

**INCEPTION REPORT
(FINAL)**

June 25th 2019

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**Diagnostic Study of
the Gender
Responsiveness of
the
National Integrated
Monitoring and
Evaluation System
(NIMES)
KENYA**

Introduction

This is the inception report for the '**Diagnostic Study of the Gender Responsiveness of National Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (NIMES) Kenya**', commissioned by the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa on behalf of Twende Mbele.

Background

Twende Mbele, a programme initiative started in the three African countries of Benin, South Africa and Uganda as a collaboration among the three governments has recently expanded to three more; Ghana, Niger and Kenya, as a peer learning collaboration among the governments. The initiative is funded by DFID and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation with CLEAR-AA and the Independent Development Evaluation (IDEV) of the African Development Bank as institutional partners providing strategic and technical support. The Programme, seeks to enhance the technical and institutional capacities of African partners for monitoring and evaluation in to strengthen their National Evaluation Systems. The programme has the objective of using monitoring and evaluation for improving performance and accountability of the participating governments. It envisages stronger national M&E ecosystems, better policies and more effective practices as a way of improving development outcomes and ultimately the lives and livelihoods of all the peoples in these countries.

The Twende Mbele programme provides a platform for sharing resources, cross country learning opportunities as well as joint development of tools and identification of best practices for generating knowledge to inform development priorities, effective and efficient project, programme and policy implementation. A key result of this collaboration is the generation and use of evidence for influencing policy and programme changes to improve government performance and accountability. Twende Mbele seeks to explore how partner countries can strengthen their efforts to integrate gender equity and equality in their national evaluation systems and safeguard the empowerment of women. It hopes to reduce or eliminate instances where their needs, views and experiences have been excluded and where they have previously experienced discrimination in development programmes implemented by governments.

Purpose/Aim, Scope, Objectives and Outputs/Deliverables

The aim of this study is two-fold namely;

- Conduct a gender diagnostic of the Kenya National Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (NIMES) and,

- Make recommendations that will facilitate and guide the review of NIMES towards making it more gender responsive.

The specific objectives of the study include:

1. Adaption (if necessary, since the AGDEN Gender diagnostic already exists) of the gender diagnostic tool for effective tracking of the gender responsiveness of national monitoring and evaluation systems;
2. Examine the existing evaluation system;
3. Review the NIMES including identification of concrete strategies for its strengthening;
4. Investigate the extent to which national evaluation policies, procedures, frameworks and institutional systems as well as processes demonstrate characteristics of an effective national gender responsive monitoring and evaluation system;
5. Identify existing and potential barriers as well as enablers for a well-functioning gender responsive M&E system taking into consideration the national (cultural etc) context of gender and equity.

The study will deliver the following outputs:

- A brief review of the AGDEN Gender Diagnostic Matrix.
- A 10-15 page (maximum) diagnostic report (free of jargon) presenting analysis and findings of the study. The report will be presented in the following sections; executive summary, study process/methodology, findings and recommendations. The recommendations will include required changes and strategies for implementation of an improved NIMES.

Context: National Evaluation Landscape: Systems and Policies

Unlike countries in south America such as Chile and Colombia which have had National Evaluation Systems dating from the 1990s, the African front runners, Benin, Uganda and South Africa started their efforts to mainstream evaluation in the last decade (2010s). To date only 6 African countries, have national evaluation policies namely; Benin, Uganda, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia and Nigeria. A national evaluation policy, first drafted for Kenya in 2016, is yet to be approved. However, a high-ranking Government of Kenya official reported in July 2018 that the policy is being finalised along with a dedicated budget allocation. Kenya is among those African countries that commenced investments in national evaluation systems early in the 2000s. A National Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (NIMES) was established in 2004 during the early Economic Recovery Strategy period which ended in 2007 to support the tracking of policies, programmes and projects. The period was characterised by popular high hopes for government responsiveness.

A 2014 evaluation of a SIDA capacity development programme whose main objective was to support the effective implementation and coordination of NIMES found that the objective was 'far from being achieved' (Bernt Andersson Rikke, Ingrid Jensen, Harriet Naitore, Ian Christoplos).

Gender Equality and Social Equity in National Evaluation Policies

In a 2016 diagnostic study of gender responsiveness of three national monitoring and evaluation systems (Benin, Uganda & South Africa), AGDEN's Madri van Jensen, Florence Etta & Adeline Sibanda found that while there was a general understanding of gender issues in development, gender mainstreaming and in particular gender responsiveness in evaluation was inadequate, i.e. weak. A more recent 2017 study by AGDEN found that the situation has not changed dramatically.

Over the past few years, there has been an increase in the number of developing countries that either have, or are in the process of developing, a national evaluation policy and/or system (NEPS), (Bamberger et 2014). While acknowledging that there is growing interest and increase in the number of governments adopting the concept of evaluation and creating national evaluation policies (NEPS) and national evaluation systems (NES), in most cases these NEPs and NES are not gender responsive nor do they focus on social equity. Marco Segone et al, note that 'this suggests that for many countries gender equality is not a priority or is not considered relevant to national development policies and programmes addressed by the NEPs'. However, the moral imperative of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development of 'no one left behind' which intones social and gender equity is binding on all countries that have signed this latest global development compact containing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. One of these -Goal #5 is entirely dedicated to transforming our world by making gender equality the norm by 2030 <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/envision2030.html>.

Twende Mbele hopes that '*evaluation can help those involved in policy-making and programme design have a socio-cultural insight into ... gender norms and expectations in any given context so that appropriate interventions can be designed accordingly.*' And states that; '*Although progress has been made by governments (in) ... fostering gender equality and the rights of women, the extent of gender responsiveness of national monitoring and evaluation systems is still .. relatively new*' <http://www.twendembele.org/gender/>'.

In 2016, the Africa Gender and Development Evaluators Network (AGDEN) in collaboration with CLEAR -AA developed a tool and methodology for diagnosing the gender responsiveness of national evaluation systems and policies as an output of an assignment commissioned by CLEAR-Anglophone Africa. In 2018, a synthesis review and report of the studies of National Evaluation Policy and system landscapes of Benin, Uganda and South Africa was produced (Dadjo, M.). This synthesis recommended the refinement of the AGDEN Gender Diagnostic Matrix (tool) and the methodology including:

- *Assessment of gender responsiveness of monitoring systems and activities.*
- *Revision of criteria and including additional criteria such as “partnerships” and “clarity of the gender mandate”.*
- *Revision of the items (questions) including some aspects mentioned above.*
- *Revising of the scoring scale and include scoring guideline for each question like the model of UN gender scorecard (p.12).*

Twende Mbele undertook a scoping visit to Kenya in June 2017 as a necessary first step to determine the potential entry points for the programme in the country. While many good M& E practices were found to exist Kenya such as a well-established monitoring and evaluation system, developed in the early 2000s, good planning tools and data capturing systems and platforms such as e-PROMIS and e-NIMES, training opportunities in universities etc, it was found that Kenya would make a good TM project partner. The reasons were based on the two criteria for consideration namely;

a) an evaluation system, which they are using to improve government performance and accountability

b) already using M&E and are keen to deepen their M&E work, and the extent to which it influences national government performance (TM, p1).

Methodology

A mixed-methods, utilisation-focused approach will be used for this study involving both quantitative and qualitative methods.

The following methods will be deployed in the study:

- ✓ Survey (traditional & virtual (i.e. survey monkey).
Along with a potential virtual survey (if feasible), interviews of primary stakeholders i.e. members of the M&E community including; Ministry of Treasury and National Planning, the department of Monitoring & Evaluation (MED), as well as secondary stakeholders including; the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, Kenya Human Rights Commission, and parliamentarians. Interviews will;
 - Seek information related to national policy and institutional frameworks for M&E
 - Apply the gender diagnostic tool to the extent possible
- ✓ Document analysis of the National M&E Policy as well as other relevant documents including national/organisational annual/performance reports and similar documents produced by MED and other relevant institutions. The analysis will assess the degree to which indicators (proposed or in use), data collection methods, organisation, capacity, data and use of M&E outputs are gender sensitive/responsive.
- ✓ Qualitative methods will include key informant interviews with NIMES Staff and other key stakeholders in person and on phone as appropriate.

- ✓ The diagnostic tool was designed in collaboration by the African Gender and Development Evaluators Network (AGDEN).

Data Analysis

While the qualitative interview data will be analysed thematically using the analytical framework and criteria explicated in the AGDEN Gender Diagnostic Matrix (GDM), the data collected using the GDM itself will be analysed using the scoring system proper to the GDM similar to what was done in the synthesis study (Dadjo, M., 2018).

Quality Assurance & Reporting

A reference group (RG) for the study will be created to provide quality assurance for the study; reviewing and revising as required study methods, procedures, etc. All reports will be produced as initial drafts which will be reviewed by the RG. A validation workshop where the final draft report and findings will be tabled and discussed is planned for the 3rd week in July. The final study report will incorporate workshop discussions where these illuminate the findings, interpretations as well as strengthen the commendations of the study.

Work Plan

According to the TOR, the assignment is expected to take place over a 20-day period from Monday 17th until 26th July 2019. The table below presents details of the planned work and timeline proposals for the approval and confirmation of the managers and commissioners of the assignment.

Work Plan/Timelines

No	Activity	Deliverable	Responsible	Due Date
1.	Collection & sharing (with consultant) of relevant & related literature, documents, sources; full list and contacts of principal stakeholders	List of and all related & relevant documents	MED	17 June 2019
2.	Submission of draft Inception Report	Draft Inception report	Consultant	17 June 2019
3.	Review of draft Inception	Review comments & suggestions for revisions	RG	20 June 2019
4.	Revision of draft Inception Report	Final Inception Report	Consultant	24 June 2019
6.	Data Collection (document review, surveys, interviews) & Report preparation	Interviews etc	Consultant	25 June – 9 July
7.	Submission of draft Study report	Draft Report	Consultant	15 July 2019
8.	RG review draft report	Interim reviewed comments on draft report by RG	RG	TBD

9.	Review draft report with inputs from RG	Revised Final Draft Report	Consultant	17 July 2019
10.	Presentation of Draft Final report to stakeholders at workshop	Final draft report at Validation workshop	Consultant	22 July 2019
11.	Revision of & submission of final report with inputs from validation workshop	Final Study Report	Consultant	26 July 2019

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