



EVIDENCE TO ACTION (E2A) 2023 -Experts speak on the extraordinary convening

E2A 2022 in Retrospect - Hon. George Forpoh's Experience

Stories by Seth Kugblenu

I wish to extend profound gratitude to the International Centre for Evaluation and Development organizers of the Evidence to Action Conference and Exhibition held in Kampala, Uganda from September 26 - 30' 2022 on the theme: *"Adapting innovative evaluation practices for evidence-based decision making during and beyond COVID-19"*.

Some of the highlights of the discussions which I considered resourceful and relevant borders on reflecting on how we gather, chromize and report our evidence.

The point which emphasizes careful based review of the merits and demerits within our Monitoring Evaluation Accountability and Learning (MEAL) practices is an angle of routine consideration. The other point of interest was the need for developing a full culture of

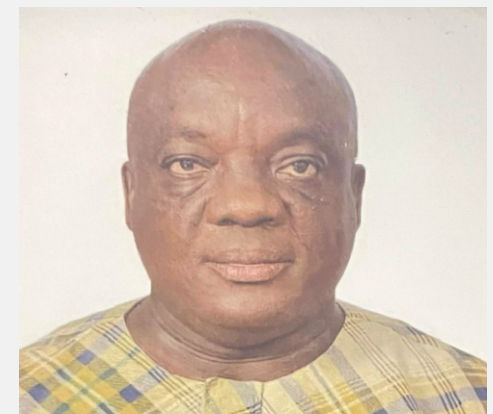
understanding what MEAL is designed to support from a cognitive perceptive for better decision making based on evidence not from guess or trial and error system. As Emma Nthandose Gausi puts it 'In most projects/ programs the M&E process has been relegated to a data collection and processing ONLY activity. I agreed with the philosophy that data/information is also always done to satisfy donor requirements. Which is anti-thesis to the fact Learning in M&E played which should therefore be prioritized throughout the projects/programs.

That for a MEAL to be supportive of project and / or program, the need for the actors to work together and not in salons, cannot be overemphasized. The architects of MEAL should ensure activities results should be used for programmatic improvements and / or adjustment for the overall decision making to ensure the achievement of the goal of any intervention. Another point of interest was the emphasis on regular feedback mechanism that offers accurate, real time, reliable and openness to stakeholders in the intervention be encouraged at all times. The highlight on reportage being holistic across stakeholders that ensure accurate information are shared about the intervention, most especially to the requisite stakeholders must be a matter of must.

Another take away was about cooperation and acceptance as tools to increase resources mobilization, advocacy that thread on humanitarian values, principles, as

well as accountability principles so that the stakeholders are allowed to participate in the culture of changing/ adapting the local procedures, policies and understanding that enhances best quality results of intervention and that harnesses best practices. That Managers and donors need to take interest and ownership of monitoring - to find measures, qualitative as well as quantitative, that look past the current budget and previous results and ask questions, answers to which determine how the programme or project can best attract and retain clients or beneficiaries in the future. "As some of you mentioned, M&E activities often throw up a mass of numbers and comparisons that provide little insight into performance. Rather, they are used for justifying the investment; and may even paint a distorted picture of the reality". Through robust monitoring, this could be controlled.

Given those experiences gained from the last conference, I would like to be a part of this and all other upcoming conferences.



Hon. George Tee Forpoh, PhD
Deputy Minister
Regional Development, Research and Extension
Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of Liberia

UPCOMING EVENTS

ATTEND

Save the Date



Date: 24th – 28th July, 2023

Venue: Ethiopian Economic Association Auditorium, Addis Ababa

Register here

e2a@iced-eval.org

“Ethiopian Professionals and International Experts must attend E2A” – State Minister Tirumar

The International Center for Evaluation and Development (ICED) fills an important gap in the global evaluation architecture. It is the first Africa-based international think-tank that combines research and innovation with extensive practical experience in evaluation for development in Africa with operating headquarters in Kenya, and West Africa.

The year's E2A would be held in Ethiopia at the Ethiopian Economics Association Auditorium, in Addis Ababa, from 24th to 28th July 2023 comprising a two day of pre-conference events/side events and the 3-day conference and exhibition.

The conference theme is “Resilience and Recovery” deepens dialogues, shared learning, and strategies to accelerate resilience and recovery,

across the globe, with an emphasis on Africa and the overall goal for the Evidence to Action 2023 would be to bring together stakeholders that work in the realm of resilience and recovery to share their evidence and thoughts on reducing vulnerabilities and building adaptation capacities for future shocks and risks.

Ethiopia is one of the member states of United Nations and African Union that has committed for Sustainable Development and accountable to inform the international community about the commitment through evidence that needs continuous monitoring and periodic evaluation of the development processes. Hence, this is the best opportunity for Ethiopian Professionals for their reflection on Evidence to Action and a peer to-peer Learning from other International Experts. Moreover, I

extend my invitation to the international experts for your fruitful contributions on this workshop and learn from/ take lessons from Ethiopia on contextualized sustainable development and monitoring & evaluation processes to ensure accountability and transparency for the Ethiopians and the international community.



H.E. Mrs. Tirumar Abate Ayalew
State Minister, Ministry of Planning & Development, Ethiopia.

Prof. Michael Carter on Evidence to Action Conference

The Evidence to Action Conference has been designed as a way to take the highest quality latest research Information that we have, the latest evidence that we have and package it, distill it and make it of use to people that need to make real decisions in real time.

We work very hard in this conference to get researchers who are doing very creative, very interesting things and ultimately very relevant things for policy makers and programmers. We work very hard to get everyone to present that information in a way that makes sense, is digestible and yet the content is going to be of extremely high quality.

Hence, I really invite everyone to join us because we're going to do our best to share with you the best that we've been able to produce.



*Distinguished Professor of Agriculture & Resource Economics, UC Davis.
Director, Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Markets, Risks and Resilience.
Co-Director, Feed the Future Advancing Local Leadership, Innovation and Networks (ALL-IN).*

Conference expected to indicate actionable policy prescriptions

This 2023 version of the E2A Conference and Exhibition focuses on a very important theme, Resilience and Recovery.

Many countries across the African continent are struggling with a number of shocks and challenges which include climate change, conflict, drought, Covid-19 and other health crisis, surging youth unemployment, gender differentials in terms of economic opportunities, inflation, financial shocks, and the likes. These have been damaging the lives and livelihoods of many people in the continent and undermining the national and continental development outcomes. These are problems that should be curbed, in one way or another. There are research evidences here and there in relation to the effects of these problems and the required resilience and recovery actions. However,

undertaking studies and generating evidences by itself cannot be an end. The outcomes should be discussed, sieved, and relevant ones be put into action. This conference is the right forum as it brings together stakeholders in the policy making circle: people from research institutions, government ministries and policy makers, the academia, CSOs, NGOs, the private sector, the media, and many more.

The conference will gather big minds from the African continent and beyond. The conference is expected to indicate actionable policy prescriptions. It also helps to pinpoint gaps for further research activities that should be picked up by researchers. In that sense, I hope the conference will deliver bold messages to all participating stakeholders. There will also be chances for countries to learn from one another

from experiences to be shared during the conference sessions. The conference and the associated exhibition will also create chances to get networked with diverse institutions and partners across the globe.

Last week of July (24-28) 2023 should be marked for this important continental event, an event that should not be missed!



Timely generation and effective use of evidence-based information for decision-making across all levels of the national development architecture is critically important to achieving Africa's transformative agenda. Join me at the upcoming E2A conference //



Kwabena Agyei Boakye
Former Chief Director, Ministry of Monitoring and Evaluation, Office of the President, Ghana.
Consultant: Sustainable Rural Livelihoods Technical Assistance to the Government of Fiji.

The E2A Conference is an excellent opportunity to bring together key actors and stakeholders across the continent and globe and provide a platform for researchers, academia, policymakers, development practitioners, and private sector actors to exchange knowledge, evidence, and shared learning on regional and continental issues. On behalf of the Ethiopian Evaluation Association (EEVA), I encourage all Evaluation Professionals to be part of this event "Do not miss it!"



Seifu Tadesse
President EEVA

E2A TEAM IN ETHIOPIA



• Organizing Team in a pose with UNICEF representatives after a meeting

An E2A Conference organizing committee has been in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to hold talks with the Policy Studies Institute (PSI), the African Union (AU), Economic Commission for Africa, UNICEF, Ministry of Planning & Development, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Labor & Skills, Ethiopian Statistical Services, Ethiopian Economics Association, Ethiopian Evaluation Association amongst other stakeholders and partners to accelerate preparations for the upcoming event.

The Committee for the Upcoming E2A Conference Discussed Several Updates and Progress

The Committee for the Upcoming E2A Conference Discussed Several Updates and Progress during a meeting at PSI on June 5, 2023, the organizing committee for the upcoming Evidence to Action (E2A) conference, chaired by Ms. Sara from Uganda, Kampala, discussed various updates and progress related to the event. The committee addressed a number of issues, including security and protocol issues, logistics, communications, visa issues for the event, and conference presentations.

In a recent meeting, the organizing committee for the upcoming conference discussed how to ensure security and a proper protocol for senior officials attending the event. The committee recognized the importance of providing a safe and

organized environment for all attendees, especially senior officials who require additional security measures.

The committee also considered the possibility of assigning dedicated security personnel to each senior official to ensure their safety throughout the conference. In addition to security measures, the committee also discussed the importance of maintaining appropriate protocol for senior officials, including providing designated seating areas and assigning staff to assist them throughout the conference. The committee recognized that these measures are essential to maintaining a professional and respectful environment for all participants. The

Organizing Committee is committed to ensuring the safety and comfort of all participants, especially high-ranking officials, and will continue to work diligently to implement the necessary security and protocol measures for the upcoming conference.

The organizing committee for the upcoming conference also discussed ways to resolve visa issues for participants who may have difficulty obtaining a visa to attend the event. The committee recognized that visa regulations and application procedures can be complex and time-consuming, which may be a barrier for some participants. To address these challenges, the committee discussed several possible solutions, including providing information on visa

regulations and application procedures on the conference website and offering visa application assistance.

One of the main topics of discussion was the issuance of invitation letters. The committee discussed how the process of issuing these letters to conference participants could be simplified. The committee also discussed the importance of providing accurate and comprehensive information in the invitation letters to enhance the credibility of the conference. Another important topic of discussion was the signatories of the invitation letters. The committee recognized that invitation letters often need to be signed by respected individuals and organizations, and discussed how to ensure that the signatories on the letters meet these requirements.

The organizing committee also discussed how to ensure adequate

media coverage of the event, particularly in Ethiopia. The committee acknowledged the importance of promoting the conference and its objectives to a wide audience both in Ethiopia and internationally. One of the main topics of discussion was the use of local media in Ethiopia to promote the conference. The committee discussed the possibility of partnering with local media to cover the conference and its activities. This would include press releases, interviews with conference organizers and speakers, and live coverage of events.

Next, the organizing committee discussed how to provide attendees with easier access to information about the conference events. The committee recognized the importance of digital screens to display information about the various events taking place during the conference. The committee recognized that setting up digital

screens can be a logistical challenge, especially in large conference rooms. The possibility of working with local vendors to provide digital screens and other equipment needed to display conference information was discussed.

The committee also discussed how to ensure a smooth and organized experience for all attendees. One of the major topics of discussion was the use of ushers to assist attendees during the conference. The committee recognized that ushers play an important role in helping attendees navigate the conference site and find their way to the various sessions, presentations, and other activities. The possibility of hiring voluntary ushers to provide this service was discussed.

Overall, the organizing committee is committed to providing a smooth and organized experience for participants.



Mr. Yirgalem, Dr. Solomon, Mr. Tamiru, Dr. Netsanet, Dr. Balew and Mrs. Sara (Left to right)

UPCOMING EVENTS



Evidence to Action Conference and Exhibition

2023

Addis Ababa,

ETHIOPIA

Theme

“Resilience and Recovery”

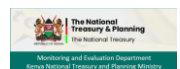
24th – 28th July, 2023

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Register here



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Evidence to Action Conference and Exhibition 2023

EXHIBIT AT THE CONFERENCE!

- create an engaging experience
- engage over 400 delegates drawn from nearly 30 countries worldwide
- leverage on Presidential and High dignitaries walk through amidst media coverage
- create visibility for your brand.

Date: 24th-28th July, 2023


Venue: Ethiopian Economic Association Auditorium, Addis Ababa
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Register Now, Exhibit Live!!!



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