



In partnership with



## 2022 IDEAS Conference and Global Assembly

Online event

27 to 29 September 2022

**“Power of evaluation: Influencing decision making for a better and more equal world”**

### Introduction

The International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS) was created in 2002 to meet needs for a global professional association for international development evaluators from diverse sectors and countries. The Mission of IDEAS is to improve and extend the practice of development evaluation, refining knowledge, strengthening capacity building and expanding networks and partnerships for development evaluation. Bi-annually, IDEAS holds a conference and a global assembly (GA) as a platform to bring together evaluators to share experiences. Previous conferences and global assemblies were hosted in Prague (2019), Guanajuato (2017), Bangkok (2015), Bridgetown (2013), Amman (2011), Johannesburg (2009), New Delhi (2005) and Beijing (2002).

This year, the IDEAS Conference and GA will be hosted in Bonn by our partner, the German Institute for Development Evaluation (DEval). DEval was established in 2012 to provide governmental and non-governmental development cooperation organisations with independent and scientifically sound evaluations, which they can feed into their strategies, instruments and programmes.

### Background

As the world slowly and unevenly recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, new disruptive developments have emerged with undeniably global political, social and

economic consequences. The ongoing geo-political conflicts in different parts of the world have led to an unprecedented number of refugee populations. At the same time, existing challenges related to inequities in wealth, COVID related poverty, the climate crisis, exclusion of the vulnerable from access to resources and opportunities as well as the overall gender and equity divide have resulted in a complex scenario for relevant, innovative, and influential evaluation.

In this new world context, the evaluation field must respond with renovated vision to the unprecedented, multiple and inter-related complex situations. The question for evaluation and evaluators worldwide is, should evaluation continue to respond as business as usual or should it be time to seize these crises and take the opportunity to critique its craft and transform its practice. There is no doubt that even in these uncertain times, evaluation has the power to engage with stakeholders, question what is working and what is not in which circumstances, prioritize context, embrace complexity and reinforce human rights for an equal, fair and just world. To do so, the evaluation function has the responsibility, more urgent than ever before, to promote not just robust evidence gathering but also decision-making specifically anchored in the universal values of equity and social justice. Evaluators in turn must have competencies to be change agents, to address structural inequities, facilitate participatory processes that are inclusive, giving voice to those left behind and promote methods and tools that capture diverse perspectives and ways of knowing. As evaluators, we ask the difficult question, “Has and can evaluation have the power to contribute to, reverse or to mitigate the negative effects of such complex scenarios and environment?”

## Aim and Objective

This year’s Conference and Global Assembly with the theme: *Power of evaluation: Influencing decision making for a better and more equal world* intends to bring together key actors including thought evaluation leaders, evaluation practitioners, government and parliament representatives, academia, evaluation commissioners, Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs), international organizations, senior and young evaluators from the global world to discuss how evaluation can contribute to better and more just decision-making processes in an increasingly dynamic, complex and unequal world.

The Conference and Global Assembly will provide a platform to explore how evaluation can contribute to transformational change, one that recognizes the rights, aspirations of all people, ensures their voices are heard and questions the differential impact on those who are privileged and those who are not.

## Conference streams

The conference will provide a forum for exploring the conference theme in plenary sessions with the participation of keynote speakers. A global and multi-actor dialogue

is expected to take place through panels and round tables organized around five main streams:

#### **Power of evaluation for a better and more equal world**

• This stream aims to bring together thought evaluation leaders, decision and policymakers, and evaluators from different backgrounds and regions to initiate a global discussion on the future of evaluation. The dialogue will be guided by key questions related to: the power of evaluation to influence decision making for a better and more equal world; the potential contribution of evaluation to peace; the challenges and opportunities evaluation faces to remain relevant and useful; how evaluation itself be transformational?

#### **Partnerships for sustainable development**

• This stream will focus on the power of partnerships to advance evaluation for sustainable development in general, and transformational evaluation in particular, at the country, regional and global levels. Partnerships experiences and good practices to be showcased within this stream.

#### **The future of Evaluation: A perspective from Young and Emerging Evaluators**

• This stream will include challenges and opportunities for professionalizing evaluation in a highly turbulent world; positioning the profession in national, regional and global contexts; role of Young and Emerging Evaluators (YEE) in advancing and professionalizing evaluation; in promoting innovation and others.

#### **Evaluation within national ecosystems**

• This stream will include a dialogue based upon experiences from contexts where evaluation is situated within national frameworks and agendas; or backed by legislation or evaluation policies. Cases of national coordinated and coherent work of Governments, VOPEs, parliamentarians and other stakeholders to be included in this stream.

#### **Gender and equity responsive evaluation for better evidence and policies**

• This stream intends to promote a discussion on the importance of gender, intersectionality and equity responsive evaluation for Leaving No One Behind. Global, regional or national experiences on how credible evidence have contributed to advocate for more gender transformative and/or more equitable public policies will be welcomed in this stream.

## **Our approach**

The Conference intends to provide a forum for an interactive and inclusive dialogue and exchange of experiences. Specifically, the conference will feature:


- i. Keynote speakers on topical issues
- ii. Round tables
- iii. Panel discussions centred on the conference theme and streams
- iv. Exhibitions of publications and evaluation innovations
- v. Evaluation for Transformational Change Award and recognition of outstanding evaluations

## Participants/Target Audience

The conference participants will be drawn from a diverse range of stakeholders working across the globe. They include:

- i. Evaluation professionals
- ii. Young and Emerging Evaluators
- iii. Civil society, especially VOPEs
- iv. Policymakers and decision makers
- v. National and international evaluation organizations
- vi. Parliament representatives
- vii. Private sector organizations
- viii. Media

## Dates



Conference: Tuesday, September 27 <sup>th</sup> to Thursday, September 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2022
Plenary Sessions daily
Parallel sessions to run simultaneously
IDEAS Assembly: Wednesday, September 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2022 (TBC)
Evaluation for Transformational Change Award Ceremony: Friday, September 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2022

## Key Contacts

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