



Background

Until 1999 there were few opportunities to network and share development evaluation experiences in Africa. Evaluators worked in isolation. They were seldom trained in evaluation approaches, methodology and standards, and tended to be technical specialists or management consultants who were recruited to serve as evaluation consultants, mainly for donor agencies. Although some national evaluation networks existed, they were isolated and often unable to generate the required capacities and resources to facilitate effective networking and sharing of experiences and lessons within and between African countries. Evaluation capacity building efforts were sporadic and driven by individual interests or the interests of international development aid organisations. Few attempts were made to nurture advanced level evaluation expertise, to promote training aimed at African contexts and evaluation approaches or to highlight African evaluation expertise on international platforms. Moreover, institutional and governmental demand for evaluation was considerably low; the utilization of evaluation for decision-making limited and the use of evaluation for accountability dominated mainly by accountability to donor agencies.

The African Evaluation Association (AfrEA) was founded in 1999 to address some of these challenges. It was established as an umbrella association for national evaluation associations as well as evaluators in countries without evaluation associations.

AfrEA Goal

To promote and strengthen evaluation in Africa

AfrEA Objectives

- To promote useful evaluations that support development in Africa.

- To encourage the development and publication of high quality evaluation practice, research and theory development based on African experiences and expertise.
- To advance the building of evaluation capacity on the continent.
- To help establish, develop and support national African evaluation associations and regional evaluation interest groups.
- To facilitate networking and information sharing on evaluation in Africa.
- To be a reference point for evaluation information relevant to Africa.
- To promote and share African evaluation perspectives and expertise at relevant regional and international forums and events.

Highlights

- Since 1999 the number of **formal and informal national evaluation networks and associations** in Africa has increased - often established or advised with AfrEA assistance - from 6 to 18. Several more are in process. AfrEA coordinated several African contributions to the UNICEF/IOCE publication on *Creating and Developing Evaluation Organizations: Lessons Learned from Africa, Americas, Asia, Australasia & Europe* (http://www.ioce.net/resources/case_studies.shtml).
- AfrEA facilitated the development of the **African Evaluation Guidelines (AEG)**, adapted from the International Programme Evaluation Standards to suit African contexts. Seven African evaluation associations developed the guidelines in 2002. They were updated in September 2006 by 25 representatives from 14 evaluation associations. The

- Guidelines provide a checklist of 30 items essential for quality assurance in evaluation.
3. An AfrEA website (www.afrea.org) was established and is currently being updated. It contains *i.a.* a database with detailed skills profiles of evaluators in Africa, evaluation training materials and other evaluation resources, information about associations and networks, news and opportunities.
 4. An African evaluation information network (afrea@yahoogroups.com) is operating through a listserv. It brings news and opportunities to share information, issues and queries for professional support to a growing list of several hundred subscribers from Africa and internationally (to subscribe, post a blank email to AfrEA-subscribe@Yahoogroups.com).
 5. AfrEA has established funding and other forms of partnerships for its key initiatives with a total of 35 organizations, thus avoiding being beholden to one or a few selected sponsors.
 6. AfrEA has raised funds to stimulate the exposure of African evaluation specialists to international expertise. It has fully or partially sponsored more than 30 international evaluation experts to come to African evaluation events, and provided travel grants *i.a.* for:
 - 13 evaluation association leaders to the launch of the International Organisation for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE) in Lima, Peru, in 2003. This enabled Africa to have two representatives on the IOCE Board; the AfrEA Chairperson was elected as one of the two Vice-Presidents (2003-2004). The current IOCE President is also a previous AfrEA President;
 - more than 100 African evaluators to attend the Third and Fourth AfrEA Conferences, held in Cape Town, South Africa (2004) and Niamey, Niger (2007) respectively;
 - 7 representatives to attend the annual CES conference in Canada in 2006;
 - 18 representatives to attend a workshop for evaluation association leaders in Africa in Niamey, Niger in 2007.
 7. In partnership with UNIFEM, AfrEA established a network of gender and development evaluation specialists (AGDEN) from across Africa who advise organisations and develop best practice in gender and development evaluation in Africa. Other Special Interest Groups are under consideration (e.g. in community-based evaluation, impact evaluation).
 8. AfrEA has initiated a large number of evaluation capacity building initiatives. Among others a joint UNIFEM/AfrEA workshop was held in South Africa to build Africa-wide capacity in gender and rights-based evaluation, and a roundtable in Ghana on "Understanding the Evaluation Challenge of the Paris Declaration - An African Perspective". Around 30 short courses have been organized to date in tandem with the biennial AfrEA conferences.
 9. AfrEA has represented African evaluation at a number of international forums and events, ensuring that African perspectives influence international evaluation developments. Most recently, AfrEA has delegated 5 specialists to represent Africa on the important international NONIE initiative (Network of Networks on Impact Evaluation - www.worldbank.org/ieg/nonie/). Two of these are now on the NONIE Steering Committee.

AfrEA Conferences

AfrEA I (1999) and II (2002), Nairobi, Kenya: The first AfrEA conference was attended by more than 350 evaluators and development

practitioners from 35 countries; 88 papers on evaluation in Africa were presented. Michael Quinn Patton, world renowned expert in evaluation, trained the conference participants for four hours each day. The Second Conference brought together evaluators, researchers, policy makers, evaluation users and development partners from Africa, Europe, Asia, New Zealand, Colombia and the USA. Evaluation training was done by three renowned evaluation experts from New Zealand, the USA and Peru.

AfrEA III (Dec 2004), Cape Town, South Africa: The Public Service Commission of South Africa partnered with AfrEA in organising this conference. A total of 550 participants from 56 countries (87% from 36 countries in Africa) attended the conference with the theme *Evaluation Matters, Africa matters - Joining Forces for Democracy, Governance and Development*. Of these, 45% were women; 33% were from government; and 90% preferred English as conference language. Presentations were made in nine parallel strands, with special panels under the auspices of key partner organizations.

AfrEA IV (Jan 2007), Niamey, Niger: Under the theme *Evaluating Development, Developing Evaluation: A Promising Network for Africa's Future*, five parallel sessions and a number of special panel sessions were organized over three days. In spite of many logistical challenges, a total of 573 participants from 56 countries (80% from Africa) attended. Of these, 69% were Francophone and 17% from government.

AfrEA V (Apr 2009) Cairo, Egypt: For its fifth conference AfrEA decided to partner with the Network of Networks on Impact Evaluation (NONIE) and the International Initiative on Impact Evaluation (3ie) to stimulate an interest in impact evaluation in Africa. A joint international AfrEA-NONIE-3ie Conference focusing on Impact Evaluation for Development Effectiveness will therefore be held in Cairo from 29 March -2 April 2009. Full details will be provided soon on evaluation listservs. Make sure you join afrea@yahoogroups.com referenced above for further updates.

LIST OF PAST AFREA SPONSORS AND PARTNERS (1999-2007)

- ☛ Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP)
- ☛ African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)
- ☛ African Development Bank
- ☛ Catholic Relief Services
- ☛ Canadian Institutes for Health
- ☛ Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
- ☛ CARE International
- ☛ Danish Agency for Development Assistance (DANIDA)
- ☛ Department for International Development (DFID)
- ☛ Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA), South Africa
- ☛ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), South Africa
- ☛ Family Health International (FHI)
- ☛ Evalnet South Africa
- ☛ International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
- ☛ International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS)
- ☛ International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE)
- ☛ L'Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie
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For any queries relating to AfrEA matters, you may contact the part-time AfrEA Administrator: Mr. Dalin Etoumbi Email: Africa.info@gmail.com Telephone: +27 12 430 2009 (Between 09:00 and 13:00 South Africa Time)

1 July 2009

Here Comes the AfrEA Board

On Wednesday 1st of April 2009, in the historic city of Cairo, the rejuvenated and determined body of African evaluators elected an 8-member perfectly gender balanced Board. This democratically constituted Board will head up the organization until the next board elections, planned for 2011. This news brief introduces members of the three month old board.

<p>AfrEA President Dr. Florence Etta (Country: Kenya / Canada / USA, Nationality: Nigeria) Email: president@afrea.org New York Cell: +1-917-873-1224 Nairobi Cell: +254-733-621-851 Florence E. Etta is an independent research and evaluation consultant working in the fields of Information and Communication Technologies for Development, Education, Environment, and Gender and Development. She was the founding Vice President of the National Association of Women in Colleges of Education (WICE), founding President of the institutional Chapter between 1995 and 1998. She is currently on the Board of the International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS) and Chair of the Steering Committee of the Africa Gender and Development Evaluators Network (AGDEN).</p>		<p>AfrEA Treasurer Dr. Dominic Pealore (Country/ Nationality: Ghana) Email: treasurer@afrea.org Cell: +233 244 610466 Dominic Pealore is a PhD holder in Economics. He is a researcher, an evaluator and education management consultant. He managed the Monitoring and Evaluation Department (M&E) of the Ministry of Education from 1993-2006. He was appointed the Director of Budget for the Ministry in January, 2007. Apart from institutional capacity building in M&E for the staff of the Ministry and its agencies, Dr Pealore also provided evaluation consultancy services to Agencies such as International Labour Organisation (ILO), UNICEF, CARE International and other NGOs in Education in Ghana. He is a member of Ghana Association of Consultants (GAC), International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS), and International Initiatives for Impact Evaluation (3ie) and Ghana National Evaluation Association.</p>	
<p>AfrEA Secretary Ms. Benita Williams (Country & Nationality: South Africa) Email: secretary@afrea.org Phone: +27 12430 2009 Cell: +27 827729709 Benita is an evaluation consultant with Feedback Research and Analytics, a Pretoria -based consultancy delivering monitoring and evaluation solutions to private sector, government and donor clients. Her work focuses on the evaluation of education, health, enterprise development and agricultural initiatives. Since 2007, she has been serving as treasurer for the South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association (SAMEA).</p>		<p>AfrEA Board Member Ms. Nermine Wally (Country & Nationality: Egypt) Email: nerminewally@afrea.org Phone: +2 02 3344-669 Cell: +2 010 10 11270 Nermine is a socio economic researcher and community based development practitioner with experience in gender issues, poverty alleviation, relief work, sexuality and participatory initiatives. Her current post as Governance Specialist involves the establishment of the monitoring and evaluation framework for the Egypt Pro-Poor national program 'the 1000 poorest villages initiative' under the auspicious of the Egyptian Cabinet in partnership with UNDP. She has conducted several impact assessments and rapid appraisals for a number of organizations in the Middle East, Africa and South East Asia.</p>	

<p>AfrEA Board Member Mrs Néné KONATE (Country & Nationality: Mali) Email: nene_konate@afrea.org Office: +223 20 20 75 80 Cell: +22376 42 02 80</p>  <p>Néné KONATE is a holder of a diploma in Applied sciences specializing in "Decentralization / development premises ". Since 2007, Néné co-steers the "Alliance for reshaping governance in Africa". She is the Executive secretary of the Association for the Promotion of Evaluation in Mali "APEM" and coordinates the conception and implementation of the activities of APEM aimed at the promotion of the culture of evaluation.</p>	<p>AfrEA Board Member Dr. François-Corneille Kêdowidé (Country: Senegal, Nationality: Benin) Email: francoiscorneille.kedowide@afrea.org Cell Senegal: + 221 77 529 1382 Office: + 221 33 869 06 78</p>  <p>François-Corneille Kêdowidé holds a doctorate in History (Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar - Senegal), a doctorate in Environmental Management (University Senghor of Alexandria – Egypt) and a Post doctorate in Environmental Management from the University of Quebec in Montreal (UQAM). His domains of competency include environmental policy analysis, environmental impact assessment, monitoring and evaluation of policy, projects and programmes. He currently holds the position of Regional Evaluation Adviser to UNDP- ASRO-WACA (African Sub Region office - West and Central Africa). He is also the coordinator of the Beninese Network of M&E (ReBSEv Réseau béninois de Suivi et d'Evaluation)</p>
<p>AfrEA Board Member Mr. Bali ANDRIANTSEHENO (Country & Nationality: Madagascar) Email: b_andriantseheno@afrea.org Office: +261 20 22 40609 Cell: +261 32 07 11291</p>  <p>Bali Andriantseheno is an Economic Statistician and Engineer. He graduated from the ENSAE-CESD in France and is currently the Director General of a Malagasy consulting firm (ADAPT). He has worked in the US and in Madagascar. He has conducted environmental assessments as well as social and economic evaluations. He teaches courses in Social Public Policy at the School of Sociology at the University of Antananarivo.</p> <p>Bali is also the President of the Malagasy Association for Evaluation (MASSE).</p>	<p>AfrEA Board Member Mr. Issaka Herman Traore (Country & Nationality: Burkina Faso) Email: issakatraore.@afrea.org Phone: +226-50-31-00-80 Cell: +226- 71-75-60-42</p>  <p>Issaka Herman Traoré is an International Development Specialist; he has over 12 years of experience in development project monitoring and evaluation, participatory rural appraisal, and supporting project preparation and implementation in diverse fields (agriculture, natural resource management, food security, alternative energy, and mining). Issaka is currently a Senior M&E Programme Officer at the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs-Burkina Faso Programme. As member of the M&E network in Burkina Faso, he contributed to setting up the list serv for the network, as well as launching the first website of the network.</p>

Please visit our website at www.afrea.org for more detailed profiles.

News and updates about AfrEA will be sent out frequently on the AfrEA listserv at <AfrEA@yahoogroups.com>, so please be sure to subscribe.

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