

Office of the Prime Minister

CONCEPT NOTE FOR THE 7th UGANDA EVALUATION WEEK

11th – 15th February 2019, Hotel Africana, Kampala, Uganda

“From Evidence Generation to Utilization”

a) Background

The Government of Uganda represented by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) in partnership with the Uganda Evaluation Association (UEA) is organizing the 7th Uganda Evaluation Week. The Uganda Evaluation Week is an international platform where policy makers, Government officials, Civil Society, Academia, Development Partners, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) practitioners and the private sector meet to share evaluation experiences and participate in activities to develop and strengthen the evaluation function in participating countries. The event attracts participants from African Countries and Evaluation networks from around the World.

This year, the Uganda Evaluation week will be held from February 11th – 15th, 2019 at Hotel Africana, Kampala, Uganda under the theme ***“from evidence generation to utilization”***. The event is scheduled to start with pre-conference workshops from the 11th -12th February 2019, followed by a three-day conference from the 13th – 15th February, 2019 for invited participants. The training will be provided at a fee and upon application and admission by the secretariat of the organizing committee. The event is being organized with funding from Government of Uganda, International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), the Twende Mbele program, Campbell Collaboration and other Development Partners.

This theme acknowledges the significant efforts over the last couple of years across the globe and within the evaluation fraternity to generate credible and useful evidence in order to strengthen accountability for development results or contribute to learning processes. Evaluations have started to gain prominence in influencing decision making with regard to policies, projects and programs in government and civil society. In Uganda, The German Development Cooperation (GIZ) supported Evaluation Capacity Development project implemented by the OPM in partnership with UEA implemented numerous activities targeting government, civil society actors, Academia and evaluation practitioners. Through a combination of awareness raising and training, the role evaluation plays in the development agenda is increasingly being appreciated.

The theme also takes note of the fact that most evaluations are often commissioned as a ritual upon project completion to serve the accountability objective, not the learning objective. If undertaken with the learning objective in mind, evaluations should be useful in making better decisions regarding improvements to the design and implementation of successor projects/programs and ultimately better project performance. It is estimated that currently only 10% of evaluations are utilized to inform decision making or design implying a rather low uptake

of evaluations. As such, evaluation practitioners have therefore found themselves conducting accountability-oriented evaluations.

In working towards consolidating achievements in raising the profile and practice of evaluations in Uganda, the main conference theme points to the need to move beyond generation of evidence to its utilization.

b) Conference Sub-themes

Three sub-themes and corresponding strands were identified from the main theme. Abstracts in English were invited from experts, academics, researchers and students for Papers, Workshops, Panels, Roundtables and Exhibitions that communicate to the overall theme or the indicated sub-themes.

The sub-themes and their respective strands include:

Sub-theme 1: Making Evaluations Work

1. The Value of Evaluation
2. Utilization Focused Evaluation & decision making:
 - Youth Employment
 - Economic Development
 - Sustainable Agriculture
 - Better Social Services (Education, Health, Water Sanitation and Hygiene Outcomes)
 - Climate Change
 - Human Rights
 - Human Security
3. Private Sector's approach to Monitoring and Evaluation in the use of evaluations
4. Case studies in Evaluation & Learning
5. Case studies on the Role of the Executives, Parliament and judiciary in Monitoring and Evaluation

Sub-theme 2: Capacity Building in Monitoring & Evaluation

1. Capacity building in Academia
2. Capacity building of Practitioners
3. Capacity building in Monitoring and Evaluation Policy

Sub-theme 3: Evaluation Culture & Ethics

1. Building the culture of Monitoring and Evaluation
2. Monitoring and Evaluation Ethics
3. Monitoring and Evaluation challenges
4. The Politics of Monitoring and Evaluation

Sub-theme 4: Promoting Evaluation Partnerships

1. Building sustainable Monitoring and Evaluation Networks & Partnership

2. Who cares to finance Monitoring and Evaluation?
3. Challenges in Monitoring and Evaluation Partnership & Collaboration

c) Programme

The programme for the Evaluation Week will include:

1. Paper presentations
2. Round table presentations
3. Poster presentations
4. Exhibitions
5. Workshops and training sessions