



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Foreward By Ms. Bintou Nimaga: Chairperson of Management Committee

Evidence-informed decision-making strengthens the case for gender responsive and equity focused evaluations.

2019 was a remarkable year for the Africa Gender and Development Evaluators Network (AGDEN).

Our flagship programme for 2019 in collaboration with the Parliamentary Caucus on Evidenced-Informed Oversight and Decision Making (PC-IEDM), brought together, Members of the National Assembly, Members of Senate, Monitoring & Evaluation Directorate (MED), Staff of parliamentary research services, Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Training (CPST) and Universities to reflect on how evidence use can strengthen the integration of gender-responsiveness and equity-focus into Legislation through Evaluation.

We joined forces to ignite a global movement for gender responsive and equity focus in evaluation through the launch of campaign on the same topic during the Afrea Conference. We launched the monitoring and evaluation network in Kenya to champion the course at national level.

The Annual Report documents AGDEN's work to foster the integration of gender-responsiveness and equity-focus into Evaluations. It highlights some of the network initiatives during the year and provides summary financial statement for 2019.








I thank all individuals who are working with and alongside us. Together we can achieve gender responsiveness and equity focus in evaluations based on concrete evidence use. I salute the strategic partners who believe in what we do and continued to support us.

Madam Bintou Nimaga

Chairperson

1. PARTNERSHIPS

The Africa Gender and Development Evaluators Network (AGDEN) AGDEN Key strategy is to work with individuals, institutions, bilateral donors, United Nations, Governments and professional monitoring and evaluation (M&E) associations. At AGDEN, we are proud that our partnerships were strengthened in 2019 and enabled us to achieve a number of notable results. We are grateful and thank the following partners.

WHO	HOW
  	EvalPartners, Department of State, United States of America, Provided funding for the Kenya project on 'Expanding Democratic Spaces for more Inclusive and Equitable Governance'
   	AGDEN, International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS), Government of Kenya (GoK) and International Organisation for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE) The partners collaborated on the implementation of the Kenya Project on "Expanding Democratic Spaces for more Inclusive and Equitable Governance: Integrating Gender-Responsiveness and Equity-Focus into Legislation through Evaluation."
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Africa Evaluation Association (AFREA) • Arica Development Bank • UN Women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of the global campaign • Co-host of Afrea conference and Sponsorship of AGDEN participants.



2. KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND LEARNING

Providing knowledge and learning from others through active participation at national, regional and international conferences is AGDEN's core area of growth for advancing gender responsive and equity focused M&E.

A. Africa Evaluation Association (AFREA) 9th International Conference

We at AGDEN believe in continuous learning and knowledge sharing from monitoring and evaluation professional associations/networks and international organisations, as an effective tool for strengthening members' skills and growth.

AGDEN members participated at the 9th Afrea conference held in Abidjan. The theme of the conference, "Accelerating Africa's Development: Strengthening National Evaluation Ecosystems", brought together more than 70 participating countries, 800 people (professional associations, foundations, NGOs, donors, research centers, evaluators, students) and more than 30 international institutions.

We at AGDEN made great contributions at the conference:

- a) Prominence of gender and equity in the primary AfrEA conference outcome statement.
- b) Made a rapid gender audit of AfrEA posters and presentations, with early findings placed in the conference statement.
- c) Organised a vibrant and very well-attended Town Hall on gender and evaluation.
- d) Organised and led the launch of a global campaign for gender and equity in evaluation, with commitments from individuals and organizations to advance the principles of gender and equity in evaluation over the next two years.
- e) ADGEN members shared knowledge as follows:

Box 1A. Experience of AGDEN Participant at AFREA

My name is **Ndeye Fatou DIOP** I am a member of AGDEN since 2013, also a founding member of the Senegalese Evaluation Association (SENEVAL). I have been working at Save the Children International since 2015 as Monitoring Evaluation Accountability Learning officer.

I was selected by AFREA to share my experience on child-centered social accountability as an example of an innovative approach to Evaluation in the field of education in The Gambia. The panel of my presentation was entitled Strengthening Education Systems.

I have before supported AFREA in the revision of 30 abstracts.

I also followed the panels on mainstreaming gender in evaluations. I learned after following these panels that we needed to think about developing gender indicators for specific sectors such as mines and infrastructure; energy etc.

I also followed with interest the session on Made in Africa Evaluation, which led me to reflect deeply on the contribution of Africa to the global community of evaluators, the place of culture and context in evaluations; the challenges of African evaluators in terms of methods, tools and approach, more strategically positioning.

Box1B: Experience of AGDEN Participants at AfrEA

My name is Idoteyin Ezirim, I am a public health professional working in HIV monitoring, evaluation and research in Nigeria for over 11 years. I will always remember my experience presenting my paper at my first AfrEA conference. During the conference, I attended the workshop on gender and equity focused evaluations in the context of SDGs and I liked the practical examples used in the workshop as well as the online and print resources provided to workshop participants. I also benefited from a panel session on capacity development: EVAL SDG method of all hands on deck and the various display stands at the conference. The panel and the display stands introduced networks that I could join or subscribe to such as Nigerian Evaluation Association (NEA), Eval gender, Eval SDGs, Clear, IDEAS, IDEV, AGDEN etc. This has positively expanded my access to national, regional and international evaluation communities.

My name is Immakulata Komba, the 9th AfrEA conference was my second participation, I participated in the 8th AfrEA Conference as well. I presented a paper titled "Livelihood Impact of Entrepreneurs in the Global South" under the gender strand: towards a more transformative approach in Integrating Gender and Equity in Evaluation. Existence of many parallel workshops relevant to evaluation fields made my choice on which one to attend so challenging, at the end of the day I selected 4 workshops, all of them were very interesting, I was mostly excited by the workshop on Elevating Your Evaluation Practice by Applying Theories and Approaches and Invivo techniques for evaluating the qualitative data, the knowledge and skills I gained through these workshops are so applicable in my day to day undertakings.

- Mr. Ravi Ram facilitated the panel of experts at the launch of a global campaign for gender and equity in evaluation.

Paper Presentations:

- Dr. Florence Etta made a presentation on 'Theory and Praxis for Transformative Gender & Equity Responsive Evaluation.
- Dr. Awuor Ponge made presentation on 'Strengthening the National Evaluation Ecosystem: Sharing Global Experiences from an Academic and Evaluation Practitioner in Kenya'
- Ms. Eddah Karijo made presentation on 'the Situation Analysis of the National M&E System in Kenya- Using the SWOT and PESTLE Model for Capacity Development'
- Ms. Ndeye Fatou DIOP -Shared experience on child-centered social accountability as an example of an innovative approach to Evaluation in the field of education in The Gambia. The panel of presentation was entitled 'Strengthening Education Systems'
- Ms. Dieynaba DIA, made a presentation on the principles of international standards and standards as measures of credibility of evaluation: an example from the Senegal national ecosystem'
- Ms. Immakulata Komba, presented a paper titled "Livelihood Impact of Female Entrepreneurs in the Global South" under the gender strand: towards a more transformative approach in Integrating Gender and Equity in Evaluation.

Panel/Round Table Chairing:

- Ms. Grace Okonji chaired a panel presentation on Big Data, Gender Equality and Evaluation.
- Ms. Dieynaba DIA also led a roundtable discussion on "innovation in south/south partnership; exchanges between VOPES"
- Ms.Cécile EBOBISSE participated in roundtable and presented a poster

Training

- Ms. Eddah of AGDEN and Casper of UN Women facilitated one day pre-conference training event on gender and equity evaluation.
- Mr. Ousséni Kinda (Save the Children, AGDEN) and Susan Igras (Georgetown University) co-facilitated a workshop on Children and Youth Participation in Research and Evaluation: Challenges, Issues and Methodological Perspectives.



Picture 2: Participants at the global launch of Gender and Equity in Evaluations



Picture 3: Some AGDEN participants at Afrea conference

B. The Kenya Monitoring and Evaluation Week

Since 2008 AGDEN has conducted training workshops at the annual Kenya evaluation week.

AGDEN members actively participated and conducted a one day workshop at the Kenya Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) week held from 18th to 22nd November, 2019 in Kisumu. The title of the workshop was: **Expanding Democratic Spaces for more inclusive and Equitable Governance- Integrating Gender Responsive and Equity into legislation through evaluation.**



Picture 4: AGDEN members with Mr. Asela Kalugampitiya (2nd left) at the Kenya M&E Week (November 2019)

The one-day workshop was well attended by participants from various organizations that included the County governments, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), the parliament, AGDEN, Development Initiatives, Universities and Evaluation consultants among others.

Participants exchanged knowledge on key topics of discussion which included: understanding gender; gender and legislation; rationale for addressing Gender Issues in participation; issues emerging from success of AGDEN partnership with parliament on evidence informed evaluations; challenges in expanding democratic spaces for more inclusive and equitable governance and integrating gender responsive and equity into legislation through evaluations. Also discussed with interest was the P20 initiatives which is a development Initiative and aims to track the progress of the poorest 20% of the world's population from poverty to security and opportunity. It is about

ensuring that the Sustainable Development Goals and the data revolution deliver progress for the poorest 20% of the world's population – the P20 – and that no one is left behind.

3. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Strengthening capacities for institutionalising the use of evidence and gender equality and equity-focused monitoring and evaluation into legislation.

We at AGDEN were strategic in 2019 in identifying entry points for effective integration of evidence use in monitoring and evaluation with a gender gender-responsiveness and equity-Focus.

AGDEN jointly with IOCE and IDEAS implemented a capacity building project in Kenya on 'Expanding Democratic Spaces for more Inclusive and Equitable Governance: Integrating Gender-Responsiveness and Equity-Focus into Legislation through Evaluation.'

Institutionalising evidence use for decision making

AGDEN, IOCE and IDEAS convened a consultative meeting where the five-year Strategic Plan for the Parliamentary Caucus for Evidence-Informed Decision-Making was validated for implementation and officially launched. Copies of the plan were shared with participants to provide guidance and direction on use of evidence in M&E.



AGDEN, IOCE and IDEAS lobbied for and got commitment of parliamentarians to move forward the National M&E bill/policy the need for gender and equity focus in parliament debates, decisions and budgeting.

Applying appropriate training tools

We at AGDEN have developed a rich cache of tools, techniques and approaches for gender responsive and equity focused training. These were used in a number of training programmes and were effectively used during training of the Kenya parliamentarians in 2019.

The AGDEN tools and approach with an emphasis on the conceptual propositions on integration of norms, standards and key concepts namely: Empowerment, Participation, Inclusion, Non-discrimination, Accountability and Sustainability was highly appreciated. This ignited gender equality and equity-consciousness among the political class and particularly the leadership and key parliamentary caucus member.

Training workshops



Some Feedback on what participants Liked

- Buy-in of parliamentarians to the M&E agenda in Kenya.
- Capacities developed for parliamentary staff.
- The idea of M&E champions is excellent as well as M&E network.
- General awareness raising in parliament for the need to use evidence and monitor outcomes
- Integration of gender and equity in evaluation and more specifically at the policy maker's level.

Training workshops were conducted for the key change agents from members of parliament and Parliamentary Caucus on Evidence-Informed Oversight and Decision-making.

Awareness was created on the importance of gender and equity in the work of parliament and parliamentary caucus and all levels of government as a prerequisite for effective policy making and genuine development.

A common understanding and appreciation of the need for evidence

use in evaluations, among the political divides of parliamentary staff, senate, parliament and the Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender.

Strengthened capacity of parliamentarians from both the National assembly and the Senate to use evidence to effectively monitor and track gender equity policies, bills and budget.

Strengthened capacity of parliamentary staffs to effectively collect and communicate data and information as evidence for use by parliamentarians.

Monitoring and Evaluation champions

As part of delivering capacity building, AGDEN recognises the importance of working with champions to influence and to strengthen evidence use for gender-responsiveness and equity-focused M&E. The Kenya's Parliamentary Caucus for Evidence-Informed Oversight and Decision Making, AGDEN, IOCE and IDEAS launched a National Network of Kenya Monitoring and Evaluation Champions with 21 (12 male and 9 female) participants committing to be champions.

4. NETWORK CONNECTIVITY

In 2019 as in prior years, the AGDEN yahoo platform has been an effective platform for engaging members and leveraging the power of connectivity to sustain their engagement.

In 2019 four new additional members joined AGDEN because they believed on our mission.

AGDEN members at individual level continued to contribute to other evaluation networks - receiving information and sharing from other professional monitoring and evaluation associations and networks, such as the gender and evaluation network. In Tanzania for instance AGDEN member worked with Tanzania Evaluation Association (TanEA) to build parliamentarian' capacity on their development oversight roles – the two training sessions on M&E were conducted to Members of Parliament (MPs); and also participated in assessing the capacity of MPs in use of Evaluation at national levels.

Members, particularly those of the AGDEN, IOCE, IDEAS Kenya project wrote blogs and posted in the social media and other evaluation websites such as the Gender and Evaluation Network (GenderEval) under EvalPartners, European Evaluation Society, blogs, Pelican and LinkedIn.

The parliamentarians workshop was aired in the News by the Kenya Television Network <https://youtu.be/RhsS3moqCsQ> and published in the Daily Nation Newspaper evidently showing the longing for networks of relationships, communications and catalysts to strengthen evidence use in oversight roles.

5. AGDEN MEMBERS AS PROFESSIONAL EVALUATORS

AGDEN as a network of gender and development evaluators has high quality professional evaluators who were commissioned at individual level to conduct evaluations commissioned by Governments, United Nations, World Bank, Global Environmental Facility, International NGOs, Bilateral donors and professional evaluation associations. Members have produced reports that comprehensively link gender equality and equity to findings conclusions and recommendations.

6. ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT YOUNG AND EMERGING EVALUATORS

7. ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT- 2019

Income	US\$
EvalPartners	19960
Membership contributions	
Total income	19960
Operational Expenses	
Training Materials	1327
Communications and social media	713
Rapid assessments and Research	3965
Transportation and accommodation	2137
Capacity Building workshops and consultative meetings	6784
Monitoring Transformational Change	2749
Documentation	620
Report Production	360
Project administration and Bank charges	1305
Website hosting	50
Total Operational Costs	19960
Surplus	00