We are currently accepting submissions for the first 2022 edition of our knowledge magazine eVALUation Matters. We invite authors to share their experiences, reflections, and observations on the future of impact evaluations in Africa. We welcome topical articles, blogs, briefing notes, op-eds, and other forms of original work.

Please confirm your plan to contribute to evaluationmatters@afdb.org
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For the past ten years, the thinking about development policies and their effectiveness has evolved significantly to address challenges such as human rights, gender and inclusion to ensure that ‘no one is left behind’. Meanwhile, multilateral and bilateral development institutions have increasingly focused on measuring and reporting the impact of interventions and operational strategies with a view to learning and accountability to donors and beneficiaries. The practice of evaluating the impact of development projects and programs has also risen in developing countries, particularly those in sub-Saharan Africa. However, the practice still remains concentrated in Anglophone countries, underlining the need to strengthen evaluation capacity across the whole continent, notably in Francophone and Lusophone ones.

In addition to sustainable funding partnerships and access to quality data, sufficient human and institutional capacity are required to undertake impact evaluations, which are technically complex. Moreover, the constraints brought by the COVID-19 pandemic mean that alternative approaches, such as the extensive use of information technology and Big Data to maintain quality standards, are needed. However, the methodologies recommended to conduct impact evaluations do not lend themselves well to remote data collection.

For this edition of Evaluation Matters, we will look at the future of impact evaluation to highlight emerging trends and challenges that will need attention in the coming years.
The suggested areas of discourse could cover:

- **What trends have there been in terms of the quality and utility of impact evaluation reports in the last decade? What are the opportunities for the future?**
  - *Are these impact evaluations contributing effectively to political/strategic decision-making?*
  - *Are they ensuring rigor and transparency to support efficient implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union’s Agenda 2063?*

- **What are the current methodological debates in impact evaluation more broadly and in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?**
  - *What available methodologies to conducting impact evaluations are appropriate in which settings/contexts?*
  - *What are alternative approaches to conduct quality impact evaluations under COVID-19 constraints?*
  - *Are these new approaches more relevant and less costly in terms of design, feasibility, and evidence?*
  - *How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected impact evaluation activities in Africa?*
  - *What types of impact evaluation approaches and methods have the greatest potential? Could they become part of permanently established methods?*

- **What kind of challenges could impact evaluations encounter in the coming years, particularly in terms of effectiveness and accountability, in the face of challenges posed by multiple emergencies?**

- **What opportunities exist for “win-win” collaboration between various stakeholders (including civil society and the private sector) for sustainable and innovative financing of impact evaluation practice to foster its development and entrenchment in Africa?**

- **What role could African academic researchers play in overcoming the challenge of collecting and accessing quality primary/secondary data for impact evaluations?**

- **Several reports indicate the issues of disparities between regions. What should be done to reduce capacity disparities at human and institutional level in order to conduct relevant impact evaluations?**

- **To what extent has impact evaluations enabled evidence-based policy making in Africa in the past decade and what issues should be addressed in this regard, in the future?**

**Quick guide for authors:**

*Please send your confirmations and submissions to evaluationmatters@afdb.org*

- Article length: 2500 – 3000 words
- Include a short bio (current position, previous experience, education – one paragraph)
- Send a separate high-resolution head-shot photo of the author(s)
- Include photos/images to illustrate your article.
- Include a summary statement (mini-abstract) at the beginning of your article
• Include summary of key messages (3-5 bullet points)
• Aim for a writing style that is suitable for an informed public with clear and precise language. Include full references (Harvard Style).
• Submit in Microsoft Word to facilitate editing
• Editors reserve the right to make the necessary changes to the article for publication

Previous issues of Evaluation Matters can be found at: https://idev.afdb.org/en/page/evaluation-matters-magazine