



African Evaluation Association  
Association Africaine d'Evaluation



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

MARRAKECH, MOROCCO  
23-27 NOV. 2026



## CONFERENCE CONCEPT NOTE

EVALUATION IN THE ERA OF POLYCRISIS:  
THE ROLE OF EVALUATION IN SUPPORTING AFRICA'S SOVEREIGNTY  
AND RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF GLOBAL DISRUPTIONS

Co-organized with

**MOROCCAN EVALUATION ASSOCIATION (AME)**



# I. GENERAL INFORMATION

## 1.1. About AfrEA



The African Evaluation Association (AfrEA) was founded in 1999 in response to a growing demand for information sharing, advocacy, and capacity building in evaluation in Africa. With its secretariat in Accra, Ghana, AfrEA serves as an umbrella organization for Voluntary Professional Evaluation Organizations (VOPEs) in Africa, as well as individual and institutional members.

### 1.1.1 Aims and Objectives of AfrEA

AfrEA aims to:



Support evaluations that contribute to real and sustainable development in Africa



Promote evaluation rooted in Africa and led by Africa by sharing perspectives on African evaluation



Encourage the development and documentation of high-quality evaluation practices and theories



Support the creation and development of national evaluation associations or VOPEs



Facilitate capacity building, networking, and the sharing of evaluation theories, techniques, and tools among evaluators, policymakers, researchers, and development specialists.

Furthermore, AfrEA aims to empower members to influence national monitoring and evaluation policies in their respective countries and to represent Africa on the global monitoring and evaluation stage.

## 1.1.2 AfrEA Members



**48**  
VOPEs

Since its establishment in 1999, AfrEA has supported and encouraged the establishment of African VOPEs. From six VOPEs in the 1990s, the network has grown to 48 members today. AfrEA's membership and influence have grown significantly over the past decade.



**3000+**  
individual  
members

The organization also supports 3,000 registered individual members, including members affiliated with AfrEA's VOPEs, and maintains partnerships with 15 development organizations acting as institutional members.



multilingual  
organization

AfrEA is a multilingual organization and currently has members from English-speaking, French-speaking, and Portuguese-speaking Africa.

## 1.2. About the Moroccan Evaluation Association (AME)



Founded in December 2008, the Moroccan Evaluation Association (AME) is part of the international network of Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs). The AME's core mission is to contribute to the improvement of public policy in Morocco by promoting a culture of evaluation and public accountability, as well as by gradually institutionalizing these practices within national structures.

The Association pursues three strategic objectives that guide all of its actions: it works to institutionalize the evaluation function based on human rights and a gender-sensitive approach, thereby contributing to the strengthening of public accountability and democracy in Morocco. At the same time, it is committed to developing and embedding a culture of evaluation within Moroccan public institutions and civil society, while strengthening national capacity in development evaluation to meet the country's growing needs.

AME's work is grounded in core values that guide its approach. The Association works to raise awareness of the critical role that monitoring and evaluation play in the success of public development strategies and policies, by identifying both their successes and their limitations. It fosters public discourse on evaluation practices and their impact on the country's socioeconomic development, and strengthens the national evaluation community by building specialized expertise in monitoring and evaluation through training programs, the exchange of national and international experiences, and ongoing capacity building.

Its activities are organized around four main areas: the association's institutional development; advocacy for public policy evaluation; the conduct of evaluations and action research related to professional development; and communication, documentation, and the publication of content aimed at disseminating knowledge and best practices in evaluation.





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

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The 12th AfrEA Conference is a collaborative initiative between the African Evaluation Association and the Moroccan Evaluation Association. The conference will be held in Marrakech, Morocco, from November 23 to 27, 2026.

## THEME

Evaluation in the Age of Polycrisis:  
The Role of Evaluation in Supporting  
Africa's Sovereignty and Resilience in  
the Face of Global Disruptions.



## 2.1. Conference Background

### 2.1.1 Conference Theme and Objectives

In this era of multiple crises, African nations are facing a complex web of simultaneous and interconnected challenges, ranging from geopolitical instability and climate shocks to economic volatility and technological disruptions. These cumulative crises amplify existing vulnerabilities, disrupt supply chains, and threaten the continent's development gains, making resilience and adaptability more urgent than ever. The context of polycrisis demands not only immediate responses but also a fundamental overhaul of how policies are designed, implemented, and evaluated, to ensure they support Africa's long-term sovereignty and stability.

Evaluation, as a discipline and practice, plays a vital role in this context. Moving beyond traditional models focused solely on accountability, contemporary evaluation in Africa increasingly emphasizes learning, systems transformation, and the empowerment of local actors. Decolonizing evaluation systems by prioritizing qualitative approaches and mixed methods, fostering inclusive dialogue, and integrating African perspectives yields more relevant, context-sensitive, and actionable insights. These approaches, while fostering ownership of evaluation processes, help African governments and institutions make informed decisions, navigate uncertainty, and better steer their development trajectories.

Ultimately, robust evaluation systems are essential tools for strengthening Africa's sovereignty and resilience in the face of global upheavals. By supporting strategic foresight, mapping interconnected risks, and informing adaptive policy interventions, evaluation helps strengthen the capacity of African societies to anticipate, withstand, and recover from shocks. As Africa seeks to diversify its economies, deepen intercontinental trade, and invest in critical infrastructure, evaluation must serve as both a compass and a catalyst, guiding transformative change and ensuring that responses in the era of polycrisis are grounded in evidence, inclusion, and self-determination.

The likely subthemes of the conference are as follows:

# 1

**Rethinking development paradigms in the era of polycrisis: what is the transformative role of evaluation in strengthening resilience in Africa?**



# 2

**Decolonizing evaluation practices: toward African approaches rooted in indigenous knowledge and community participation in a changing global context**



## 3

**Information technology and artificial intelligence: what levers can drive adaptive and innovative evaluation in the face of the dynamics of the polycrisis?**



## 4

**“Leaving no one behind” in the era of the polycrisis: promoting evaluation that is sensitive to the challenges of youth inclusion, gender, and climate change adaptation in Africa**



### 2.1.2 Conference Objective



**The objective of the 2026 conference is to foster a strategic and interdisciplinary dialogue on the transformative role of evaluation in strengthening resilience, inclusion, and innovation in Africa in the era of the polycrisis, by promoting contextualized, participatory approaches grounded in African knowledge.**

The specific objectives are to:



- ▼ Analyze the implications of the polycrisis on development trajectories in Africa and examine the role of evaluation in developing resilient, adaptive, and transformative responses.
- ▼ Explore African approaches to evaluation grounded in endogenous knowledge, the decolonization of evaluation practices, and the strengthening of community participation.
- ▼ Examine the opportunities and challenges associated with integrating information technology and artificial intelligence to enhance the agility, quality, and use of evaluations in complex contexts.
- ▼ Promote inclusive evaluation approaches that integrate priorities related to youth, gender, and climate change, in accordance with the principle of “leaving no one behind.”
- ▼ Strengthen exchanges and networking among researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and development partners to stimulate innovation, knowledge sharing, and collaborations in evaluation in Africa.



### 2.1.3 Conference Participants

Based on previous conferences and the relevance of the theme, AfrEA expects approximately 800 participants at its 12th International Conference. Participants will include delegations from National Evaluation Associations (VOPEs), individual and institutional members of AfrEA, non-members from various sectors, development partners, representatives from governments, parliaments, civil society, researchers, academics, the private sector, emerging young evaluators, and others.

## 2.2. Conference Format

The conference will take the form of two days of pre-conference workshops and three days of conference sessions (including keynote speakers, parallel sessions, panel discussions, and thematic tracks featuring workshops, papers, roundtables, and poster sessions).

A scientific committee will review all submissions, under the guidance of the editor-in-chief of the African Journal of Evaluation.


The conference agenda will provide a complete list of parallel sessions available to participants. The conference will be organized into plenary and parallel sessions. Plenary sessions will be led by keynote speakers selected from among prominent evaluation experts, government representatives, and funding partners.

The tracks will be structured around sub-themes/sub-objectives. Track partners will influence the final format and title of the tracks.



# 3. THE ABSTRACT SUBMISSION AND REVIEW PROCESS

## 3.1. The Abstract Submission Process

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- ▼ **Abstract Submission:** Authors submit their abstracts to the conference organizers in accordance with the guidelines and deadlines provided. Abstracts typically include a title, author information, a brief introduction, methodology, expected results or outcomes, and a conclusion.
  - ▼ **Information to Include in the Submission**
    1. Title of the presentation
    2. Presentation format
    3. Presentation topic
    4. Author's name
    5. Author's title
    6. Author's institutional affiliation
    7. Name and title of the author presenting the paper
    8. Email address of the author presenting the paper
    9. Phone number of the author presenting the paper
  - ◆ **Initial Review:** Conference organizers conduct an initial screening to ensure that abstracts meet basic requirements and adhere to submission guidelines. This review may assess completeness, proper formatting, and relevance to the conference theme.
  - ◆ **Assignment of Reviewers:** Conference organizers assign abstracts to reviewers based on their expertise and knowledge of the subject. Reviewers are typically researchers or experts in the relevant field who can assess the quality and scientific merit of the abstracts.
  - ◆ **Peer Review:** Reviewers independently evaluate the abstracts assigned to them. They assess the content, methodology, novelty, significance, clarity, and other criteria specified by the conference organizers. Reviewers may also provide constructive feedback and suggestions for improvement.

- ◆ **Reviewers' Recommendations:** Based on their evaluation, reviewers make recommendations regarding the acceptance, rejection, or revision of the abstract. They may assign scores or ratings to each abstract to facilitate the decision-making process.
- ◆ **Decision-making:** The conference organizers review the recommendations and ratings provided by the reviewers. They compile the feedback and decide which abstracts will be accepted for presentation at the conference. In some cases, a committee or the program chair may be responsible for making the final decisions.
- ◆ **Notification to Authors:** Once decisions have been made, the conference organizers communicate the results to the authors. Authors are informed of the acceptance or rejection of their abstract, or of the need to revise it. The notification typically includes comments or feedback from the reviewers.
- ◆ **Revisions (if applicable):** If an abstract requires revision, authors are given a specific deadline to make the necessary changes and resubmit the revised version. The revised abstract may undergo a new round of evaluation or be re-evaluated by the same reviewers.



- ◆ **Final Acceptance/Rejection:** After the revision phase, if applicable, the conference organizers make the final decisions on acceptance or rejection based on the revised abstracts or the original submissions.
- ◆ **Program compilation:** Accepted abstracts are included in the conference program, and authors are informed of the presentation format, session details, and any specific requirements.
- ◆ **Conference Presentation:** Authors whose abstracts have been accepted present their work at the conference through oral presentations, poster sessions, workshops, or other appropriate formats.

## 3.2. The Abstract Review Process

The following factors will be considered when reviewing submitted abstracts.

- ◆ **Abstract Format:** Adhere to the specified abstract format, including the word limit, font type and size, spacing, and structure. Generally, abstracts include a title, author information, an introduction/background, methodology, results, and a conclusion. Ensure your abstract follows the specified formatting guidelines.
- ◆ **Theme and relevance:** Clearly state the relevance of your paper or workshop to the conference's theme or area of interest. Explain how your work contributes to the field and aligns with the conference's objectives.
- ◆ **Originality and novelty:** Highlight the originality and novelty of your work. Emphasize the unique aspects, innovative approaches, or new perspectives that your paper or workshop brings to the field.
- ◆ **Clarity and coherence:** Write the abstract clearly and concisely. Present your ideas in a logical and coherent manner, ensuring that the abstract is easily understandable to reviewers and conference participants.
- ◆ **Objectives and methods:** Clearly state the objectives or research questions addressed in your paper or workshop. Describe the methodology or approach used to achieve these objectives or answer the research questions.
- ◆ **Results and Conclusions:** Summarize the main results, conclusions, or implications of your work. Highlight the key findings that demonstrate the significance or impact of your research or workshop.
- ◆ **Conclusion and Implications:** Provide a clear conclusion that highlights the main conclusions or implications of your work. Discuss the potential impact, relevance, or applications of your findings or the workshop's outcomes.
- ◆ **References (if applicable):** If references are permitted or required, provide a list of relevant sources cited in your abstract, following the specified citation style.
- ◆ **Compliance with Guidelines:** Ensure that your abstract complies with all specified guidelines, including word limits, submission deadlines, formatting requirements, and any additional instructions provided by the conference organizers.
- ◆ **Language and grammar:** Pay close attention to the language and grammar used in your abstract. Proofread it carefully to eliminate any spelling, punctuation, or grammatical errors.
- ◆ **Ethical considerations:** If your work involves human subjects, animals, or any other ethical considerations, mention the ethical approval or compliance obtained for your research.
- ◆ **Presenter information:** Provide accurate and complete information about the author presenting the work and any co-authors or workshop facilitators, including their names, affiliations, contact information, and biographical information, if applicable.
- ◆ **Review and revise:** Reread your summary several times to ensure it is clear, coherent, and accurate. Ask your colleagues or mentors for feedback and revise it accordingly before submitting it.



# Conclusion

Building on the success of previous conferences held virtually, the 2026 conference is expected to become the largest, most extensive, and most inclusive African evaluation conference in history, held in Marrakech, Morocco.

The five days of workshops and conference sessions will provide an opportunity for hundreds of participants, paper presenters, researchers, keynote speakers, workshop attendees, and students to benefit from this conference in many ways. More than 400 scientific papers are expected to be presented by authors from over 80 countries. Many participants will attend the conference for the purpose of continuing professional development. The conference will provide an opportunity for participants to share their knowledge and engage in discussion. At the conclusion of the conference, AfrEA will have a record of the discussions and will wish to share this knowledge with others.

# Sponsorship

✦ **Network with Key Stakeholders :** Connect with influential individuals and organizations shaping Africa's development landscape.

✦ **Elevate Your Brand :** Associate your organization with a prestigious international event that brings together leading evaluators, policymakers, and development practitioners.

✦ **Demonstrate Your Commitment to Evidence-Based Decision Making :** Support the advancement of evaluation as a critical tool for improving development outcomes.



✦ **Enhance Your Corporate Social Responsibility:** Contribute to the development of Africa's evaluation capacity and impact.



# Sponsorship Opportunities

We offer a variety of sponsorship packages tailored to meet your organization's specific needs and goals:



## Gold Sponsor

> \$50,000 USD

- ◆ Prominent logo placement on all event materials
- ◆ Dedicated speaking slot at the conference
- ◆ VIP reception and networking opportunities
- ◆ Customized sponsorship package to meet your specific needs
- ◆ Registration fees for three delegates from your organisation to attend the conference (excluding travel and accommodation costs).

## Diamond Sponsor

≥\$100,000 USD

- ◆ Exclusive branding opportunities on all promotional materials
- ◆ Prime logo placement on all event signage and collateral
- ◆ Dedicated speaking slot at the conference
- ◆ VIP reception and networking opportunities with key stakeholders
- ◆ Customized sponsorship package to meet your specific needs
- ◆ Registration fees for 5 delegates from your organisation to attend the conference (excluding travel and accommodation costs).

## Silver Sponsor

> \$25,000 USD

- ◆ Logo placement on select event materials
- ◆ Dedicated speaking slot at a breakout session
- ◆ VIP reception and networking opportunities
- ◆ Customized sponsorship package to meet your specific needs
- ◆ Registration fees two delegates from your organisation to attend the conference (excluding travel and accommodation costs).

## Additional Sponsorship Opportunities:

### Conference Dinner Sponsorship:

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- ◆ Sponsor the gala dinner, a highlight of the event, and enjoy exclusive branding and networking opportunities.

### Technology Sponsorship

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- ◆ Provide technology solutions or services to enhance the conference experience and be recognized as an innovation leader.

### In-Kind Sponsorship:

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- ◆ Contribute goods or services to support the event, such as printing, catering, or air fair for Young and Emerging Evaluators



# 12<sup>th</sup> AfREA Conference

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