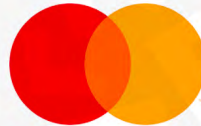




African Evaluation Association
Association Africaine d'Evaluation



mastercard
foundation

Made in **Africa** Evaluation (MAE)

Convening  Jo'burg 26

9-10 JUNE
2026

Johannesburg, South Africa

Sharing the Completed
MAE Toolkits and
Integration into
Evaluation Systems

MODERATION
MISSION
REPORT

WITH GRATITUDE Thank You

Made in Africa Evaluation (MAE) Convening

Johannesburg, South Africa

9 - 10 June 2026

The African Evaluation Association (AfrEA) extends its heartfelt gratitude to everyone who made the Made in Africa Evaluation Convening in Johannesburg a success. Over two days, our community came together to advance a shared vision of evaluation that is rooted in African realities, knowledge, and values.

We are deeply grateful to the Mastercard Foundation for its generous support, which made this gathering possible, and for its continued partnership in advancing African-led evaluation.

Our sincere appreciation goes to the university teams whose scholarship, commitment, and collaborative spirit brought the Made in Africa Evaluation (MAE) frameworks to fruition. We extend our gratitude to the team from the University of Botswana, led by Professor Bagele Chilisa, and the team from the University for Development Studies (UDS), Ghana, led by Professor Mamudu A. Akudugu, for generously sharing their frameworks and tools, and for their willingness to harmonise these contributions into a unified Made in Africa Evaluation framework.

We also express our deepest appreciation to the YLABS team, led by Mr Samson Larsson, for their invaluable role in consolidating the framework and guiding the integration process. Their technical expertise and dedication were instrumental in shaping a coherent and practical framework that reflects Africa's diverse evaluation knowledge and practice.

We are also especially grateful to Mr Serge Eric for his invaluable role in moderating the convening and in reporting its proceedings. His skilful facilitation guided rich and focused discussion across the two days, and his careful capturing and presentation of the convening report ensured that the insights, debates, and commitments of the gathering were faithfully documented. His experience and leadership added great value throughout, and we thank him warmly for his service.

We thank all the presenters whose contributions shaped two days of meaningful exchange, and we recognise the evaluators, academics, policymakers, development partners, and young and emerging evaluators who participated with such energy and commitment.

Above all, we thank every participant who brought their knowledge, their questions, and their hope for a future in which evaluation in Africa is led by Africans, responsive to communities, and grounded in local knowledge and aspirations.

As we look ahead to the 12th AfrEA International Conference in Marrakech, Morocco, we carry forward the momentum, the ideas, and the shared commitment born in Johannesburg. This is only the beginning of the journey, and we are grateful to be walking it together.

With appreciation,

The African Evaluation Association (AfrEA)



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1

Introduction

In 2020, the MasterCard Foundation (Foundation) launched its Impact Strategy to advance holistic impact and elevate Indigenous knowledge in documenting the transformative journeys of young people. Building on the legacy of the late Dr. Sulley Gariba, this commitment led to the establishment of the Sulley Gariba Initiative on Integrating Indigenous Knowledge in Evaluation. Implemented in partnership with the University for Development Studies (UDS), Ghana, and the University of Botswana (UB), the initiative has focused on translating Made in Africa Evaluation (MAE) principles into practical tools and approaches. Both institutions have developed contextually grounded MAE toolkits that operationalise African-centered philosophies into practical evaluation approaches. The Foundation has further developed a consolidated toolkit to harmonise these efforts and support broader application across programmes and institutional systems.

Led by the African Evaluation Association (AfrEA), these key actors, including other partners, were gathered in Johannesburg to reflect on the final MAE toolkits. The MAE Convening provides a strategic platform to present these completed toolkits, align on standards, and agree on pathways for institutional integration and operationalisation.

The purpose of the convening is to advance the institutionalisation of MAE by facilitating critical engagement with the completed MAE toolkits and defining pathways for their integration into evaluation systems and practices.

Specifically, the convening aims to:



Present and critically engage with the MAE toolkits developed by UDS, UB and the Foundation, highlighting their conceptual foundations and practical applications

Build a shared understanding of how MAE principles can be operationalised across diverse evaluation contexts

Align on standards, principles, and application across evaluation processes

Identify strategies for embedding MAE within organisational, national, and programme-level evaluation systems

Agree on implementation, capacity strengthening, and roll-out

2

Results Achieved

The convening brought together participants attended in-person and online on Teams, from the UDS, PAIEC, university of Botswana, YLabs, DBSA, CLEAR Anglophone, the African Development Bank (AfDB), Twende-Mbele, the MasterCard Foundation, AfrEA Secretariat and Board members including past AfrEA's Presidents (Annex 2). Participants reviewed the toolkits and shared their thoughts planning and potential pathways for communication and dissemination of the final toolkits. Strategic implications for AfrEA and specific recommendations with action plan were summarized by participants.



Participants engaging in an activity during the convening

2.1. Day 1 - Proceedings and Key Discussion Points

Day 1 started with an opening and strategic context facilitated by Carlos Akligo, AfrEA's Executive Director, followed by welcome remarks from Lesedi Matlala, the Chair of the South Africa Monitoring and Evaluation Association (SAMEA), Miché Ouédraogo, the AfrEA's President, and Adeline Sibanda, Senior Director (Impact Delivery), from the MasterCard Foundation.

The opening ceremony was followed by sessions on the presentation of the Indigenous Monitoring and Evaluation Toolkit by Mamundu Akudugu and Ishmael Ayanoore from the UDS, and the African-rooted Evaluation Frameworks by Bagele Chilisa from the PAIEC.

The UDS-led consortium presented a six-pillar toolkit developed through evidence review,

participatory co-creation, piloting and synthesis. The toolkit responds to the concern that mainstream evaluation is often externally driven, numbers-first and insufficiently attentive to African knowledge systems, lived realities and community authority. Its design objective is to move the MAE discourse from theory to practical application through facilitation guides, templates and ready-to-use assets.

The PAIEC presentation supplied the conceptual and analytical depth that was later integrated into the unified toolkit. The frameworks seek to democratize MEL, promote social justice and equity, address epistemic and methodological power imbalances, and make African-rooted evaluation part of the global knowledge system. The framework development process included landscape analysis, identification of key actors, co-creation, prototype development, pilot testing, refinement and dissemination.

Friendly
conversation
between two
participants



2.2. Integration, Adoption and Co-creation

Day 2 started by discussions and in-depth analysis of both UDS and PAIEC presentations by participants. Using a brainstorming process, participants shared their comments and observations on both presentations from UDS and PAIEC. Afterwards, the presentation of the consolidated MAE Framework was facilitated by Samson Larsson Otieno, Senior Innovation Lead, YLabs. YLabs presented the integration of the UDS and PAIEC products (Figure 1).

The integration followed three steps: extraction of conceptual and operational elements; comparative analysis of overlaps,

differences and complementarities; and mapping of the strongest integration points. The resulting architecture uses the UDS pillars as the core workflow and applies PAIEC lenses to deepen purpose, context, meaning and interpretation. Furthermore, the presentation summarized the relationship succinctly: UDS supplies the structured “how” through practical guides and assets, while PAIEC supplies the conceptual “why” through African philosophies and analytical lenses.

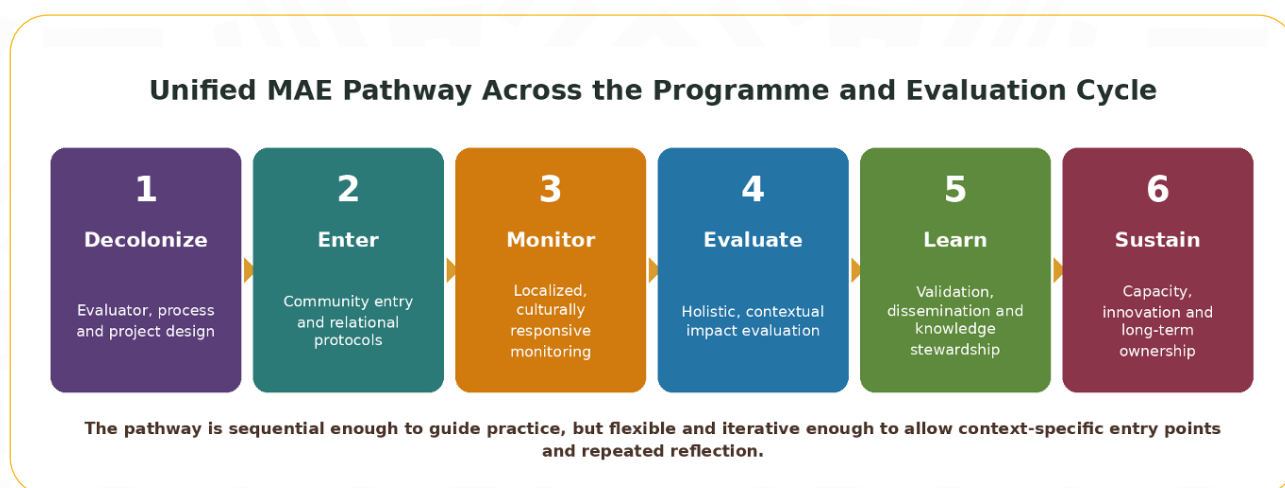


Figure 1. Six-phase pathway synthesized from the consolidated MAE framework presentation

A roundtable was designed to shift participants from general appreciation to concrete adoption planning. Participants viewed this consolidation as a significant milestone as it converted separate bodies of work into an applicable, comparable and practitioner-facing framework. Furthermore, discussion, feedback, and clarification session on the Toolkit to strengthen practitioner uptake was facilitated by YLabs. Participants encountered the six pillars and tools, identified the most relevant application point in their work, mapped barriers, prepared a case for managers or donors, and defined the smallest feasible first use within 90 days. The facilitation emphasized a named action rather than a general impression.

2.3. Cross-cutting findings

The following cross-cutting findings were retained by all participants.

1

MAE has moved from discourse to a usable practice architecture

2

Contextual flexibility is a strength, but it can also create uncertainty

3

Community ownership must begin before data collection

4

Relationships are evaluative evidence

5

Rigor and evidence remain central to credibility

6

Funder and commissioner incentives will determine uptake

7

Youth are contributors to knowledge, not merely beneficiaries

8

MAE should be governed as an ecosystem and a public good

9

Documented Commitments and Stakeholder Intentions

3

Strategic implications for AfrEA

The following items were summarized as strategic implications for AfrEA moving forward.

Continental stewardship: AfrEA is best positioned to convene the ecosystem, protect the coherence of the MAE agenda and ensure that the toolkit remains open, credible and responsive to African practitioners and communities.

Technical governance: A formal mechanism is needed to harmonize terminology, approve revisions, manage attribution and prevent multiple uncontrolled versions.

Adoption support: Practitioners require more than a toolkit: they need a decision tree, minimum standards, facilitation competencies, cost/time guidance, mentorship and access to examples.

Evidence and learning: AfrEA should coordinate comparable pilots and an evidence protocol that captures feasibility, costs, community experience, methodological quality, use of findings and sustainability.

Institutionalization: Uptake will depend on integration into university curricula, VOPE professional development, government evaluation systems, donor requirements and regional policy platforms.

Equity and knowledge sovereignty: Scaling must preserve the principles that make MAE distinctive: community authority, ethical use of Indigenous knowledge, local-language practice, inclusion and protection against extractive appropriation.

4

Convening working conditions and facilities

The workshop was held from June 09–10, 2026, at Radisson Blu Hotel in Johannesburg, South Africa. No major issues were reported. The availability of media, permanent interpretation from English-French-English, as well as secretariat led by the AfrEA board greatly support facilitation and documentation. Working conditions were very good, learning outcomes were positive, and logistical organization was outstanding.

5

Conclusion

The Johannesburg convening confirmed both the maturity and the urgency of the Made in Africa Evaluation agenda. The development teams have produced substantial conceptual frameworks, practical tools and facilitation assets. The consolidation of the UDS and PAIEC work has created a credible foundation for a unified MAE framework that can guide evaluation from project conception and community entry through monitoring, evaluation, learning and sustainability.

The next phase should prioritize coordinated implementation. AfrEA's strategic role is to steward the ecosystem, support quality and coherence, enable piloting and mentorship, build the evidence base, and connect MAE with the institutions that commission, teach, regulate and use evaluation. Success will be measured not by the number of tools disseminated, but by whether communities exercise greater authority over how change is defined, evidenced, interpreted and sustained.



6

Ways forward

The following priority actions as well as recommended leadership decisions were convened.

6.1. Priority actions

Specifically, UB committed to facilitating the integration of the toolkit into the University's teaching curriculum. UDS committed to establishing a Centre of Excellence for Made in Africa Evaluation (MAE) at the University for Development Studies. Mastercard Foundation also emphasized the need for broader dissemination of the toolkits within the evaluation community.

Timeframe	Priority actions	Suggested lead/support	Primary outputs	Progress indicators
0-3 months	Establish an AfrEA MAE Steering and Technical Working Group.	AfrEA; UDS; UB/PAIEC; YLabs; CLEAR; VOPE and YEE representatives.	Terms of reference, governance and workplan.	Group constituted and first workplan approved.
0-3 months	Harmonize terminology, pillar names, framework labels and authorship into Version 1.0.	Technical Working Group.	Controlled master toolkit and glossary.	One approved version and change log.
0-3 months	Develop a practitioner decision guide and minimum quality standards.	UDS, PAIEC, practitioners and methodologists.	Decision tree, minimum standards and ethical safeguards.	Guide tested by practitioners in at least two contexts.
0-3 months	Retrieve and validate the Johannesburg roundtable outputs.	AfrEA Secretariat and YLabs.	Archived station notes, poll results and validated synthesis.	Complete record attached to the convening archive.
3-6 months	Launch a phased multi-country pilot programme across varied sectors.	AfrEA, VOPEs, CLEAR, Twende Mbele and partner institutions.	Pilot protocols and country workplans.	At least 3-5 pilots initiated.
3-6 months	Create a common learning and evidence protocol.	AfrEA technical group and academic partners.	Case-study template, cost/time tracker and quality rubric.	All pilots report comparable evidence.
3-6 months	Develop a Train-the-Trainer and mentorship pathway with strong YEE participation.	AfrEA, universities, VOPEs and EvalYouth partners.	Curriculum, trainer guide and mentorship model.	First cohort trained and mentored.
3-6 months	Prepare a funder-and-commissioner engagement package.	AfrEA and Mastercard Foundation/partners.	Brief on value, rigor, cost, timelines and procurement language.	Brief used in at least three commissioner engagements.
3-9 months	Translate and localize priority tools and facilitation materials.	VOPEs, linguistic experts and community partners.	Localized versions and adaptation protocol.	Tools available in selected African languages.
6-12 months	Embed MAE in AfrEA events, VOPE programmes and university curricula.	AfrEA, UDS, UB, CLEAR and universities.	Course modules, conference sessions and practice labs.	Documented integration in institutions and events.
6-12 months	Engage AU, governments and regional development institutions.	AfrEA leadership.	Institutionalization and policy engagement plan.	Formal dialogues and pilot commitments secured.
9-12 months	Publish an MAE implementation learning report and Version 1.1.	AfrEA technical group.	Continental learning report and revised toolkit.	Evidence-based revisions approved and disseminated.

6.2. Recommended Leadership Decisions

1

Approve AfrEA's role as continental convener and steward of the unified MAE framework.

2

Authorize formation of the Steering and Technical Working Group with balanced representation from researchers, practitioners, VOPEs, communities and YEEs.

3

Endorse the development of an approved Version 1.0, decision guide and pilot protocol before large-scale dissemination.

4

Approve resource mobilization for pilots, localization, mentorship and evidence generation.

5

Require a six-month progress update and a twelve-month implementation learning report.



Group photo with representatives of SAMEA, AfrEA, Twende-Mbele, CLEAR (FR & EN)

6.3. Implementation risks and mitigation

Risk	Potential consequence	Mitigation
Fragmented ownership and parallel versions	Confusion, duplication and loss of credibility.	AfrEA-led governance, controlled master files, version numbers and an agreed change process.
Over-standardization	A framework intended to be contextual becomes rigid or prescriptive.	Define minimum principles and quality standards while preserving local adaptation.
Insufficient evidence of rigor	Commissioners and academics may dismiss MAE as symbolic rather than methodologically robust.	Comparable pilots, assessment rubrics, peer review and transparent documentation of strengths and limitations.
Unclear cost and time requirements	Organizations may avoid uptake or under-budget community processes.	Develop costing scenarios, planning guidance and minimum feasible options.
Funder-prescribed methodologies	MAE is excluded from terms of reference and evaluation budgets.	Engage commissioners early and provide procurement language and a funder value proposition.
Tokenistic participation	Communities are consulted without real decision authority or data ownership.	Apply EPIO-style ownership criteria and require community validation and dissemination.
Knowledge appropriation or ethical misuse	Indigenous knowledge may be extracted, exposed or commercialized without consent.	Knowledge sovereignty protocols, consent, attribution and community control over sensitive material.
Digital exclusion	Technology components may exclude communities with limited access or literacy.	Use appropriate, low-tech and blended methods; technology must serve culture and inclusion.
Limited practitioner capacity	Tools are used superficially or inconsistently.	Training, mentorship, communities of practice and supervised pilots.

4

Annexes

List of participants

No.	Full Name	Team/Organization	Country Office	June 9,2026	June 10,2026
1	Dr Mjiba Freihot	UB	Ghana	Present	Present
2	Dr Wanjiru Nderuti	UB	Kenya	Present	Present
3	Dr Almas Fortunatus Mazigo	Tanzania (African Proverbs)	Tanzania	Present	Present
4	Samson Larsson	YLabs		Present	Present
5	Dr Ishmael Ayanoore	UDS	Ghana	Present	Present
6	Prof. Abunga Mamudu Akudugu	UDS	Ghana	Present	Present
7	Dr Fadilah Mohammed	UDS	Ghana	Present	Present
8	Mr. Hardi Shahadu	UDS	Ghana	Present	Present
9	Jasper Ayelazuno	UDS	Ghana	Present	Present
10	Okwen Chanice Fri	EBASE Cameroon (Story Telling)	Cameroon	Present	Present
11	Baraka Mfilinge	AfrEA YEE	Tanzania	Present	Present
12	Daniel Amani	AfrEA YEE	DRC	Present	Present
13	Madeleine Brou	AfrEA YEE	Cote d'Ivoire	Present	Present
14	Juliet Rori	AfrEA YEE	Zimbabwe	Present	Present
15	Adeline Sibanda	ID	Rwanda	Present	Present
16	Carlos Akligo	AfrEA	Ghana	Present	Present
17	Nancy Owusuaa	AfrEA	Ghana	Present	Present
18	Emmanuel Nii Adotei Baddoo	AfrEA	Ghana	Present	Present
19	Elvis Coffie	AfrEA	Ghana	Present	Present
20	Dr Miche Quedraogo	AfrEA	Canada	Present	Present
21	Serge Eric Yakeu Djiam	AfrEA	Cameroon	Present	Present

22	Matthew Lubuulwa	AfrEA	Uganda	Present	Present
23	Lesedi Matlala	SAMEA	South Africa	Present	Present
24	Kwesi Adu	YLabs	Ghana	Present	Present
25	Alethea Osborne	IDIA	—	Present	Present
26	Julia Jenjezwa	YLabs	—	Present	Present
27	Dr. Pophiwa Nedson	SAMEA	—	Present	Present
28	Marla Naidoo	SAMEA	—	Present	Present
29	Edem Agbe	DBSA	—	Present	Present
30	Dr. Carol Nuga	DBSA	—	Present	Present
31	Tifuntoh Konde	Mastercard Foundation	—	Present	Present
32	Euody Mogaswa	DBSA	—	Present	Present
33	Edeshri Moodley	DBSA	—	Present	Present
34	Fatima Gaye	AfrEA	Senegal	Present	Present
35	Conny Motlanthe	Psebe	South Africa	Present	Present
36	Dr Taku Chirau	CLEAR AA	South Africa	Present	Present
37	Edoe Djimitri Agbodjan	CLEAR FA	Senegal	Present	Present
38	Thina Nzo	Twende Mbele	South Africa	Present	Present
39	Andrew Anguko	IDEV/AfDB	Cote d'Ivoire	Present	Present
40	Jerusha Govender	UB	—	Present	Present
41	Mokgophana Ramasobana	UB	—	Present	Present

No.	Full Name	June 9,2026	June 10,2026
1	Bagele Chilisa	Present	Present
2	Rosetti Nabbumba	Present	Present
3	Selefho Molosiwa	Present	Present
4	Setlthomo	Present	Present



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