



AFRICAN SCHOOL OF EVALUATION
EDITION 1

Designing and running a monitoring and evaluation system in the age of artificial intelligence in public administrations

Provided by CLEAR FA



BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

Public administration in Africa is undergoing a process of transformation driven by the imperative of strengthening modernisation, transparency, accountability and efficiency in the management of public resources. These developments are taking place against a backdrop of major reforms, notably the move to programme budgeting, adopted by many African countries. This paradigm shift, which places the emphasis on results rather than means, is redefining the way administrations plan, execute and evaluate their public policies.

At the same time, the commitments made as part of the United Nations' Agenda 2030, translated into National Development Plans and aligned with the sustainable development objectives, require governments to set up a rigorous monitoring and evaluation system. The purpose of this system is to provide decision-makers with conclusive data on the results and progress achieved, the level of performance obtained and/or, quite simply, to define the need to readjust the priority policies and programmes defined in line with the needs of citizens.

However, monitoring and evaluation systems in Africa, which are often manual and fragmented, sometimes struggle to meet these requirements. Challenges related to the collection, analysis and real-time availability of quality data hamper informed decision-making (AfDB, 2024).

In addition, these systems remain limited by a lack of interoperability, and a dependence on obsolete and traditional methods, which limit the ability of administrations to effectively manage their policies. At a time when digitisation is transforming and modernising processes and ways of working, the integration of new technologies such as dynamic dashboards, interconnected databases and artificial intelligence offers an opportunity, among other things, to rethink existing monitoring and evaluation systems, and to design more robust, efficient and modern systems.

In this context, the CLEAR Afrique francophone project, as part of the African Evaluation School of the African Evaluation Association (AfrEA), is offering a training course on "Designing and running a monitoring and evaluation system in the era of artificial intelligence in public administrations". The aim is to equip participants with the skills they need to set up sustainable monitoring and evaluation systems based on modern technological solutions.

This concept note provides an overview of the course, from the learning objectives to the provisional timetable, including a presentation of the various modules that will be covered throughout the course.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of this course, participants will be able to :

- * Define the fundamental concepts of monitoring and evaluation, including public policy, sectoral strategies, results indicators and theory of change;
- * design a digitised monitoring and evaluation system, including a logical framework, key performance indicators, data collection mechanisms and a data management plan, while taking into account the constraints of public administration.
- * use digital tools and AI to help design and run a monitoring and evaluation system tailored to the specific needs of a public administration.
- * assess the potential challenges linked to the implementation of a digitised monitoring and evaluation system and propose solutions to overcome them.

COURSE CONTENT/MODULES

The course content is divided into 3 main modules, described in the table below.

Module 1: Fundamental concepts of policies, sectoral strategies and components of a results-based monitoring and evaluation system	
Module description	Learning objectives
<p>A number of projects and programmes are implemented to operationalise public development policies. These development projects and programmes, which are financed by partners or in national budgets, respond to the need to put governments' public policies into practice. It therefore becomes imperative to provide the government and partners with evidence-based data on progress in relation to public policy objectives in order to help them make informed decisions. This requires the design and implementation of a results-based monitoring and evaluation system (RMAES). But what does SSEAR mean?</p> <p>? What are the components of a SSEAR? What is the added value of a SSEAR? What different types of policy documents should be examined as part of the monitoring and evaluation of public policies? Answers to these questions are provided in this module.</p>	<p>At the end of this module, you will be able to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • distinguish between the concepts of national development strategy, national development plan, sectoral strategy, ministries, projects and programmes • recognise differences between monitoring, evaluation • describe the types and different components of a monitoring-evaluation system • understand the importance of SSEAR • recognise AI tools

Module 2: Steps in designing a digital monitoring and evaluation system

Module description

The success of a monitoring and evaluation system is based on four key elements: (a) an appropriate choice of indicators (including the definition of precise milestones and targets), (b) the integration of monitoring systems into existing institutional structures, (c) capacity building for the players involved through training and mobilisation, and (d) the establishment of feedback and accountability mechanisms, such as ongoing dialogue between managers and stakeholders (Kessler, 2020; Ceneviva & Farah, 2012). For the purposes of this training course, the process of designing and implementing a SSEAR is based on the work of Kusek and Rist (2006). Each of the ten stages in the design and implementation of the SSEAR is explained in this training course. Practical tools based on new technologies are used to facilitate the appropriation of stages in the construction of the SSEAR.

Learning objectives

- At the end of this module, you will be able to :
- develop a theory of change for an intervention ;
 - define a framework for measuring results ;
 - describe each stage in the design of a SSEAR using new technologies;
 - design a digital dashboard ;
 - apply AI tools to generate data.

Module 3: Leading and managing the challenges of implementing a monitoring and control system assessment

Module description

Designing a monitoring and evaluation system requires a great deal of effort, and ensuring its sustainability is a challenge. As part of this training course, tools on failure analysis and prevention are used to anticipate and manage any shortcomings that may arise during the implementation of the M&E system. From practical cases will be presented

Learning objectives

At the end of this module, the participant will be able to use tools and methods for leading, managing and preventing the breakdown of the monitoring and evaluation system in order to ensure the sustainability of monitoring and evaluation.

PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites for this course.

TEACHING APPROACH

The teaching method will be participative and interactive in order to involve participants significantly in the learning process. The teaching method will be based on andragogy and will include group work, giving participants the opportunity to discuss and put into practice the concepts covered. Plenary discussions will complement these group sessions, encouraging the sharing of ideas and perspectives for mutual enrichment. Case studies, drawn from real-life experiences, will play an essential role in illustrating theory through practice.

TARGET AUDIENCE

This course focuses on :

- public administration executives ;
- political decision-makers ;
- Assessment professionals ;
- Students/researchers.
- M&E practitioners and anyone wishing to deepen their knowledge of M&E

TEACHING TEAM

The training will be led by a panel of highly qualified international experts with proven experience in the field of monitoring and evaluation and support for the implementation of a monitoring and evaluation system. The panel will be made up of :

- Dr Edoé Djimitri AGBODJAN: CLEAR FA Coordinator
- Dr. Alexis LOYE: Measurement and assessment expert
- Mr Didier Damit-AMANY: Valuation Expert

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

- The timetable below is for information only.

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
09:00 10:45	Session opening Introduction to the course <i>(presentation of objectives learning; teaching team)</i>	Module 1 (continued) - Fundamental concepts of policies, sectoral strategies and components of a results- based monitoring and evaluation system	Module 2- Part 2 - Designing a digital dashboard	Module 3 (continued) - Tools for managing the challenges of implementing a policy and programme monitoring and evaluation system	Post-test Assessment of training -
10:45 11:15	BREAK (TO BE CONFIRMED)				
11:15 13:00	- Expectations Pre-test	Module 2- Part 1 - Stages in the design of a monitoring and evaluation system for programmes and public policies	Module 2 Part 2 - Designing a digital dashboard	Module 3 (continued) - Tools for managing the challenges of implementing a policy and programme monitoring and evaluation system	- Site visit of a public authority's monitoring and evaluation system
13:00 14:00	LUNCH				
14:00 16:00	Module 1 - Fundamental concepts of policies, sectoral strategies and components of a results-based monitoring and evaluation system	Module 2 Part 1 - Stages in the design of a monitoring and evaluation system for programmes and public policies	Module 3 - Tools for managing the challenges of implementing a policy and programme monitoring and evaluation system	Group work - Designing a theory of change/ Dashboard	- Site visit of a public authority's monitoring and evaluation system