An edition focused on new thinking and strategies on the why, the what, and the how of promoting a culture of evaluation

**Why?**
Why do we need an evaluation culture? What are some of the less obvious/less covered consequences of not evaluating development interventions?

**What?**
What should an evaluation culture look like? Are there minimum prerequisites?

**How?**
How to achieve an evaluation culture? What are the processes, policies and tools needed to promote an evaluation culture? What examples of successful initiatives to promote such a culture are out there?

“We need to make evaluation future proof. We need to embrace innovative tools such as big data or risk evaluation becoming irrelevant.” Michael Bamberger

Rapid advances in technologies are changing the way information and knowledge are created, used and shared. How have these shifts affected evaluation? How do evaluators need to adapt to the proliferation of Big Data or blockchain encryption to avoid becoming obsolete? What do we need to harness and how?

In parallel, there have been shifts in global development priorities, such as the move from the MDGs to the SDGs. Are the new tools and technologies available to us conducive to responding to these changing demands? How can they help evaluators to address new challenges?

This special edition will focus on Evaluation Week 2020 and include a range of interviews, storytelling and anecdotes from participants, practical “how to” guides and presentations, reviews of event sessions, photos, and op-eds.
CSOs and NGOs, from grassroots organizations to international NGOs like Oxfam, can play a number of vital functions in evaluation, both as providers and as users of evaluation knowledge.

However, they are not always involved to their full potential. What challenges are there to increasing inclusion of CSOs and NGOs in evaluation? How can CSOs and NGOs become better partners in evaluations and in using data for advocacy?

Rather than look at how institutions have learned from evaluations, we explore how Independent Evaluation Offices, other evaluation functions, and individual evaluators have learned from their own successes and failures.

Evaluators often speak of the need for institutions such as the AfDB to turn perceived failures into opportunities for learning. How can evaluators themselves learn from their own mistakes and what can be learned from mistakes made in the evaluation process?

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