust evaluation practices into policy-making processes, and enhancing collaboration with development partners to achieve sustainable development outcomes aligned with African priorities.

2.1.6 Strengthening Old Bonds and Securing New Partnerships

The focus on strengthening old bonds and securing new partnerships in building a stronger future together is crucial as it would foster a more robust and interconnected evaluation ecosystem in Africa, leveraging existing relationships while forging new alliances to enhance knowledge sharing, resource mobilisation, and collaborative efforts towards building a stronger, more resilient future for evaluation practices across the continent.

2.2 Expected Results of Silver Jubilee Events

The celebration of 25 years of the existence of the African Evaluation Association (AfrEA) is a significant milestone for the evaluation community in Africa. These expected results align with AfrEA's vision and mission to serve as a leading source of evaluation knowledge and to promote Africa-led evaluation practices that contribute to the continent's development agenda. It will also be an opportunity to build a stronger future together. The key results would include:

2.2.1. Strengthening of National Evaluation Ecosystems

As a non-profit umbrella organization for African Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs), AfrEA would use this celebration to foster greater collaboration among evaluation professionals and organizations across the continent. This will focus on reinforcing national evaluation systems across Africa, and will involve discussions on how to develop and affirm Africa's body of knowledge related to evaluation, promote Africa-rooted and Africa-led evaluation practices, and accelerate Africa's development through the strengthening of national evaluation ecosystems.

2.2.2. Recognition of Actors in the Advancement of Africa-Rooted Evaluation Practices

The celebration will help to advance the progress in adapting evaluation practices to the African context, especially the adoption of the African Evaluation Principles (AEP) by member countries, and commitment to adhere to the provisions in execution of national evaluations. The celebration will also provide a platform for sharing African evaluation perspectives and gaining recognition for Africa's role in the global evaluation ecosystem. It will involve recognising key actors who have played a critical role in the advancement of Africa-rooted evaluation practice.

2.2.3. Capacity Development and Professionalization of the Evaluation Function

The event will focus on developing the capacities of African evaluators and growing evaluation as a recognised profession in Africa. This would involve knowledge sharing and discussions on professionalizing the field of evaluation in the African context.

2.2.4. Increased Demand for Evaluation for Evidence-Informed Decision-Making

The celebration will aim to strengthen the demand for evaluation and promote more practical use of evaluations, independent from the requirements of donors and development cooperation agencies. This will involve engaging with policymakers, parliamentarians, and government representatives to encourage the integration of evaluation into decision-making processes.

2.2.5. Renewed Collaboration and Networking with Evaluation Ecosystem Actors

The event will also serve as a platform for networking, knowledge exchange, and partnership within development actors or actors in the evaluation ecosystem. It will seek to foster new partnerships between AfrEA and international organizations, the existing collaboration between AfrEA and the other actors will be expanded, and similar new partnerships with other international bodies may emerge.

2.2.6. The Role of AfrEA and the African Union (AU) in the realization of Agenda 2063

The event would bring together key actors in the evaluation ecosystem in Africa, and this will enhance the continent's ability to make evidence-based decisions and adjustments in pursuit of Agenda 2063's vision of a prosperous, integrated, and peaceful Africa. It will strengthen the capacity for monitoring and evaluation of development initiatives across Africa, which is crucial for tracking progress towards Agenda 2063's goals, and ensuring accountability in their implementation. This would culminate in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between AfrEA and the African Union (AU) on working modalities in the realisation of Agenda 2063.

2.3 Program Content and Events

Day 1

High-Level Panel
Discussion with AfrEA
Council of Elders

This high-level panel discussion will feature members of the AfrEA Council of Elders, comprising all past and present Presidents. This roundtable discussion will delve into AfrEA's rich history, tracing its journey from its inception to this silver jubilee milestone. All past Presidents, will share their personal experiences, challenges, successes, and aspirations for AfrEA, its members, the evaluation community, and the African Union.

Co-Creation
Workshop with
the Presidential
Council and national
evaluation ecosystem
actors

The Presidential Council brings together the Presidents and the Executive Committee members of each of the member VOPEs in Africa and national evaluation ecosystem actors. This Co-Creation event will provide a platform for discussing common challenges and developing collective strategies to strengthen national evaluation ecosystems. It will create opportunities for mentorship and capacity building, allowing more established VOPEs to support emerging ones; and facilitate the alignment of national evaluation priorities with AfrEA's continental vision, promoting a more cohesive and impactful African evaluation community.

Day 2

Co-Creation with
Development Partners
and Ecosystem Players

This will be a High-Level Panel bringing together African Regional organizations, Development Banks, UN Agencies, Evaluation Networks, Policy makers, and Development Partners. Bringing all these actors together would signal a powerful synergy beneficial to all parties involved. It will provide a unique platform for strengthening partnerships, aligning evaluation practices with regional development priorities, and fostering collaboration on key initiatives such as Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

AfrEA will enhance its position as a leading voice in African evaluation, potentially leading to increased support and resources for capacity building and evaluation activities

across the continent. The development partners would benefit from direct engagement with African evaluation experts, gaining valuable insights into context-specific evaluation approaches and potentially improving the effectiveness of their interventions. This collaboration could also lead to new joint initiatives, knowledge sharing, and the development of innovative evaluation methodologies tailored to African contexts, ultimately contributing to more impactful and sustainable development outcomes across the continent.

Day 3

High-Level Discussion with the African Union

This discussion will serve as a platform to explore how the African Union, AfrEA and development partners can collaborate to strengthen the foundation for evidence-based policies aligned with the African Union's Agenda 2063. Additionally, the panel will discuss strategies to promote "Made in Africa Evaluation" beyond borders, making the culture and practice of evaluation a reality across the continent. It will also feature the discussions on the adoption of the African Evaluation Principles (AEP) among the Member States. This High-Level panel will feature distinguished guests, including:

1. His Excellency, the Head of State of Ethiopia
2. Honourable Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC)
3. Other prominent evaluation experts from Africa.



Other Side Events to Commemorate the 25th anniversary

1

Launch of the book
"Handbook on Made in
Africa Evaluation".

2

Cultural Showcase and
Opening Dinner:
An exhibition highlighting
African artistic heritage,
music, food, and traditions.
This will be on the
Opening Night after the
official opening of the
Celebrations.

3

Silver Jubilee Night Party –
Best Foot Forward: AfrEA
Silver Jubilee Night Party to
commemorate the event's
culmination.

4

Celebration and Recognition
of Excellence: Marking
AfrEA's achievements and
honouring key individuals
who have contributed to the
field practice and promoting
Africa-rooted evaluation
culture.

5

Networking Opportunities:
Dedicated time for
participants to connect, build
relationships, and share
experiences.





Closing ceremony with future focus

This will involve reflections on AfrEA's achievements and a strategic dialogue on the future of evaluation in Africa. This will be a Closing High-Level that will bring representation from each of the following:

- AfrEA
- AfrEA Young and Emerging Evaluators (YEEs)
- Academia
- Civil Society
- African Union
- UN Agencies and other Global Development partners

The key issues that will be discussed in this closing panel will include:

- **Strengthening Networks & Collaboration:** Fostering dialogue and building stronger connections within the African evaluation community.
- **Showcasing Impact:** Highlighting the critical role of strong evaluation practices in achieving sustainable development across Africa.
- **Solidifying Leadership:** Confirming AfrEA's position as the leading voice for evaluation excellence in Africa.
- **Vision for the Future:** Sparking renewed commitment and initiating discussions on AfrEA's future direction and continued growth.

Participants and Targeted Audience

This event will be an Invite-Only event. It will bring together representatives from all national evaluation associations, individual AfrEA members, Young and Emerging Evaluators (YEEs), development partners, academia, civil society actors, AfrEA VOPes, policy makers and AfrEA past presidents.



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