



African Evaluation Association
Association Africaine d'Evaluation



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Table of contents

Acronym Meaning	4
Message from the President	5
Acknowledgements	6
Executive Summary	7
Introduction	8
1. Strengthening AfrEA and VOPE capacities, visibility and influence	9
2. Supporting the institutionalization and professionalization of practice and evaluation	10
2.1 African School of Evaluation (ASE) 2025	10
2.2 INCE in Africa	12
3. Promoting young people and women in evaluation	14
3.1 Promoting Young and Emerging Evaluators as the Future of Evaluation in Africa	14
3.2 A Strategic Mandate for Youth-Centered Evaluation	15
4. Supporting the Made in Africa evaluation agenda	16
4.1 The 11th AfrEA Conference	16
4.2 AfrEA @ 25	17
4.3 Addis Ababa Declaration:	18
4.4 The AfrEA Evaluation Excellence Exchange	18
5. Promoting evaluation and use of evidence for African countries and continental priorities	20
5.1 The OECD Partnership	20
5.2 IDEAS and the Evaluation Conclave	21
5.4 Mainstreaming «Made in Africa Evaluation» (MAE)	21
5.3 Evaluation Conclave & Summit for the Future (Colombo)	21
6. New Partnerships	23
6.1 The African Union: Anchoring Evaluation within Agenda 2063	23
6.2 Mastercard Foundation: Co-Creating Inclusive and Youth-Centred Transformation	23
6.3 Ford Foundation: Advancing Equity, Capacity, and Professional Growth	24
6.4 ACBF: Building Institutional Resilience through CADAST	24
6.5 Lanzhou University: A Gateway for South-South Intellectual Collaboration	24

7. Communication Outreach	25
7.1 AfrEA Insights: The Flagship Newsletter	25
7.2 The Revamped AfrEA Website: Enhancing Accessibility and Credibility	26
8. Strategic Engagements: Strengthening Alliances for the Future	27
8.1 Mastercard Foundation: Fuelling Support for AfrEA's Strategic Plan	27
8.2 African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF): Building Technical Resilience	27
8.3 UNICEF: Integrating "Made in Africa" into Global Frameworks	28
8.4 Senegal National Assembly: Institutionalising Parliamentary Oversight	28
8.5 JICA: Diversifying the Global Partnership Portfolio	28
9. Leadership and Governance:	29
9.1 Council of Elders	29
9.2 Presidential Council of VOPEs	29
9.3 Executive Committee	29
9.4 Board Members	29
9.5 Secretariat	30
9.6 African Evaluation Journal	30
Conclusion	31
Looking Ahead: Strategic Priorities for 2026	32

Acronym Meaning

ACBF	African Capacity Building Foundation
AEA	American Evaluation Association
AEJ	African Evaluation Journal
AfrEA	African Evaluation Association
ASE	African School of Evaluation
AU	African Union
CADAST	Capacity Development for Africa's Structural Transformation
CLEAR	Centers for Learning on Evaluation and Results
DEval	German Institute for Development Evaluation
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ENAP	École nationale d'administration publique (Canada)
GEI	Global Evaluation Initiative
IDEAS	International Development Evaluation Association
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
INCE	National Evaluation Capacities Index
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MAE	Made in Africa Evaluation
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
RCTs	Randomized Control Trials
SAMEA	South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VOPEs	Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation
WFP	World Food Programme
YEEs	Young and Emerging Evaluators

Message from the President

Leading with Dignity, Pride, and Purpose.

It is with a profound sense of pride and institutional fulfilment that I present the 2024-2025 biennial Report of the African Evaluation Association. The year was not merely a milestone in our calendar, it was a watershed moment in our history. A year where we celebrated our twenty-five-year journey and simultaneously laid the bedrock for a self-determined future for African evaluation.

Our Silver Jubilee celebration in Addis Ababa was the heartbeat of 2025. Standing at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, we reflected on how AfrEA has evolved from a visionary idea into a continental authority. The symbolic «Passing of the Torch» to our Young and Emerging Evaluators (YEEs) was a testament to our sustainability and our belief that the future of Africa is already being led by its youth. To our YEEs, I say: you are the generation standing with dignity and pride, proving that there is hope for Africa, and that the future of evidence is truly African.

The years 2024 and 2025 also marked a decisive shift toward Intellectual Sovereignty. With the launch of the first comprehensive Handbook on Made in Africa Evaluation (MAE), we moved

beyond the conceptual to provide the continent with its first comprehensive framework for decolonizing evaluation. This was followed by a historic partnership agreement with the African Union, officially anchoring evaluation as a pillar of Agenda 2063. We are no longer just «evaluating development»; we are defining the very standards by which African progress is measured.

Beyond our advocacy, we have significantly strengthened our operational and professional capacity. The launch of the African School of Evaluation (ASE) at the University of Ghana has provided a world-class center for certification, with over 75% of scholarships dedicated to our young professionals. At the same time, our technical leadership in the INCE Africa pilot is empowering nations to self-diagnose and strengthen their own governance systems.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the unwavering support of our strategic partners, notably the Mastercard Foundation, Ford Foundation, and the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF). Their investment in our 2024–2028 Strategic Plan has allowed us to professionalize our

Secretariat, modernize our digital infrastructure, and expand our global influence.

As we look toward 2026, we do so with a clear mandate. We remain committed to an African Evaluation Excellence that is anticipatory, adaptive, and accountable. Together with our national associations (VOPEs) and our dedicated members, we will continue to build a future where every policy decision is backed by evidence that is culturally relevant, ethically grounded, and representative of the African people.

Thank you for being part of the AfrEA family in 2025 and we look forward to more collaboration in the future.



Dr. Miché OUEDRAOGO
 President, African Evaluation
 Association (AfrEA)



Acknowledgements

The African Evaluation Association (AfrEA) sincerely thanks its members, affiliated Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs), governance bodies, and Secretariat for their leadership and commitment throughout the 2024–2025 reporting period.

AfrEA gratefully acknowledges the support and collaboration of its strategic partners and donors, including the African Union, the Mastercard Foundation, Ford Foundation, African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), DEval, African Development Bank, West African Development Bank, New Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Hilton Foundation, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, the OECD EvalNet network, and the World Food Programme (WFP).

We also recognize the valued contributions of our knowledge and learning partners, including the Global Evaluation Initiative, American Evaluation Association, American Institutes for Research, École nationale d'administration publique (ENAP), Canada, Institut Le Baromètre, and the global network of Centers for Learning on Evaluation and Results (CLEAR).

AfrEA remains deeply appreciative of all partners whose collaboration continues to advance African-led, credible, and impactful evaluation across the continent.

Executive Summary

The 2024–2025 period marked a pivotal phase of strategic consolidation, institutional strengthening, and sustained growth for African Evaluation Association (AfrEA). Building on the renewed governance momentum of 2024 and extending into AfrEA's 25th anniversary year in 2025, the Association further consolidated its position as Africa's leading continental platform for advancing credible, professional, and Africa-rooted evaluation practice.

This period was characterized by significant governance renewal and organizational maturity. Following the successful conduct of continent-wide elections in 2024, AfrEA inaugurated a fully representative Board drawn from all five regions of Africa, alongside a strengthened Executive Committee. These developments reinforced inclusive leadership, accountability, and strategic oversight, while enhancing collaboration between the Board, Executive Committee, and Secretariat. Complementing this governance renewal, the Secretariat's operational capacity was strengthened through targeted recruitment, enabling more effective programme delivery, financial management, communications, and partnerships.

Guided by the AfrEA Strategic Plan 2024–2028, the Association advanced its mandate across five interrelated priority areas:



(i) strengthening AfrEA and VOPE capacities, visibility, and influence;



(ii) supporting the institutionalization and professionalization of evaluation practice;



(iii) promoting the inclusion and leadership of young people and women in evaluation;



(iv) advancing the Made in Africa Evaluation (MAE) agenda; and



(v) promoting evaluation and the use of evidence to inform African national, regional, and continental priorities.

Key milestones during the reporting period included the successful convening of the 11th AfrEA International Conference in Kigali in 2024, which reaffirmed AfrEA's convening power and thought leadership; the election and induction of the 12th Board of Governance; the launch of flagship initiatives such as the African School of Evaluation (ASE); and the commemoration of AfrEA's 25th Anniversary in 2025. Together, these achievements reflect an organization that is not only reflecting on its legacy, but also deliberately shaping its future anchored in African knowledge systems, strengthened institutions, and a new generation of evaluators.

Introduction

The 2024–2025 biennium marks a pivotal phase in AfrEA's evolution as the continent's leading platform for evaluation. Across these two years, the Association experienced renewed visibility, strengthened institutional foundations, and expanded continental engagement. In 2024, this momentum was anchored by the successful convening of AfrEA's Biennial International Conference and the launch of the Strategic Plan 2024–2028, which set a clear and unified direction for the Association's future. In 2025, AfrEA built on these foundations by consolidating strategic gains, deepening partnerships, and commemorating 25 years of sustained contribution to the advancement of evaluation in Africa.

This Biennial Report presents AfrEA's achievements during the reporting period through a coherent strategic lens. It demonstrates how AfrEA's convening power, capacity development efforts, knowledge leadership, and organizational strengthening are deliberately interconnected and mutually reinforcing. Together, these dimensions form an integrated approach that contributes to stronger national and regional evaluation systems and supports the effective use of evidence in development decision-making across the continent.

Central to the reporting period was the operationalization of the Strategic Plan 2024–2028, initiated in 2024 as a decisive step toward enhancing AfrEA's institutional effectiveness, relevance, and impact. The Strategic Plan provides the overarching framework guiding the Association's programmes, partnerships, and investments, ensuring alignment across all interventions and coherence in delivery. Through this framework, AfrEA has systematically advanced evaluation practice, strengthened national evaluation systems, and promoted the generation and use of credible evidence in support of sustainable development in Africa.

The Strategic Plan is structured around five priority areas, which together articulate AfrEA's theory of change and provide a consistent foundation for the Association's work throughout the biennium and beyond:

1. Strengthening AfrEA and VOPE capacities, visibility and influence

Strengthening national evaluation ecosystems remained a central priority throughout 2024–2025. AfrEA continued to position VOPEs as critical institutional anchors for evaluation practice, policy engagement, and professional coordination at country level.

Between 2024 and 2025, the African Evaluation Association (AfrEA) invested a total of USD 35,000 to support Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs) and evaluation practitioners across South Africa, Ghana, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, and Niger. This support reflects AfrEA's strategic commitment to advancing the professionalisation of evaluation, strengthening national VOPE institutions, and promoting youth inclusion and equity across Africa's evaluation ecosystem.

Through this support, AfrEA enabled participation in high-level professional platforms, including national evaluation weeks, regional and international conferences, webinars, and targeted training initiatives. These engagements strengthened evaluators' technical skills, increased exposure to evaluation practices, and reinforced professional standards. In South Africa, AfrEA's support facilitated regional learning and peer exchange by enabling participation of board leadership from Namibia, an emerging VOPE in the Southern Africa region, at the 9th Biennial SAMEA Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa in October 2024 a major biennial evaluation conference attended by more than 450 delegates from diverse professional backgrounds.

AfrEA contributed to the institutional strengthening and sustainability of national VOPEs by supporting staffing expansion and member engagement platforms. VOPEs in Ethiopia, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, Burkina Faso and Mozambique benefited from strengthened operational capacity, improved coordination of evaluation actors, and enhanced ability to deliver services to their members. These efforts positioned VOPEs to play a more effective role in supporting National Evaluation Systems and fostering a culture of evidence-informed decision-making.

A central element of AfrEA's support focused on expanding access for young and emerging evaluators in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, and Burkina Faso. By covering participation costs for evaluation weeks, professional conferences, and skills-based training, AfrEA reduced financial and structural barriers to entry into the evaluation profession. These opportunities enabled young evaluators to build practical competencies, strengthen professional networks, and progress toward leadership roles within national evaluation communities.

Equity considerations were intentionally embedded throughout AfrEA's support, with targeted initiatives promoting the participation and leadership of women evaluators, particularly in Burkina Faso, while also ensuring balanced geographic representation across regions.

2. Supporting the institutionalization and professionalization of practice and evaluation

2.1. African School of Evaluation (ASE) 2025

The year 2025 marked the operational launch of the African School of Evaluation (ASE), a flagship professionalisation initiative of the African Evaluation Association (AfREA) designed to address longstanding gaps in formal, Africa-rooted evaluation training. The inaugural cohort was convened in Accra, Ghana, from 24–28 November 2025, bringing together 124 participants from 27 African countries, ranging from emerging to experienced evaluators, for an intensive residential programme focused on strengthening technical excellence, ethical practice, and African ownership of evaluation knowledge. Of these participants, 93 (75 %) were Young and Emerging Evaluators under the age of 35, underscoring AfREA's strong commitment to intergenerational sustainability and youth-led professionalisation.

The ASE was conceived as more than a training programme, it is a continental movement to reclaim Africa's evaluation narrative. For decades, evaluation approaches on the continent have largely been shaped by external paradigms. Grounded in the Made in Africa Evaluation (MAE) philosophy, the ASE places African realities, values, and lived experiences at the centre of evaluative inquiry. It reframes evaluation as a tool for learning, dignity, accountability, and transformation, equipping graduates to measure not only deficits, but meaningful development impact as defined by African communities themselves.

The inaugural ASE curriculum was deliberately designed to respond to the technical, ethical, and institutional demands of modern evaluation practice in Africa, while remaining aligned with global standards. During the Accra residency, five specialised courses were delivered by leading international and African technical partners. Each course combined theory with hands-on application to strengthen the quality, relevance, and use of evidence across sectors and countries.



Courses delivered during the ASE 2025 cohort included:

	<p>i) Made in Africa Evaluation (Mastercard Foundation)</p> <p>This course on Made in Africa Evaluation (MAE) introduces participants to African-rooted philosophies and epistemologies that challenge the dominance of universal, Western-centric evaluation models. MAE is grounded in the understanding that evaluation is not value-neutral; it is shaped by history, culture, power, and ways of knowing. The course situates evaluation within African worldviews that emphasise relationality, community, reciprocity, justice, and contextual relevance, drawing strongly on Indigenous Knowledge Systems and philosophies such as Ubuntu.</p>
	<p>i) Evaluation in Service of Equity (CLEAR Anglophone Africa)</p> <p>Focused on embedding equity and social justice in evaluation design, this course equipped participants with tools to identify power imbalances, assess who benefits from development interventions, and centre the voices of marginalized and vulnerable populations. Participants learned to design frameworks that explicitly measure equity gaps and inclusive outcomes.</p>
	<p>ii) Impact Evaluation: Theory and Applications (American Institutes for Research)</p> <p>Provided rigorous training in causal inference, including experimental and quasi-experimental designs such as Randomized Control Trials (RCTs) and Difference-in-Differences. The course emphasized practical implementation of impact evaluations in resource-constrained settings, enabling participants to generate robust evidence on what works and why.</p>
	<p>iii) Mixed Methods in Evaluation (ENAP Canada)</p> <p>Addressed the complexity of development by integrating qualitative and quantitative approaches. Participants strengthened skills in triangulation, narrative analysis, and culturally grounded reporting, allowing them to explain both statistical results and the contextual realities behind them.</p>
	<p>iv) Evaluation Focused on Children (UNICEF)</p> <p>Concentrated on child-rights-based evaluation and ethical standards when working with children and adolescents. The course strengthened participants' ability to design and conduct evaluations in health, education, and protection sectors while complying with international child safeguarding requirements.</p>
	<p>v) Professionalisation and Public Policy Evaluation (CLEAR Francophone Africa)</p> <p>Examined the institutionalisation of evaluation within government systems, particularly in Francophone contexts. The course focused on integrating evaluative thinking across the public policy cycle, strengthening transparency, accountability, and evidence use in public administration, while fostering cross-linguistic and regional coherence in evaluation practice.</p>

A defining feature of the ASE's first cohort was its strong commitment to youth inclusion and sustainability of the profession. AfrEA allocated over 75% of all full ASE scholarships to Young and Emerging Evaluators (YEEs), ensuring that Africa's next generation of evaluators gains access to world-class training while remaining deeply grounded in Afrocentric evaluation principles. This strategic investment strengthens long-term leadership, diversifies the profession, and reinforces AfrEA's commitment to intergenerational equity.

In its inaugural year, the African School of Evaluation demonstrated its potential as a cornerstone for professionalising evaluation in Africa, bridging global standards with African knowledge systems, and equipping young evaluators to lead evidence-informed development and governance across the continent.

2.2: INCE in Africa



In 2025, AfrEA achieved a historic milestone in its mission to professionalize evaluation across the continent through the launch of the National Evaluation Capacities Index (INCE) in Africa. Previously implemented only in Latin America, AfrEA's leadership in introducing this tool to the African context represents a significant strategic shift toward evidence-based governance and systematic self-assessment of national evaluation systems. The introduction of INCE to the continent was the result of a high-level collaboration between AfrEA, the World Food Programme (WFP), and the German Institute for Development Evaluation (DEval). The programme was officially inaugurated on March 25, 2025, at the AfrEA Head Office in Accra, Ghana, and was followed by an intensive four-day technical residency that brought together

government officials and national consultants from six pilot countries: Benin, Congo, Ghana, Morocco, South Africa, and Tanzania.

The training ensured that the implementation of INCE would be led by actors with a deep understanding of national political, administrative, and social contexts. A critical feature of the planning process was an in-depth contextualisation exercise, during which participants worked to preserve the global coherence of the INCE framework while ensuring sufficient flexibility to capture the diverse governance realities across African countries. The 2025 implementation phase provided a strong reflection of the continent's varied institutional landscapes and demonstrated AfrEA's deliberate move away from a one-size-fits-all approach.

Instead, the pilot phase highlighted the Association's commitment to navigating complex political realities in ways that promote sustainability, national ownership, and long-term institutionalisation of evaluation systems.

Significant momentum was observed in Tanzania, Ghana, Congo, and South Africa, where the INCE process progressed beyond technical assessment to active political engagement, involving high-level government offices and national evaluation associations (VOPEs). These experiences demonstrated that when evaluation is embedded within national systems and governance structures, it becomes a powerful driver for accountability, learning, and evidence-informed decision-making. Progress in Morocco and Benin followed a different trajectory, which AfrEA regarded not as a setback but as an important learning milestone. The slower pace in these contexts underscored the fact that

national evaluation systems are closely tied to specific political and administrative environments. In response, AfrEA prioritised deep institutional alignment over rapid implementation, ensuring that future adoption of the index would be grounded in genuine political commitment rather than treated as a procedural exercise.

Building on the lessons from the pilot phase, AfrEA launched the second phase of INCE implementation in Africa through a high-level technical workshop held from November 24 to 28, 2025, at the University of Ghana in Accra. This phase expanded the programme's reach to four additional strategic partner countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Uganda, Gabon, and Zimbabwe marking an important step toward scaling the INCE as a continent-wide instrument for strengthening national evaluation capacities.



3. Promoting young people and women in evaluation

3.1: Promoting Young and Emerging Evaluators as the Future of Evaluation in Africa

Between 2024 and 2025, the African Evaluation Association (AfrEA) implemented targeted, hands-on capacity-building interventions to strengthen the technical skills, professional readiness, and leadership pipeline of Young and Emerging Evaluators (YEEs) across Africa. These efforts were delivered through complementary regional, national, and continental platforms, ensuring broad reach and contextual relevance:

a) Regional and International Capacity Development



At the regional level, AfrEA supported three YEEs from Cameroon, Togo, and Rwanda to participate in a regional evaluation boot camp in Benin, organized by Institut Le Baromètre. The programme strengthened competencies in public policy formulation and evaluation, data analysis, and experimental economics, while facilitating peer learning and professional networking among participants from seven African countries.

In addition, AfrEA sponsored two YEEs from Tanzania and Côte d'Ivoire to attend the 5th Asia Pacific Winter School for Young and Emerging Evaluators in Sri Lanka. Participants received advanced training in evaluation design, theory of change, indigenous evaluation approaches, mixed methodologies, and evidence-use strategies, alongside participation in a global academic symposium on the future of monitoring and evaluation education.

b) National-Level Professionalisation through VOPEs

AfrEA leveraged nine national Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs) as platforms for youth professionalisation. In Uganda, AfrEA's support enabled 12 YEEs to participate in the Uganda Evaluation Week, enhancing exposure to national evaluation discourse. In Kenya, 25 YEEs benefited from targeted skills-based training aimed at strengthening practice-ready monitoring and evaluation competencies. In Burkina Faso, 20 young women evaluators completed gender-responsive evaluation training, reinforcing AfrEA's commitment to equity and women's leadership in evaluation.

In Mozambique, AfrEA supported the implementation of a structured training programme that equipped 20 YEEs with foundational and advanced M&E skills aligned with international standards, strengthening their capacity to generate and apply evaluation evidence in decision-making processes.

Additional youth participation was facilitated through evaluation weeks and professional conferences in Tanzania and South Africa, further expanding access to learning and networking opportunities.



c) Continental Engagement and Knowledge Exchange



At the continental level, AfrEA provided capacity-building opportunities to 157 Young and Emerging Evaluators from 37 countries through the 11th AfrEA International Conference held in Kigali. The conference served as a critical platform for skills development, peer exchange, and exposure to Africa-rooted evaluation practices.

Across the period, AfrEA directly supported and trained over 200 Young and Emerging Evaluators through structured trainings, evaluation weeks, regional boot camps, and international conferences. This figure reflects only initiatives with confirmed participation data and underscores AfrEA's contribution to building a skilled, diverse, and future-ready evaluation workforce.

3.2: A Strategic Mandate for Youth-Centered Evaluation

Under the flagship project «Advancing Culturally and Youth Sensitive Evaluation in Africa,» supported by the Mastercard Foundation, AfrEA has moved beyond simple inclusion to active leadership for young professionals.

A comprehensive Institutional Capacity Assessment was launched in 2025 to evaluate AfrEA's readiness to lead youth-centered evaluation at a continental level. This assessment aims to provide a roadmap for enhancing governance and technical capabilities specifically focused on youth engagement and inclusion across the entire network. By formalizing youth-centered tools and methodologies, AfrEA is ensuring that evaluation practice in Africa is not only technically sound but also culturally responsive and inclusive of the continent's largest demographic, its youth.

4. Supporting the Made in Africa evaluation agenda

Advancing African-rooted evaluation thinking remained a defining feature of AfrEA's work. Building on the Made in Africa Evaluation (MAE) agenda, AfrEA operationalized indigenous and context-responsive approaches through its 11th conferences, 25th anniversary dialogues, research, publications, and learning exchanges.

MAE principles were mainstreamed across AfrEA's flagship convenings, ensuring that African knowledge systems and contextual realities informed methodological discussions without compromising rigor. Knowledge generation and dissemination through the African Evaluation Journal, webinars, newsletters, and strategic partnerships strengthened the visibility and legitimacy of African evaluation perspectives within continental and global evaluation discourse.

4.1: The 11th AfrEA Conference

The 11th AfrEA International Conference, convened by the African Evaluation Association (AfrEA) from 18–22 March 2024 in Kigali, Rwanda, marked a significant milestone in advancing evaluation practice across the continent. Held under the theme “Technology and Innovation in Evaluation Practice in Africa,” the conference brought together over 600 participants, including evaluators, researchers, policymakers, government officials, development partners, and representatives of international organizations from Africa and beyond. The diversity of participants fostered rich dialogue, cross-sectoral learning, and the exchange of innovative ideas and best practices in evaluation.

Beyond its focus on innovation and technology, the conference served as a key platform for advancing the Made in Africa Evaluation (MAE) agenda. Through dedicated sessions, panel discussions, and informal knowledge exchanges, participants engaged deeply with African-rooted evaluation



approaches, indigenous knowledge systems, and context-responsive methodologies. These discussions emphasized the importance of grounding evaluation practice in African values, lived experiences, and development priorities, while exploring how technology and innovation can strengthen Afrocentric evaluation approaches. The conference reinforced evaluation as a tool not only for accountability, but also for learning, transformation, and African ownership of evidence.

The conference also hosted the AfrEA General Assembly, during which elections were held. The 12th AfrEA Board of Directors was formally inducted, led by Miché Ouedraogo. The induction marked an important governance milestone, ensuring continuity of leadership and reinforcing AfrEA's commitment to transparency, inclusivity, and accountable institutional stewardship.

4.2: AfrEA @ 25

The 25th Anniversary of the African Evaluation Association (AfrEA), held in Addis Ababa from 16–18 June 2025, marked a defining continental moment that moved the Association from celebration to transformation. The anniversary served as a strategic pivot point, consolidating twenty-five years of growth into a shared commitment to Made in Africa Evaluation (MAE) as the foundation for Africa's evaluation future.

A major outcome of AfrEA@25 was the formal launch of the Handbook on Made in Africa Evaluation (e-pub: https://afrea.org/sdm_downloads/mae-handbook-e-pub/, pdf: https://afrea.org/sdm_downloads/mae-handbook-pdf/) the continent's first comprehensive, practitioner-led framework for African-rooted evaluation.



The Handbook translates MAE from a long-standing concept into an operational reality, empowering African evaluators to generate evidence that is culturally grounded, ethically sound, and responsive to African development priorities. Its release signaled a clear shift from externally driven evaluation models toward African intellectual sovereignty and ownership of evidence for decision-making.

The anniversary also underscored AfrEA's commitment to the intergenerational sustainability of the evaluation profession. Through the symbolic "Passing of the Torch," AfrEA reaffirmed the central role of Young and Emerging Evaluators (YEEs), who now constitute a significant share of national VOPE membership in shaping the future of evaluation. This moment reinforced the transfer of institutional memory from pioneers to youth, while embracing innovation, digital fluency, and new leadership energy.





4.3: Addis Ababa Declaration:

AfrEA@25 culminated in the Addis Ababa Declaration of 2025, co-signed with the African Union, which elevated evaluation as a core function of public policy and governance. The Declaration calls for the localization of evaluation systems, including authority, staffing, and financing, and positions evaluation as a critical driver of Agenda 2063. It clearly signaled Africa's transition from being primarily a source of data to becoming a global hub of evidence-informed governance.

The event was delivered through collective institutional leadership, layered governance oversight, and rigorous planning, supported by professional event management and a coordinated global communication campaign.

4.4: The AfrEA Evaluation Excellence Exchange

In 2025, AfrEA successfully institutionalized its role as the continent's premier intellectual engine through the launch of the AfrEA Evaluation Excellence Exchange. This flagship monthly webinar series was established to bridge the gap between historical legacy and future innovation, creating a dynamic space where the «Made in Africa Evaluation» (MAE) agenda could be discussed and disseminated.

Throughout the year, the webinar series served as a high-level laboratory for dialogue, bringing together a powerful coalition of voices, including past AfrEA Presidents, national policy directors, academic pioneers, and international evaluation leaders. These sessions transitioned from mere information sharing to a catalyst for the professionalization of evaluation across the continent. They focused on critical themes such as the 25-year history of organized evaluation in Africa through AfrEA, innovative capacity-building frameworks, and the practical application of Afrocentric methodologies. The exchanges provided practitioners with the tools to reclaim the African development narrative.



The impact of these initiatives was profound. The AfrEA Evaluation Excellence Exchange effectively democratized access to world-class expertise, allowing evaluators from diverse linguistic and geographic backgrounds to engage with cutting-edge concepts like the Swahili Evaluation Approach, storytelling for impact, and relational evaluation paradigms. It also spotlighted the African Evaluation Journal (AEJ), reinforcing the importance of African-led, peer-reviewed evidence as the primary driver for national policy.

The success of this model has established AfrEA as a global benchmark for professional networks. This was evidenced by the Association's participation in external forums like the Le Baromètre webinar, where the AfrEA Evaluation Excellence Exchange was presented as a case study in how active, professional networking can drive continental standards.



5. Promoting evaluation and use of evidence for African countries and continental priorities

Between 2024- 2025, AfrEA's influence extended decisively beyond the African continent, consolidating its position as a trusted global thought leader in evaluation. Through sustained engagement in high-level international forums, AfrEA ensured that African expertise was no longer merely represented in global spaces, but actively shaping the standards, methodologies, and future directions of the evaluation profession worldwide. These engagements marked a strategic shift from inclusion to influence, affirming Africa's role as a generator of evaluation knowledge and leadership.

5.1 The OECD Partnership



AfrEA's partnership with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) illustrated a new level of strategic partnership, moving from consultation to active leadership in global policy. Engagement in the 32nd OECD EvalNet Meeting in Paris reflected a maturation of the relationship, moving from periodic consultation toward substantive leadership in global policy dialogue. AfrEA emerged as the primary bridge between African National Evaluation Systems and global development architecture, ensuring that African institutional realities and governance priorities informed international evaluation frameworks.

This leadership was further reinforced at the OECD COVID-19 Global Evaluation Coalition Learning Event, where AfrEA President, Dr. Miché Ouédraogo, delivered closing reflections alongside senior leaders from the World Health Organization and the United Nations system. His intervention underscored the imperative of equity, contextual intelligence, and African voices in global crisis response. The message was unequivocal: future humanitarian and development frameworks must be anticipatory and adaptive to African realities. In this moment, Africa was no longer positioned as a subject of global evaluation, but as a co-architect of its lessons and responses.

5.2 IDEAS and the Evaluation Conclave

AfrEA also used 2025 to project its distinctive intergenerational leadership model onto the global stage, demonstrating how sustained investment in Young and Emerging Evaluators (YEEs) translates into durable leadership pipelines for the profession. At the IDEAS Conference in Rome, AfrEA led by Vice President Dr. Awuor Ponge advanced a systems-oriented vision of transformational change, anchored in mentorship, peer learning, and network sustainability. AfrEA's approach moved beyond rhetoric, presenting a practical model for embedding youth leadership within professional governance structures.



5.3: Evaluation Conclave & Summit for the Future (Colombo)

At the Evaluation Conclave and Summit for the Future in Colombo, Sri Lanka, AfrEA President joined a select group of global leaders recognised for their transition from young evaluators to international policy and thought leaders. This recognition affirmed AfrEA's "YEE-to-Leader" pathway as a global benchmark. Through its intentional integration of youth into governance, AfrEA is now shaping a global movement to safeguard the sustainability, relevance, and legitimacy of the evaluation profession worldwide.

5.4 Mainstreaming «Made in Africa Evaluation» (MAE)

A landmark achievement in 2025 was the successful mainstreaming of the Made in Africa Evaluation (MAE) agenda into global academic, policy, and financial institutions. This marked a decisive shift in how African-rooted evaluation methodologies are perceived, no longer as context-specific alternatives, but as universally relevant intellectual frameworks:

a) Frontier Lecture Series on Evidence-Based Social Science

AfrEA's intellectual leadership reached a significant milestone in late 2025 when its President was invited to deliver a lecture on the Made in Africa Evaluation (MAE) framework as part of the Frontier Lecture Series (No. 52). This highly regarded academic forum, jointly hosted by the Center for Evidence-Based Social Science at Lanzhou University and the Global Evaluation Initiative (GEI), provided a strategic platform to present African-rooted evaluation thinking to a global audience, with particular resonance within Asian academic and policy communities.

The invitation extended to AfrEA to serve as the distinguished guest speaker for this edition of the series reflected AfrEA's growing academic credibility and international recognition. Engagement with one of China's leading research institutions enabled AfrEA to contribute meaningfully to South-South knowledge exchange, while positioning MAE within broader global debates on evidence and evaluation. This collaboration demonstrated that the principles underpinning Made in Africa Evaluation are increasingly recognised as integral to contemporary social science discourse.

Importantly, the lecture marked a shift in the positioning of MAE from a practice-oriented movement to a framework engaged within high-level academic theory and policy dialogue. It reinforced the understanding that African evaluation is not a context-specific or peripheral practice, but a rigorous and conceptually grounded approach capable of informing international evidence-based policy and development decision-making.

b) Strategic Gateway with EBRD

AfrEA's strategic dialogue with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) marked another turning point. As the EBRD expanded its engagement in Africa, it recognised AfrEA's 25-year institutional journey as a foundational reference for its regional evaluation strategy. This recognition positioned AfrEA as a strategic gateway for international financial institutions seeking to anchor their investments in locally grounded evaluation systems. These engagements elevated MAE from a regional framework to a global evaluative standard, opening pathways for African evaluators.

c) gLOCAL Engagement

During gLOCAL Evaluation Week, AfrEA leveraged digital platforms to broaden and democratize access to evaluation knowledge. Through two

AfrEA-hosted webinars, the Association amplified voices from across the continent, with sessions moderated by youth representatives serving on the AfrEA Board.

The webinars showcased African evaluation expertise from diverse linguistic contexts, including Francophone and Anglophone regions, and connected local practitioners to a global audience. These engagements demonstrated AfrEA's commitment to inclusive, technology-enabled knowledge exchange and highlighted how youth leadership and digital innovation are shaping the future of evaluation practice.

d) Strategic Engagement at AEA 2025

AfrEA had a high-profile participation in the American Evaluation Association (AEA) Annual Conference (Evaluation 2025), held from 10–15 November 2025 in Kansas City, under the theme "Engaging Community, Sharing Leadership. The AfrEA delegation was led by Vice President Dr. Awuor Ponge.

A central pillar of AfrEA's engagement was the presentation of tangible outcomes from its 25th Anniversary, notably the Handbook on Made in Africa Evaluation (MAE). Through this platform, AfrEA led discussions on building Evidence-Enabling Systems for Government and shared lessons from the Addis Ababa Declaration, signed during the anniversary celebrations. These exchanges demonstrated how African governments are increasingly moving beyond externally driven compliance toward coordinated, domestically led ecosystems for planning, learning, and oversight.

For the global evaluation community, this engagement served as a "live" case study in decolonising evaluation practice. It offered international partners a practical roadmap for supporting national systems that prioritise local knowledge, indigenous methodologies such as Ubuntu, and the meaningful inclusion of youth and women.

6. New Partnerships

AfrEA transitioned from a continental network into a central pillar of Africa's development architecture. Through a series of historic agreements and co-created partnerships, the Association secured the political mandate, technical credibility, and catalytic financial support required to lead and institutionalise the Made in Africa Evaluation (MAE) agenda at continental and global levels.

6.1 The African Union: Anchoring Evaluation within Agenda 2063

A defining diplomatic milestone was reached on 18 June 2025 with the signing of a historic partnership agreement between AfrEA and the African Union (AU). Concluded during the closing ceremony of AfrEA's 25th Anniversary celebrations in Addis Ababa, this agreement formally anchors evaluation as a core function of continental governance.

More than a collaborative arrangement, the partnership establishes a clear political mandate for AfrEA. By aligning directly with the AU, evaluation is repositioned from an externally driven donor requirement to a domestically owned governance instrument supporting the achievement of Agenda 2063. The agreement facilitates the systematic integration of African-led evidence into AU decision-making processes, directly advancing the commitments of the Addis Ababa Declaration of 2025. In doing so, it cements AfrEA's role as the African Union's primary technical partner on evaluation.



6.2 Mastercard Foundation: Co-Creating Inclusive and Youth-Centred Transformation

Following a co-creation workshop held in Nairobi, Kenya, in June 2025, AfrEA and the Mastercard Foundation launched a transformative partnership focused on advancing culturally responsive and youth-sensitive evaluation in Africa.

The partnership is structured around system strengthening through continental evaluation capacity initiatives, the elevation of indigenous knowledge and methodologies through the Made in Africa Evaluation agenda, and the empowerment of young people and women to assume leadership roles and pursue sustainable livelihoods within the evaluation profession. This collaboration represents a strategic shift toward inclusive excellence, reshaping the demographic and leadership profile of the evaluation field across the continent.



6.3 Ford Foundation: Advancing Equity, Capacity, and Professional Growth

Between 2024 and 2025, AfrEA entered into a strategic partnership with the Ford Foundation to advance equity and institutional capacity within the evaluation ecosystem. This collaboration provides both technical and financial support to promote the participation and leadership of women in evaluation, strengthen the capacity of National Evaluation Associations particularly within Lusophone Africa and reinforce the institutional capacity of the AfrEA Secretariat.

The partnership also supports the development of the African Evaluators Database Hub and has enabled Young and Emerging Evaluators to fully benefit from the Africa School of Evaluation.

**Ford
Foundation**

6.4 ACBF: Building Institutional Resilience through CADAST

AfrEA further consolidated its technical partnership with the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) through the implementation of Activity 1.7.3 under the Capacity Development for Africa's Structural Transformation (CADAST) project. This collaboration focuses on supporting development evaluation initiatives across Regional Member Countries.

Through this partnership, AfrEA is scaling the National Evaluation Capacities Index (INCE) pilot within Africa and developing a landmark Evaluation Consultation Guide. Alignment with ACBF's robust policies and procedures has reinforced the quality, credibility, and Africa-rooted orientation of AfrEA's evaluation products, contributing to stronger national and regional evaluation systems.

ACBF
THE AFRICAN CAPACITY BUILDING FOUNDATION



6.5 Lanzhou University: A Gateway for South-South Intellectual Collaboration

Expanding its intellectual and academic footprint beyond Africa, AfrEA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Center for Evidence-Based Social Science at Lanzhou University in China. This partnership promotes academic exchange, joint research, and the global dissemination of the Made in Africa Evaluation framework.

The MoU provides a structured platform for African evaluators to contribute to global social science discourse and ensures that Made in Africa Evaluation is recognised not only as a practice-based innovation, but as a rigorous, world-class academic standard influencing international evidence-based policy and research.

7. Communication Outreach

In 2025, AfREA's communication and outreach approach underwent a significant transformation, evolving from traditional information dissemination toward a dynamic, community-centred digital ecosystem. This strategic shift focused on strengthening engagement, enhancing visibility, and improving access to evaluative knowledge for AfREA's diverse membership across the continent and beyond. The modernisation of outreach tools including the regular publication of a flagship newsletter and the comprehensive redesign of the AfREA website played a central role in this transition.

7.1 AfREA Insights: The Flagship Newsletter

The launch and sustained publication of AfREA Insights, the Association's flagship newsletter, became a cornerstone of AfREA's knowledge dissemination and engagement strategy. Beyond serving as a news bulletin, the newsletter functions as a platform for thought leadership, reflection, and dialogue within the evaluation community. For example, the February 2025 edition featured a critical reflection by President Dr. Miché Ouédraogo on his participation in the Wilton Park Conference, effectively linking global policy discussions with the lived realities of evaluation practitioners in Africa.

The newsletter consistently highlights AfREA's flagship initiatives alongside updates from National Evaluation Associations (VOPEs), fostering a sense of continental cohesion and shared purpose. By disseminating opportunities, resources, and sector developments, AfREA Insights ensures that knowledge and information remain accessible to evaluators across regions, languages, and institutional contexts.



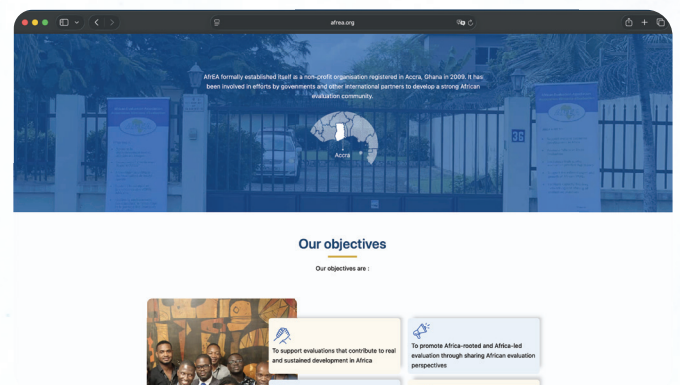
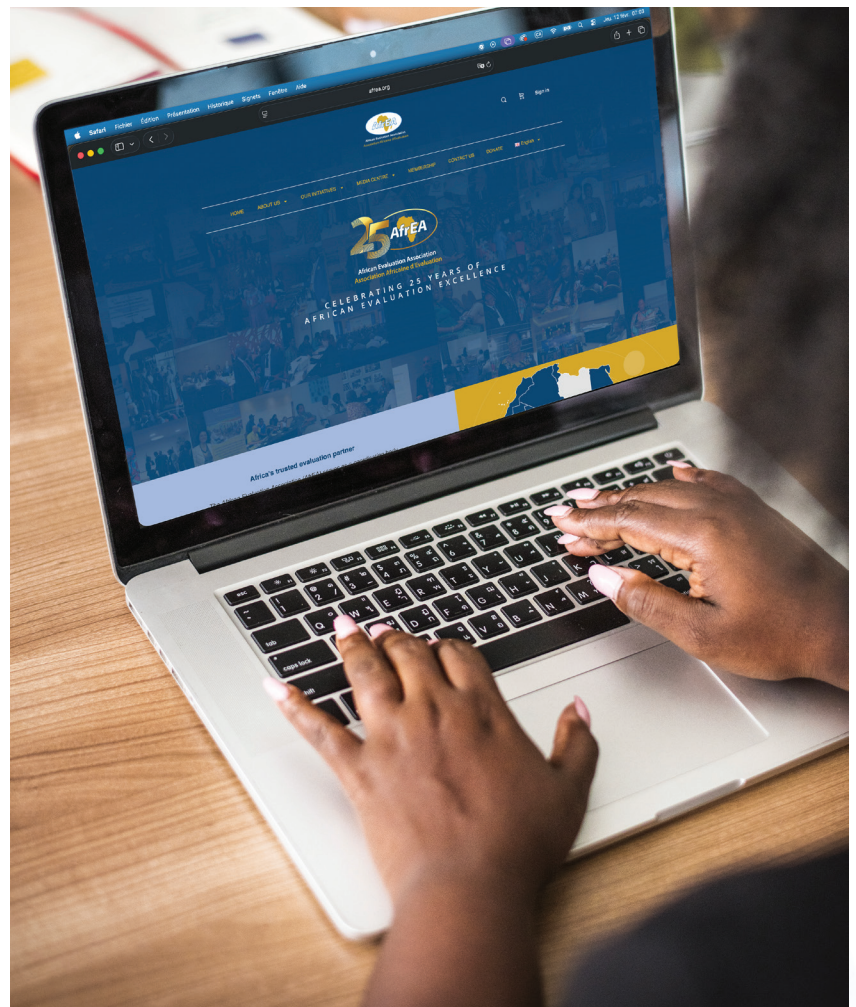
7.2 The Revamped AfrEA Website: Enhancing Accessibility and Credibility

From 2024-2025, AfrEA launched a fully redesigned website, re-envisioned as a user-friendly digital hub for the African evaluation community. The new platform features a streamlined design, intuitive navigation, and a clearer articulation of AfrEA's mission and values. Strategic improvements in layout, structure, and visual identity have significantly strengthened the Association's digital credibility and professional presence at the global level.

Functional upgrades to the website include an improved membership payment system and the introduction of an online donation feature, reducing administrative barriers and enhancing the user experience for members, partners, and donors. These improvements enable the Secretariat to focus more effectively on engagement and service delivery while maintaining high standards of accountability and professionalism.

In line with its commitment to inclusivity and continental integration, AfrEA is expanding its digital infrastructure to include Portuguese versions of the website, ensuring accessibility for its multilingual membership. This expansion is complemented by the

rollout of the Africa Evaluators Database, a strategic resource designed to centralise African evaluation expertise and advance the localisation of evaluation practice. Additionally, the introduction of dedicated VOPE profiles provides national associations with a platform to showcase their country-level impact, strengthening the institutional link between AfrEA and its national members while positioning the website as a premier hub for African evaluation excellence.



8. Strategic Engagements: Strengthening Alliances for the Future

In 2025, AfrEA leadership undertook a series of strategic courtesy visits to key development partners and government institutions. These engagements were intentionally designed to move beyond protocol and focus on securing the technical, financial, and political support required to sustain and scale the Association's mission.

8.1 Mastercard Foundation: Fuelling Support for AfrEA's Strategic Plan

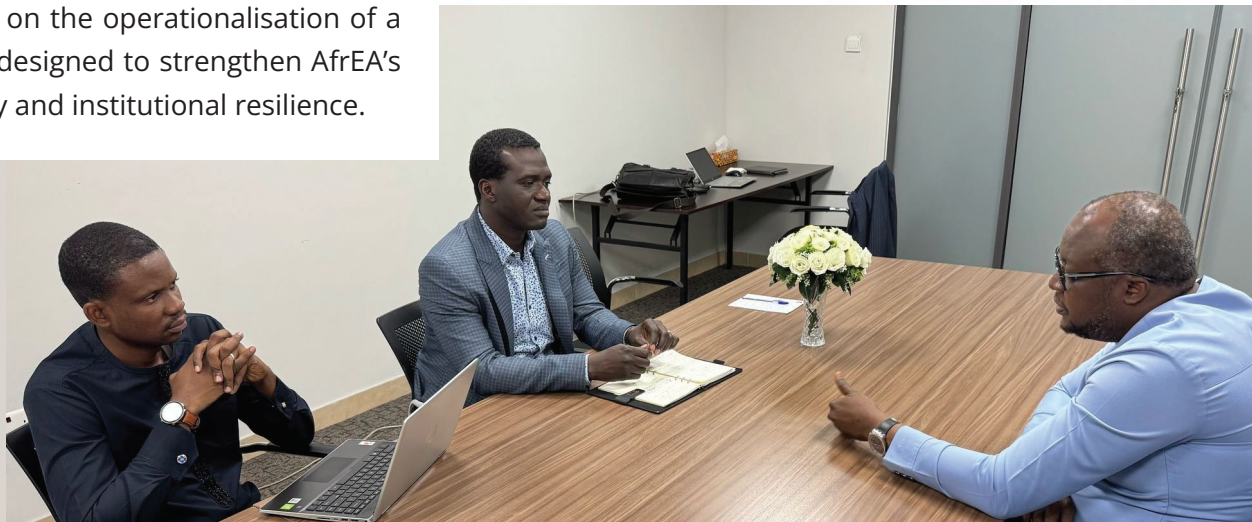
An AfrEA delegation, led by the President, paid a courtesy visit to the Accra office of the Mastercard Foundation, where discussions were held with the Lead for Evidence and Learning. The visit reaffirmed the critical role of the Foundation's support in advancing the implementation of the AfrEA Strategic Plan 2024–2028. The collaboration between AfrEA and the Mastercard Foundation continues to ensure sustained and expanded investment in core programmes that empower evaluators across the continent.



Accra, Ghana
August 2025

8.2 African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF): Building Technical Resilience

AfrEA conducted a courtesy visit to the West and Central Africa Office of the African Capacity Building Foundation, where discussions were held with the Senior Impact Measurement Officer. The meeting focused on the operationalisation of a new ACBF grant designed to strengthen AfrEA's technical capacity and institutional resilience.



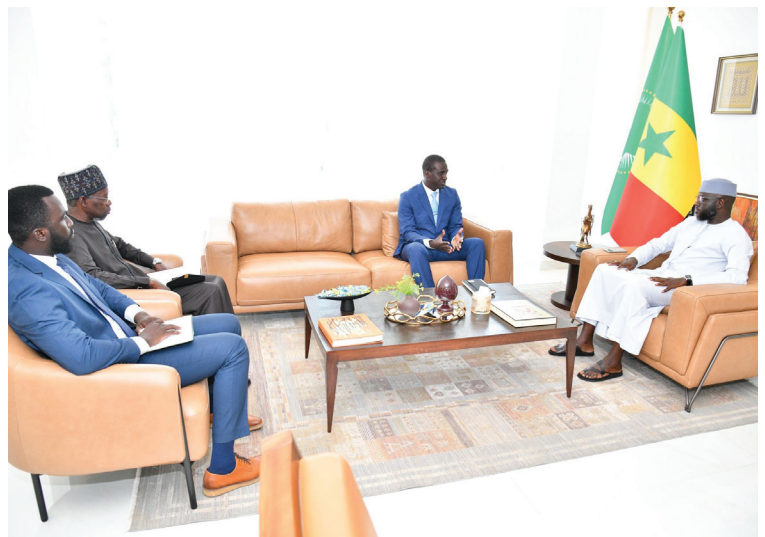


8.3 UNICEF: Integrating “Made in Africa” into Global Frameworks

At the UNICEF West and Central Africa Regional Office in Dakar, Senegal, AfrEA engaged with the evaluation team to discuss national evaluation capacity development and youth investment. The visit served as a high-level dissemination platform for the Made in Africa Evaluation Handbook and laid the groundwork for integrating Afrocentric evaluation methodologies into UNICEF’s regional programmes. This alignment with a major United Nations agency represents a significant step toward ensuring that African-rooted evidence becomes a standard component of humanitarian and development interventions.

8.4 Senegal National Assembly: Institutionalising Parliamentary Oversight

In Dakar, the President of AfrEA was received by His Excellency El Malick Ndiaye, President of the National Assembly of Senegal. This engagement directly supported efforts to institutionalise public policy evaluation within the Senegalese legislature. AfrEA used the opportunity to commend the National Assembly’s participation in AfrEA’s 25th Anniversary celebrations. Through such engagements, AfrEA continues to position itself as a trusted technical partner for parliamentary reform and a strong advocate for accountability and evidence-based lawmaking across Africa.



8.5 JICA: Diversifying the Global Partnership Portfolio



The President of AfrEA met with the Director General of evaluation department of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to explore new avenues for collaboration. This engagement opened strategic opportunities to access Asian development expertise and funding, contributing to the diversification of AfrEA’s partnership and resource base. Collaboration with JICA also offers potential for integrating Japanese approaches to productivity and management into African evaluation systems, fostering a distinctive South-South-North knowledge exchange.

9. Leadership and Governance

In 2025, AfrEA leadership undertook a series of strategic courtesy visits to key development partners and government institutions. These engagements were intentionally designed to move beyond protocol and focus on securing the technical, financial, and political support required to sustain and scale the Association's mission.

9.1 Council of Elders

In accordance with the AfrEA Constitution, the Council of Elders comprising all former Presidents of the Association was established in 2024 to serve as a vital advisory body. Drawing on their institutional memory and leadership experience, the Council provides strategic guidance and counsel that support continuity, safeguard organizational values, and inform AfrEA's long-term strategic direction.

9.2 Presidential Council of VOPEs

AfrEA further strengthened its continental coordination mechanisms through the Presidential Council, composed of Presidents and Vice-Presidents of all AfrEA-affiliated Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs). Established in 2024, this platform enhances cohesion across the AfrEA network by promoting structured communication, collaboration, and knowledge exchange. The Council plays a critical role in aligning national and regional priorities with AfrEA's continental agenda, while reinforcing two-way engagement between the Secretariat and member VOPEs.

9.3. Executive Committee

Elected during the 2024 elections, the Executive Committee comprised Dr. Miché Ouédraogo (President), Dr. Awuor Ponge (Vice President), and Eddah Kanini Karijo (Treasurer). Throughout the reporting period, the Committee provided strategic and technical oversight of day-to-day operations, worked closely with the Secretariat, and diligently ensured the effective implementation of the Board's decisions and strategic directives. In addition, members of the Executive Committee represented AfrEA in high-level strategic meetings and panel discussions, strengthened AfrEA's visibility, partnerships, and influence within the global evaluation community.

9.4. Board Members

The year 2024 was also particularly significant for the organization, marking the successful conduct of Board elections. These elections resulted in the selection of Board members representing all five regions of Africa: North, South, Central, East, and West, thereby reinforcing continental inclusivity and balanced governance within AfrEA. They brought renewed energy, diverse perspectives, and strong commitment to the Association. Their collective contributions provided valuable strategic guidance and support to the Executive Committee, fostering collaborative leadership and strengthening governance throughout the year.

The newly elected board members are



DR. MICHÉ OUEDRAOGO
President



DR. AWUOR PONGE
Vice-President



EDDAH KANINI
Treasurer



SSENYONDO VINCENT
*East Africa
Representative*



RACHID ESSEDIK
*North Africa
Representative*



ALPHONSE BOYOGUENO
*Central Africa
Representative*



FATIMATA W. GAYE
*West Africa
Representative*



MOSES MASHINGAIDZE
*Southern Africa
Representative*



MARK MULOBI
*YEE Representative
Anglophone*



SATURNIN ZOÉTYANDÉ
*YEE Representative
Francophone*

9.5 Secretariat

In January 2025, AfrEA appointed a new Executive Director to lead the Secretariat. This appointment marked an important step in strengthening institutional management, operational efficiency, and strategic delivery. The Executive Director is responsible for overseeing the full implementation of AfrEA's programmes and projects, ensuring organizational effectiveness, and advancing the Association's strategic objectives. The capacity of the Secretariat was strengthened through targeted recruitment during the reporting period. A total of five (5) recruitment actions were undertaken to enhance operational effectiveness and service delivery. These appointments included an Account Manager, Communications Manager, Project Manager, Operations Manager, as well as two National Service personnel, all of whom contributed to the efficient coordination and smooth implementation of AfrEA's programmes and activities.



**CARLOS KOMLA
AKLIGO**
Executive Director



**EMMANUEL NII ADOTEI
BADDOO**
Project Manager



ALIOU KAYIRA DIALLO
Operations Manager



CALEB AYONG
*Communications
Specialist*



ELVIS COFFIE
*Accounting and
Administrative Manager*

9.6 African Evaluation Journal

To reinforce the governance and scholarly leadership of its flagship publication, AfrEA appointed a new Editor-in-Chief of the African Evaluation Journal in June 2024. The Editor-in-Chief provides strategic and editorial oversight, ensuring the journal's academic integrity, relevance, and contribution to advancing evaluation knowledge and practice across Africa and globally.

Conclusion

2024–2025: A Defining Chapter in AfrEA's Evolution

The years 2024–2025 marked a defining chapter in the history of the African Evaluation Association (AfrEA). This period signaled a transition from the foundational achievements of the Association's first quarter-century into a new era of institutional maturity and intellectual sovereignty. Anchored by the adoption of the Strategic Plan 2024–2028, the convening of the 11th AfrEA International Conference, the election of the 12th AfrEA Board, the implementation of the National Evaluation Capacities Index (INCE), and strengthened partnerships with the Mastercard Foundation, Ford Foundation, African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), DEval, AfrEA advanced decisively in its mandate.

The celebration of AfrEA's 25th Anniversary in Addis Ababa, the establishment of a historic partnership with the African Union, and the launch of the African School of Evaluation (ASE) further underscored this transformative period. Collectively, these milestones did more than honor AfrEA's legacy; they affirmed the Association's position as a leading voice within the global evaluation community.

Through these achievements, AfrEA successfully bridged the gap between high-level policy and local practice, ensuring that the Made in Africa Evaluation (MAE) agenda is no longer aspirational, but firmly established as a professional standard being implemented across the continent.

Looking Ahead: Strategic Priorities for 2026

As AfrEA closes this landmark period, its focus turns resolutely toward the future. The momentum generated in 2025 provides a strong springboard for advancing several strategic priorities in 2026:



AfrEA Governance and 2026 Elections

Biennial elections remain a cornerstone of AfrEA's governance framework, enabling members to actively participate in leadership renewal and organizational oversight. Since its inception, AfrEA has successfully conducted eleven elections over its 25-year history, reinforcing transparency, credibility, and member trust. In February 2026, the Association will hold its 12th Board elections through an online process, setting the strategic direction for the coming term.



12th AfrEA International Conference

The 12th AfrEA International Conference will be jointly convened with UNDP in Marrakech, Morocco, during the last week of November 2026. The conference is expected to bring together approximately 2,000 participants from Africa and beyond, providing a premier platform for knowledge exchange, policy dialogue, and global engagement on evaluation for development.



Scaling the African School of Evaluation (ASE)

AfrEA will expand the African School of Evaluation through the introduction of new learning modules, including artificial intelligence driven evaluation and climate-resilient monitoring and evaluation. Efforts will also focus on extending ASE programming to Lusophone Africa, strengthening strategic partnerships, and sustaining the Association's commitment to youth-led professionalization.



Consolidating National Evidence Systems

With Phase II of the INCE pilot underway, 2026 will prioritize effective implementation in target countries while consolidating lessons learned from the initial pilot to strengthen national evaluation capacities and evidence-informed decision-making.



Advancing Linguistic Inclusivity

AfrEA will finalize and roll out the French and Portuguese versions of its digital platforms, ensuring equitable access to resources and opportunities for Francophone and Lusophone members across the continent.



Deepening the Made in Africa Evaluation Agenda

Building on the success of Volume I of the MAE Handbook, AfrEA will launch its French and Portuguese editions and develop regionally grounded case studies to equip practitioners with practical, indigenous tools that advance culturally responsive and decolonized evaluation practice.