



MONITORING & EVALUATION INDABA

AT A GLANCE...



planning, monitoring
& evaluation

Department:
Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



SOUTH AFRICA

Table of contents

page

03

Background

page

04

Theme

page

05

Participants

page

06

Format

page

07

Opening sessions

page

13

Breakaway sessions

page

20

Closing remarks

page

21

Wayforward

page

22

Lessons Learnt

page

24

Evaluation

BACKGROUND

Africa has made significant progress in addressing the pressing challenges that have beleaguered its people for decades. Most countries on the continent have embarked on developing systems and strategies which were intended to facilitate the delivery of programmes to address pervasive poverty, inequality and poor social service delivery. There is ample evidence that a clear framework for monitoring and evaluation is essential to effectively deliver any program. Furthermore, the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, Africa Agenda 2063 and related national development frameworks and plans have engendered renewed interest to make M&E systems contribute more meaningfully towards their attainment.

Within this context, the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation and the United Nations Joint M&E task team sought to promote knowledge exchange and learning from experience among African governments and key stakeholders in the M&E space; and to use evidence from M&E to contribute to economic growth and employment.

Theme and format of the Indaba

The main theme of the Indaba was: “**Opportunities and challenges of using evidence from M&E to accelerate economic development and employment in Africa.**” The theme sought to focus deliberations around the use of data and evidence from M&E to contribute to important areas of economic development and employment, which are some of the major challenges currently faced by many of the African countries.

The Indaba had six sub-themes that were aligned to the main theme:

M&E Ecosystems

Harnessing the demographic dividend

Innovations in data

Use of evaluations

Gender, youth and vulnerable groups (leave no one behind)

Fore-sighting and modelling for decision-making

PARTICIPANTS

160

M&E Specialists

From 10 Countries



Types of delegates:



FORMAT

Cocktail evening



Breakaway Sessions



Plenary Sessions



Information stands



“Opportunities and challenges of using evidence from M&E to accelerate economic development and employment in Africa.”

OPENING SESSIONS



Dr Ntsiki Tshayingca-Mashiya, Deputy Director-General; Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) welcomed delegates from African countries; the United Nations (South Africa); and South African delegates. She stressed the value of sharing knowledge and welcomed the opportunity to exchange ideas and lessons on how to strengthen M&E in ways that will result in positive impact on government outcomes, and thus on people's lives.

“Opportunities and challenges of using evidence from M&E to accelerate economic development and employment in Africa.”

Minister Jeff Radebe

Minister in the Presidency in South Africa

The progress being made by different African countries, to improve the lives of its citizens, needs to be documented, monitored and evaluated.

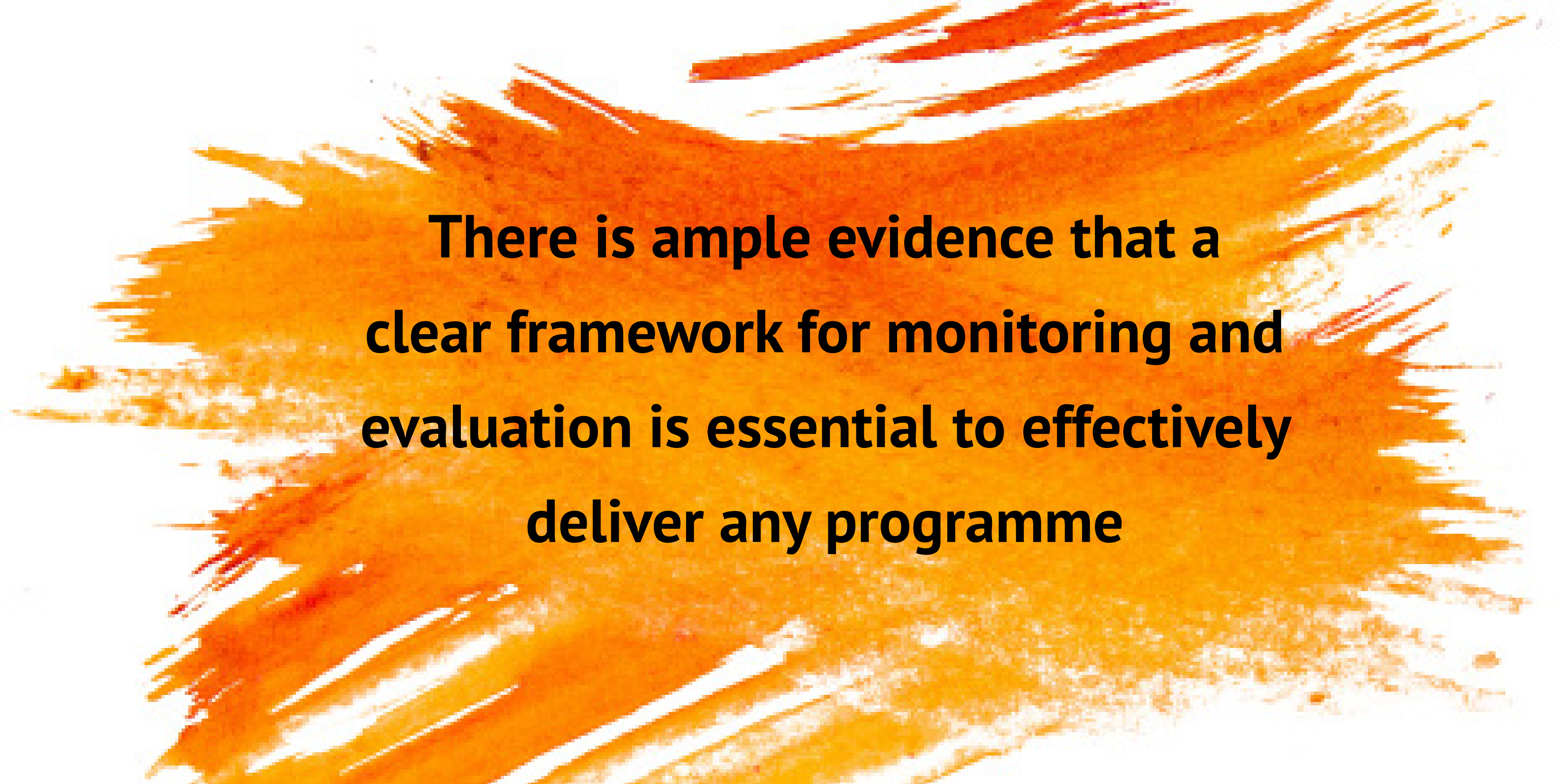
The following key initiatives in South Africa which aim to achieve these ideals, were highlighted:

- (i) The National Development Plan Vision 2030
- (ii) Monitoring the NDP
- (iii) National Evaluation System

The concluding remarks highlighted the importance of good leadership in giving direction and ensuring that decisions are informed by sound evidence. Bodies such as the United Nations (UN), the African Union (AU) and others emerged out of decisions by leaders who realised that collective wisdom is the key solution to improve overall development strategies.

The Minister then launched the 1st Africa Monitoring and Evaluation Indaba





There is ample evidence that a clear framework for monitoring and evaluation is essential to effectively deliver any programme

Ms Anne Githuku-Shongwe

UN Women South Africa Multi-Country Office

“A shared strategic framework for inclusive growth and sustainable development and a global strategy to optimize the use of Africa’s resources for the benefit of all Africans”

This represents the challenge and the opportunities provided by Global and African frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union’s 2063 Agenda. The UN is committed to support the development agenda of individual countries in Africa and globally, and to provide assistance to create sustainable M&E and evidence-generating frameworks. However, some essential questions to consider in the deliberations and our work:

1. Who is being left behind by these frameworks? What can we learn from M&E Eco-systems?
2. Do we make use of mediocre or convenient but old data? What is the potential for big and administrative data?
3. Are our systems sophisticated enough to reflect real disparities and inequalities? Are we blindly focused on achieving targets that we miss who, where and what improvements are needed?
4. Do our systems adequately account for economic and population growth? Are we adequately harnessing the demographic dividend?
5. How can we use evaluations more effectively?
6. Are there adequate models within our minds about how we envision a future to drive effective decision making

Each of these questions was explored within the breakaway sessions (**See more below**)

“Opportunities and challenges of using evidence from M&E to accelerate economic development and employment in Africa.”



Other Speakers setting the tone of the Indaba

Ms Adeline Sibanda, African Evaluation Association (AfREA)

M&E is about tracking the changes that interventions are having for citizens.

Evaluation alone cannot drive economic development. It is a tool that can be used to assess decisions for change but requires robust national evaluation systems.

The methods and tools used need to ensure that no one is being left behind.

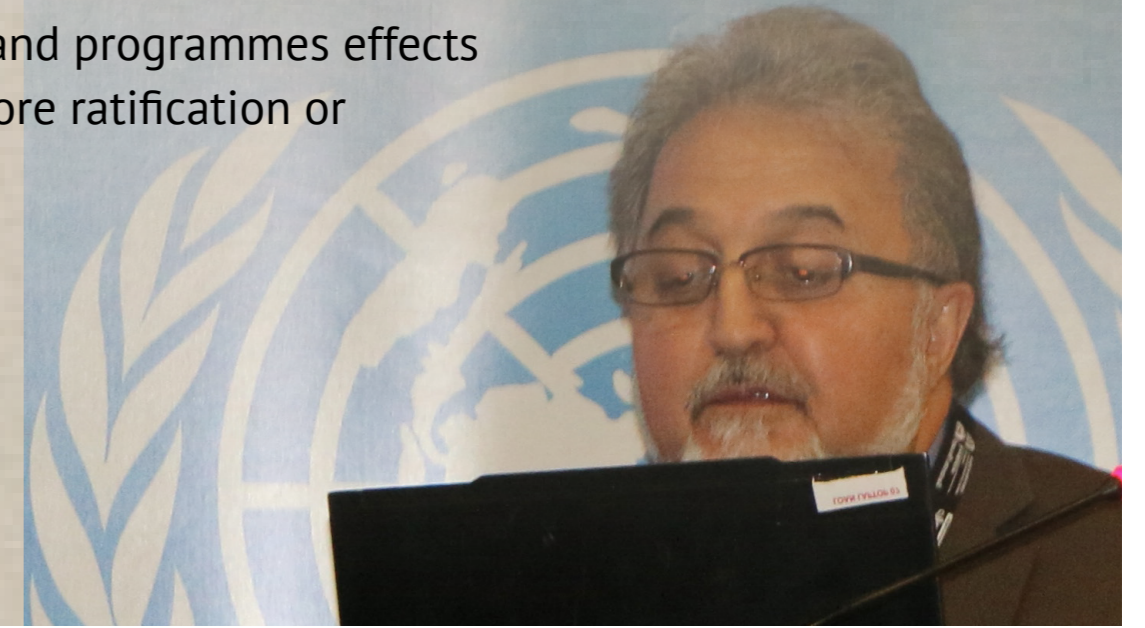


Dr Asghar Adelzadeh, Applied Development Research Solutions

Advances are being made with analytical tools that are enhancing the policy design, forecasting, monitoring and evaluation capacities of governments.

These models and systems can greatly aid decision making by combing data from macroeconomic variables, industry, taxation, social security, energy, emissions, skills demand and supply, poverty and inequality.

In this way policies and programmes effects can be surmised before ratification or implementation.



Key considerations: Panelists

Effective planning has to include M&E from the beginning. In this way we can show the effectiveness of M&E as a reflective tool for tracking our progress, rather than a punitive tool as perceived by some stakeholders.

Mr Matona, the Secretary of Planning in DPME

M&E has evolved overtime. Specifically, there has been a disjuncture between the results being reported by governments and the lack of changes in citizen's lives. Ghana has taken measures to make M&E more accurate

Ms. Nana Serwah Amoako, from the Office of the President in Ghana



M&E needs to be wary of definitions that can be exclusionary, for example, some governments do not consider work within the informal sector as being part of the workforce. Through careful reflection we can make M&E a more effective tool for change and for economic development.

Dr Bernd Mueller, Employment Specialist, ILO Decent Work Team Pretoria

M&E can lead to effective accountability. Citizens require access to M&E to improve accountability but these systems need to be sustainable.

Mr Pramod Mohanlal, Yowzit South Africa



**Leaving No One Behind, for the
Benefit of all Africans**

M&E ecosystems

There are many stakeholders in an M&E System ranging from state-bodies, civil society, private sector, members from communities. M&E frameworks need to be considerate of all stakeholder who are directly and indirectly effected by interventions and activities.

Another key issue that was considered was the “homeless” nature of M&E, that is there is no regulatory framework or body to oversee the training, quality and performance of M&E Officers and activities.

Lastly, issues related to M&E being a transformative tool was considered.



Key Recommendations

- Countries that do not use the M&E Ecosystem were encouraged to do so, especially with regards to coordinating various stakeholders who make M&E system operate and make a difference in a country.
- The Indaba should be used as a Forum where agreement is reached on common indicators for SDG reporting. While countries are at liberty to choose and customize indicators, the African Continent is expected to also report on these indicators. If different countries are choosing different indicators, Africa will thus face the challenge of comparing between different countries.
- Countries should advocate for more investment in M&E and data.

Harnessing the Demographic Dividend

The group discussed and defined the demographic dividend to be a period in which working-age population has good health, education, decent employment and lower level of dependents. Sustainable development thus requires all women, men, boys and girls, expand their capabilities and find decent work thus contributing to economic growth.

In order to ensure this dividend, there needs to be pro-development demographic conditions of:

1. Health and well-being
2. Education and skills development
3. Employment and entrepreneurship
4. Rights, governance and empowerment.

It is clear that to harness this dividend requires consistent long-term action.



Key Recommendations

- Analysis of disaggregated and detailed M&E data is necessary for effective and accurate policy planning and decision-making
- The challenge raised during the Indaba was on how Africa could create pro-development demographic conditions through the four pillars of the demographic dividend.
- Given the magnitude of the pillars, the Indaba agreed to address the pillars by prioritizing health, education, and economic inclusivity pillars of the demographic dividend.
- There was consensus among the Indaba delegates that the remaining pillars will be addressed during subsequent M&E Indabas once the three priority pillars are addressed.

Use of Evaluations

Evaluations can be a valuable tool to move economic development outcomes within countries. Kenya, South Africa and Zambia provided case studies to consider the ways in which this can be achieved, with varying degrees of success.

In order to ensure that these systems are more effective, the following needs to be incorporated into the systems:

1. Gender
2. Culture
3. Donor/power relations
4. Incentives
5. Accountability on government and civil society



Key Recommendations

- Gender evaluations should not only be led by women, but rather include men.
- An evaluation culture should be built through leadership and improved capacity development.
- Government evaluation systems such as National Evaluation Frameworks should clarify the role of donors.
- Importance of a multi-faced approach to incentives that emphasizes a culture of learning and improvement, rather than compliance.
- All role players need to take up their role – e.g. Civil Society Organizations (CSO's) in voicing the needs of citizens; Parliamentarians in their oversight roles; Opposition parties in keeping track of government performance.

Gender, Youth, Children and Vulnerable Groups

In order to leave no one behind, development needs to happen equally across various segments of society. Even if we have disaggregated data by various vulnerable groups, this alone does not lead to insights that can be used by policy makers and national programmes. Challenging the assumptions of M&E frameworks need to consider the manner in which the different interventions and policies have different effects for women, children, youth and people with disabilities.

Particular attention was brought to tackling child poverty as a precondition for economic growth but most countries do not have this data, which needs to be addressed.



Key Recommendations

- Engaging all relevant stakeholders in participatory research from the beginning (e.g. Civil Society Organizations – CSOs; private sector and direct beneficiaries).
- Government and stakeholders engage in continuous social dialogue as equal partners on the same development agendas with continuous feedback on progress and results.
- Need to appoint qualified practitioners who are responsive and cognizant to the context.
- Identify political champions who can follow resources and inclusive agenda.
- Design policies and frameworks that are customized for different audiences, beneficiaries and context.

Fore-sighting and Modelling for Decision-Making

Reliance on macro-economic models is increasing by governments and international bodies. This allows stakeholder to assess the impact of policies and interventions, however there tends to be limited capacity to develop and make effective use of these models.

The building blocks for modeling were discussed:

1. Precise definitions of the problem, and exogenous and endogenous variables
2. Construct a mathematical model of the problem, situation or economy
3. Solve the model using a multitude of available solvers
4. Implement the solution

While the complexities of reality are a challenge to represent, these tools are still useful.

Key Recommendations

- The integrated national economic model should be in line with economic priorities.
- Gather intelligence about the future and identify emerging strategic opportunities whilst challenging existing models and forecasts.
- Countries should measure the cross-sectoral impact of policies to enhance their understanding of future risks, and should avail analyzed data for decision-making.





M&E is evolving

CLOSING REMARKS

Ms Mpumi Mpofu, Director-General (DG), DPME reminded the delegates that the Indaba provided a platform for dialogue and formulation that addressed the fundamental purpose of monitoring and evaluation systems to improve the quality of citizens – i.e. employment capabilities, opportunities, and conditions; raising standards of living; reducing poverty; and increasing the economic growth. These can be achieved through increasing accountability, efficiency and effectiveness, sustainability and impact.



“Opportunities and challenges of using evidence from M&E to accelerate economic development and employment in Africa.”

WAY FORWARD

Key Indaba resolutions

- There is a need to establish a Governance Framework for collaboration by UN-SA (M&E Group) and DPME.
- Deepening of key strategic areas of common interest.
- Develop a program and implementation framework in the next 6 months that will address the Indaba recommendations; and detail at least three programs to be pursued by various countries under the umbrella of a single agreement. The program should also reflect the role of other key stakeholders.
- The 2nd M&E Indaba should be held in the next 18 – 24 months.



LESSONS LEARNT: The Shared Vision of M&E within the Region

The presentations, debates and discussions highlighted the current state and future potential of Monitoring and Evaluation. It is apparent that M&E can be an invaluable tool for democratic accountability, which would further drive effective development including economic growth and employment. In order to achieve this the following principles need to underlie M&E within the Region:

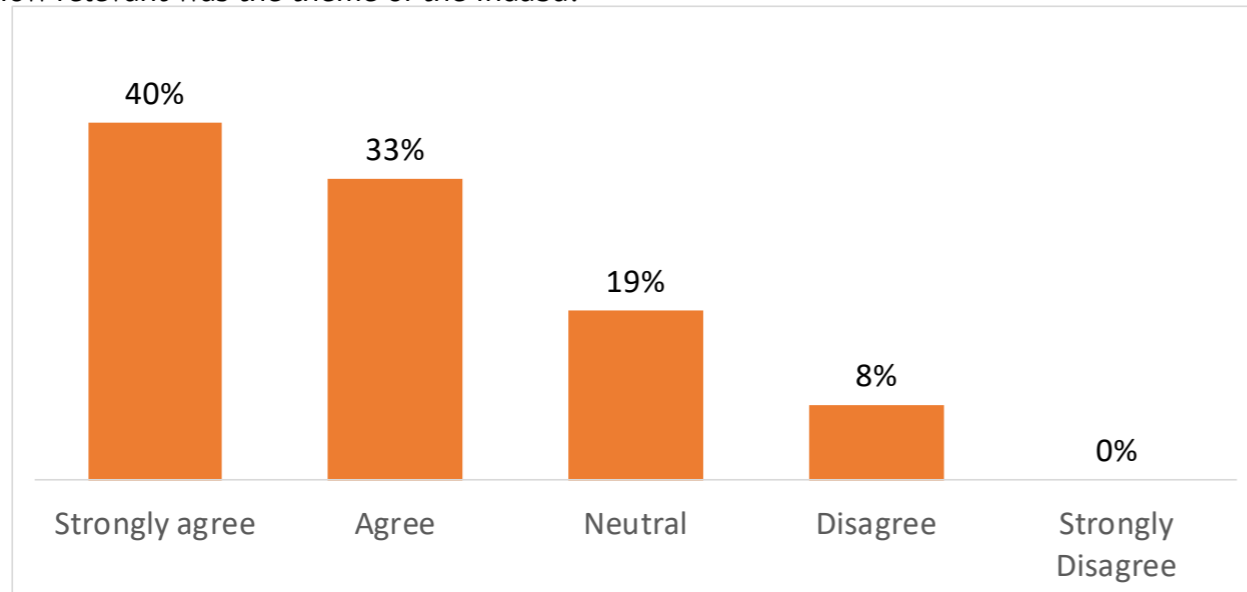
1. Accountability drives M&E
2. Results are the norm
3. Inclusivity is imperative:
4. Data quality is the cornerstone of analysis and decision making
5. M&E is evolving



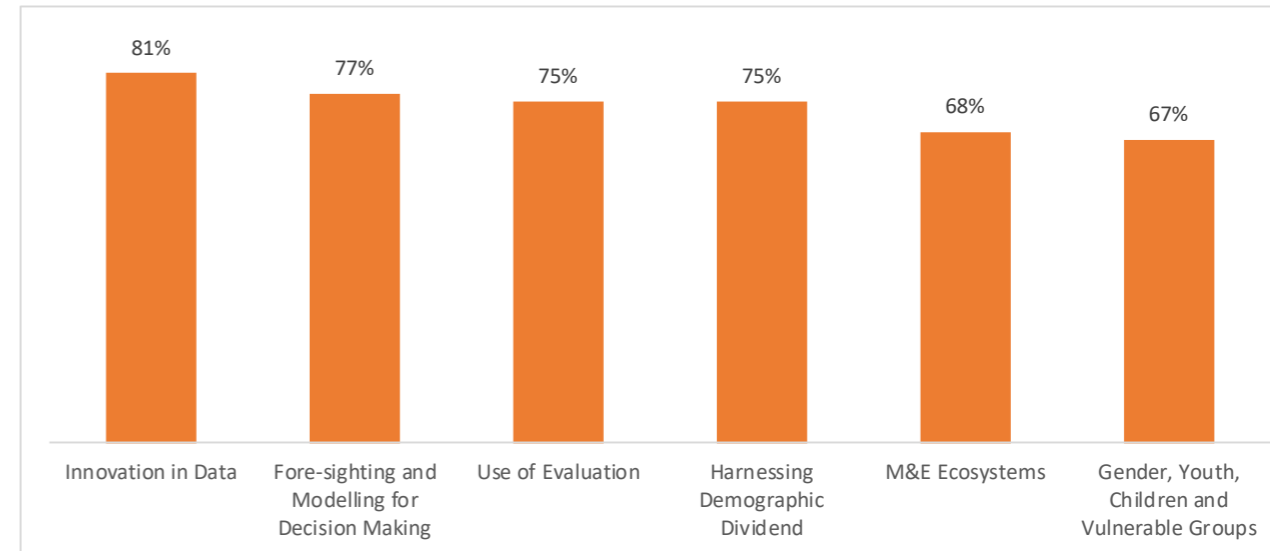
Exceptional and ground breaking!!

It can only become better and better.

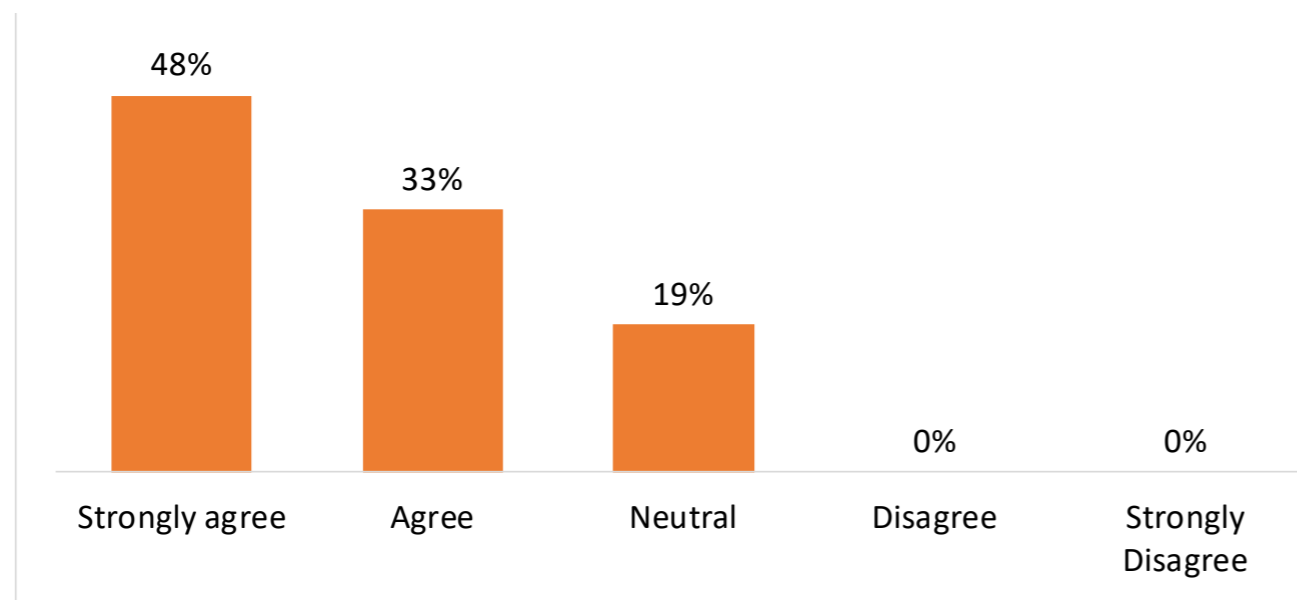
How relevant was the theme of the Indaba?



Which Breakaway session was most appreciated?



The Indaba has helped to improve my knowledge on how M&E can contribute to development



97% felt that there should be another Indaba

Split on frequency:

51% every two years

47% every year

2% every three years

Thank you to the Indaba Partners that made it possible



planning, monitoring
& evaluation

Department:
Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



SOUTH AFRICA



TWENDE MBELE



STATS SA
STATISTICS SOUTH AFRICA



“Opportunities and challenges of using evidence from M&E to accelerate economic development and employment in Africa.”

Thank you to all the organizers



planning, monitoring & evaluation

Department:
Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ms Mpumi Mpofu
Director General

Dr Ntsiki Tshayingca-Mashiya
Deputy Director General

Organising Team

Mr Stanley Ntakumba (Chief Director)

Ms Futhi Umlaw
Ms Ncebakazi Tiwani
Ms Faith Baloyi
Ms Lesego Taunyane
Ms Nthabiseng Mofokeng
Mr Tshepo Mosane

DPME Communications Team
Ms Mmabatho Ramompi
Ms Tshegofatso Modubu
Ms Lerato Maboea
Ms Jesselene Pandaram
Mr Jackson Maila
Mr Thabang Mokgoshi



SOUTH AFRICA

Mr Gana Fofang
Resident Coordinator

Ms Anne Githuku- Shongwe
Representative , UN Women
South Africa Multi-Country Office

Organising Team

Mr Themba Kalua (Chair of UN SA M&E Group)

Mr Cuthbert Kambanje (FAO)
Mr Darryl Crossman (ILO)
Ms Ethel Maringa (RCO)
Ms Noloyiso Tsembeyi (RCO)
Ms Thobela Gceya (UN Women)
Ms Ayako Kubodera (UN Women)
Ms Mamodishe Sebati (UN Women)
Mr Gilles Virgili (UNFPA)
Mr Won Hong (UNICEF)
Mr Osten Chulu (UNDP)
Ms Lindiwe Dhlamini (UNDP)
Ms Fatou Leigh (UNDP)
Mr Fred Shikweni (UNDP)
Ms Buyiswa Mpini (UNESCO)



TWENDE MBELE

Ms Cara Waller
Ms Rendani Manugu



STATS SA

STATISTICS SOUTH AFRICA

Ms Noni Manyathi
Communications Team



National Treasury
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ms Kirsten Pearson
Dr Hermi Boraine



Centers for Learning on Evaluation and Results
ANGLOPHONE AFRICA

Ms Catlin Basler-Mapitsa
Ms Candice Morkel

“Opportunities and challenges of using evidence from M&E to accelerate economic development and employment in Africa.”