

eVALUation Matters MAGAZINE

A Quarterly Knowledge Publication on Development Evaluation

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Call for contributions

We are currently accepting submissions for 2018 1st quarter edition of eVALUation Matters, which will focus on “**Building supply and demand for evaluation in Africa**”. We look forward to receiving your submission.

Deadline for Submission of Article is 31st December 2017

Kindly confirm Article submission by 4th of December 2017

Have your say!

Evaluation plays a critical role in the effective implementation of good governance structures in Africa, in promoting accountability, learning, development effectiveness, and sustained and rapid economic growth. Yet the supply of and demand for evaluation is still relatively low in most African countries. The lack of an evaluation culture hinders good governance based on evidence-informed decision-making. But creating an evaluation culture requires more than enacting a policy or even having an evaluation unit - there must be buy-in from government ministries and agencies, to parliaments, to the grassroots level. There must be a steady supply of high quality evaluations, and the demand for these evaluations in order to ensure their use.

When decision-makers want to use evidence from monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems to assist them in making choices, then there can be said to be a demand for M&E. On the supply side, when there is sufficient national capacity to supply M&E personnel/practitioners and information, and those in research and academia are improving on M&E methodologies, the same can be said of adequate national M&E supply. However in most African countries, there is currently either no to weak M&E demand and supply or a mismatch between the two. In the absence of national demand, the supply of M&E has to a large extent been influenced by donors’ requirements for reporting and accountability. This is epitomized by foreign or expatriate rather than local evaluators being seen as the best practitioners for most of sub-Saharan Africa.

At the same time, many actors on the continent (governments, evaluation associations, academia/training institutes, development partners, etc.) are actively trying to both improve the capacity of African governments and other evaluators to supply quality evaluations, and to stimulate demand for and use of these evaluations.

The question to ask is “What more can be done by African evaluation actors to foster and promote M&E demand and supply?” How is the evaluation profession developing? What are the challenges facing those in government, academia, think tanks, research institutions and private sector consultancies in enhancing the supply of M&E, and how can they be addressed? To the demand side actors such as parliaments, government administrations and executives, civil society, oversight groups, regulators and the private sector: to what extent do you demand evidence from M&E for accountability and to assist in decision-making? Do you yourself have sufficient capacity to request the right kinds of evaluations, and to use the evaluations produced? We ask you to share your experiences, observations and answers to some of these pressing questions on M&E demand and supply.

Publication: Mars 2018

Quick guide for authors

- Send your submission 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