



Editor's Note

The year, 2012, marks a significant milestone for AGDEN: We are celebrating the 10th year anniversary. AGDEN started life as a project of UNIFEM (UN Women) in May/June 2002. Yes, it is a testimony to how far we have come.

As we look back and reflect on the path of progress during this period, we can indulge in some self pride on how much we have contributed to defining the complexion of development programming in Africa by weaving the strands of rights based M&E and gender equality into the development action tapestry.

The skills, capacity and experience coupled with the passion and dedication embodied in our membership is immense; and although the potential for further growth is limitless, the going had not been easy.

We need to continuously reach out to new members and build capacity levels that can collectively and authoritatively shape the development agenda in rights and gender based M&E..

We must always remind development practitioners that though results are important, how we achieve them is equally important.

Our mandate is clear, our role is crucial; let us not sit on our laurels. We still have work to do, lots of it.

On behalf of the editorial team, I take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Enjoy !

AGDEN has Surely Grown! In Number and Diversity



AGDEN's Susan Mathai and Enid Kaabunga with participants at a session during the Evaluation week held in Nairobi, November 2012.

AGDEN will pretty soon boast of a critical mass of rights oriented gender equality responsive M&E practitioners capable of influencing the pattern and complexion of the practice of evaluation in Africa.

Since its formation in 2002, membership of the network has grown exponentially in numbers as well as in the skills and capacity of members.

From an initial band of 22 invited individuals which shrank to a small core group of 14 in 2004, AGDEN currently, boasts a membership of 114 - an 800% increase. Members are drawn from 26 African Anglophone and Francophone countries with 2 members only located in countries outside Africa.

The most productive recruitment years in the decade since its formation have been 2007, 2009 and 2012. In 2007, 47 members were recruited whereas 19 members joined the network in 2009. In 2012, a significant jump in membership added 43 more members to the network.

There is no coincidence in the above pattern; the African Evaluation Association biennial conferences were held in the years of high recruitment. AGDEN has consistently hosted a workshop, roundtable or panel discussion at AfrEA events. These offer perfect opportunities for the new strategy of direct person-to-person recruitment which has worked very well indeed.

Continued pg 2

Continued from pg 1

Individuals are invited to join AGDEN or recruited on the basis of their skills and or expertise. Members are expected and required to have relevant training and experience in gender and development, measurement, monitoring and/or evaluation as well as/or human rights.

AGDEN is committed to building the capacity of members in rights oriented gender equality responsive M&E through tailor made training and workshops.

As AGDEN continues to spread the gospel of human rights and gender equality through M&E of development in Africa and the rest of the world, we must not forget that our strength is to be found in our numbers and our diversity: The more the number of members, the deeper and wider the potential influence and, ultimately, impact that AGDEN can make.

The most productive recruitment years in the decade since its formation have been 2007, 2009 and 2012. In 2007, 47 members were recruited whereas 19 members joined the network in 2009. In 2012, a significant jump in membership added 43 more members to the network

For this reason, it is important to spread the AGDEN net wide especially taking advantage of the growing number of professional evaluation events around the world to recruit more members while expanding diversity simultaneously.

Long Live AGDEN



A section of participants at the EvalPartners Forum held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, 3-6 Dec 2012; Enid Kaabunga Chair of AGDEN is 3rd from left.

AGDEN Gaining Ground in Francophone Africa

Alexis Salvador Loye

The first AGDEN francophone training was held last June, 2012 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. It was an opportunity for AGDEN to contribute to capacity building of monitoring and evaluation professionals and practitioners.

Two workshops were held back-to-back on 'How to integrate gender and human rights in project/programme monitoring and evaluation', and 'Proposal writing for project evaluation'.

AGDEN members facilitated the first training while a seasoned Canadian evaluator Gunter Rochow was the resource person for the second.

According to the 2006 census, women represent 52.3 % of the population in Burkina Faso. This means that it is very important to involve women in strategies of development including programmes and projects if development is to be

successful. The AGDEN workshop created awareness among participants and decision makers who are on account interested in having the training given to staff of ministries and other agencies for integrating gender and human rights in the development projects and programmes.

For this reason the new members are working hard to grow the network, strengthen individual capacities and influences decision making for rights and gender responsive development evaluation in the country.

The new AGDEN members in Burkina Faso with the active support of a government Minister no less who is a core AGDEN member and former Vice Chair of AGDEN are very committed and confident that Burkina would form the sub-regional hub for AGDEN Francophone training and support in gender and rights responsive evaluation.

East To West: AGDEN Takes Her Message To The World

Florence Etta, PhD

The year 2012 has been busy for AGDEN. You could say it is the year AGDEN was unveiled to the rest of the world.

AGDEN's message of rights responsive development evaluation was presented at no fewer than 4 international meetings and events in Canada, USA, Finland and Thailand. Unlike the rest of the world, Africa has long known about AGDEN. Its creation in 2002 was an African event and for the last ten years AGDEN has struggled to get adequately and appropriately established, enskilled as well as resourced to serve the continent through contributing to: 'Strengthening the effectiveness and gender responsiveness of development programmes and projects in Africa through rights based, results oriented participatory monitoring and evaluation.'

In July 2012 AGDEN presented a roundtable at the hugely popular global gathering of development evaluators in Carleton University, Ottawa popularly called IPDET. The beautiful and summer foliage green Carleton campus is host to the annual International Program for Development Evaluation Training- IPDET. This year like all the previous eleven had the regular servings of core course delivered by the two legendary founding directors Ray Rist and Linda Morra Imas. A large serving of elective workshops and presentations were offered mostly by eminent North American evaluators. The array of icons and stars was to say the least amazing; I was awe-struck to see, hear and meet Michael Bamberger for instance.

This year IPDET welcomed a new manager; although this was Julia Thompson's first IPDET training you wouldn't know it. The programme which ran very smoothly most of the time was



A cross-section of participants take part in group discussions during the evaluation week held in Nairobi, November 2012.

packed as usual with teaching and learning opportunities but still left room for socializing including memorable Ottawa River and Gatineau forest trips not to forget the Montreal shopping trip! This was the setting for which I believe the lunchtime roundtables offered very poor competition. Totally spontaneous and completely voluntary, the dozen or so roundtables offered participants a small opportunity to share their own interests, work and learn from each other.

The AGDEN roundtable was entitled 'Gender Equality and Human Rights in Development Evaluation' and was attended by 21 participants. AGDEN capped its presence at IPDET 2012 by providing an AGDEN project for the mandatory small group work. Small group work at IPDET is an important dimension of the core course; where small groups of 4-6 participants working closely together prepare, and present a programme evaluation plan following strict guidelines under the supervision of senior scholars and experts. Presentations of the

small group evaluation plans, the high point of the core course, and the final participant outputs are assessed by a team of 4-5 experts and development actors, evaluators, or scholars. In October AGDEN was again active at the American Evaluation Association conference held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This time, AGDEN demonstrated its human rights responsive evaluation approach to a small but very receptive audience similar to what transpired in Kenya during the evaluation week in Nairobi in November 2012.

Unfortunately for AGDEN, plans and preparations made by AGDEN to present a roundtable at the European Evaluation Association conference in Finland fell through at the last minute because the AGDEN presenter could not get there. In Thailand, the story was however different. AGDEN was well represented in the person of Enid Kaabunga – the AGDEN Chair who made a brilliant historical presentation. The piece by Enid (next page) tells that story!

AGDEN Seeks Virtual Volunteers/ Interns

AGDEN is looking for 5 – 6 young and or fresh university graduates and post graduate students currently studying in any of the following countries: Kenya, South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, USA, United Kingdom, Europe, Asia, South America, Latin America and the Caribbean to act as virtual interns – VIRTERNS for a period of 6–12 months.

The primary task of Virterns would be to contribute to AGDEN's Social networking and improve AGDEN's social media. Successful Virterns will work as a team under the guidance of AGDEN's Vice Chair, Florence Etta. The position is non stipendiary. A small budget will be allocated for operational expenses for use by successful Virterns. Other benefits include participation in AGDEN events.

Interested individuals should send a short 1-2 page application letter stating clearly the applicants' experience with social media tools, platforms and or services. Applications should be sent along with a 2-page curriculum vitae to admin@agden.org OR gwangechi@agden.org

Closing date: **Jan 31, 2013**

IDEAS' Global Assembly(GA)

IDEAS (International Development Evaluation Association) will hold its next global assembly from May 6 to 9, 2013 at the Hilton in Bridgetown, Barbados.

All paper/panel proposals should be sent by January 10, 2013 to: Ray C. Rist, President of IDEAS, at the following e-mail address: ravrist11@gmail.com

For more information please contact Dr Florence Etta at: florence.etta@gmail.com

AGDEN in Thailand: At Evalpartners Forum

Enid Kaabunga

Between 3rd and 6th December 2012, I represented AGDEN at the EvalPartners Forum in Chiang Mai, Thailand attended by 80 evaluation leaders from 30 countries worldwide. They included representatives of regional and country-based evaluation networks and associations, as well as senior evaluation officials from bilateral agencies, UN agencies and international non-governmental organisations. I was proud to present the diligent and impressive work that AGDEN has done over the past ten years towards making evaluation work for equitable development results.

This forum was organised by the EvalPartners Initiative, which is a partnership of the IOCE, UNICEF and other core partners including AGDEN. More information is available at www.mvmande.org/evalpartners. The Forum, aimed at strengthening evaluation capacities of Civil Society Organizations (CSO) in general and Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs) in particular was devoted to the sharing of good practice and lessons in Evaluation Capacity Development (ECD). A 3-year (2013-2015) strategy was developed along with a work plan to address the challenges and bottlenecks identified by the forum.

The AGDEN presentation generated a good discussion in particular on how VOPEs can use their strengths and comparative advantage to build capacity and influence change. AGDEN was specially lauded for developing a structured and systematic format in the form of a Gender Equality and Human Rights Responsive M&E Toolkit. AGDEN also got kudos for recruiting evaluators from many different countries on the continent; it is after all a continental network.

Some other very good lessons shared by other VOPEs included: Using online tools to disseminate a Transformative Paradigm and Transformative Mixed Methods approach to evaluators shared by International Programme Evaluation Network (IPEN) of Russia and the Newly Independent States. A diploma Teaching Evaluation programme – in South Asia coordinated by the Sri Lanka Evaluation Association in partnership with evaluators from Bangladesh, India, Afghanistan, and Pakistan was also featured among others.

The experience served to reaffirm that AGDEN is indeed on the right path in pushing for the integration of gender and human rights into monitoring and evaluation practice. It also provided a space and opportunity to reflect on the challenges faced by AGDEN as an organisation. It is almost heartwarming that the challenges are not unique to AGDEN especially with the realisation that solutions abound and can be found often through collaboration with other like-minded networks and associations.

As we look to the future, I am excited and inspired by the possibilities generated by the forum. AGDEN and I look forward with great hope to 2013 when we can all be actively engaged in striving for our common vision.

Editorial Board

Managing Editor: Dr Florence Etta

Editor: Alfred Oduor

Editorial Advisor: Enid Kaabunga

Editorial Assistant: Grace Wangeci