

THE INAUGURAL GHANA EVALUATION WEEK



*Ghana's Evaluation Journey: Progress, Challenges & the Way Forward*

22nd – 23rd October 2025

Accra International Conference Centre (AICC)

## 1.0 Introduction and Background

This report provides a summary of the launch of Ghana Evaluation Week from 22 to 23 October 2025 at the Accra International Conference Centre (AICC). The report highlights the key activities and outcomes of the event, delineates challenges and lesson learned, and strategies to institutionalise and enhance the impact of the annual event.

The Inaugural Ghana Evaluation Week represents a significant milestone in Ghana's quest to institutionalize Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) as a cornerstone for accountability, learning, and inclusive development. Ghana has been an active player in the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) space in Africa. The country has implemented various reforms and initiatives as part of the effort to institutionalize the culture and practice of M&E in the public sector. In fact, the institutionalization of M&E in the public sector in Ghana started over three decades ago. The promulgation of the Ghana's 1992 Constitution laid a solid foundation for M&E practice in Ghana. The constitution called for the establishment of a national body, the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), to advise the President on development planning, policies, and strategies. The Civil Service Act, 1993 (Act 327) also requires all MDAs to establish a Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate (PPMED) to coordinate and monitor Government programs at the sector level. Further, the Local Governance Act, 2016 (Act 936) established the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Planning Coordinating Units with M&E functions. The country has further demonstrated strong political commitment and institutional development in M&E systems and recorded notable progress towards strengthening the generation and use of monitoring information and evaluation evidence for decision making, making it a **regional leader and a reference point for best practices**.

With the development and practice of M&E in Ghana came the growth of several allied M&E associations, notable among them being the Ghana Monitoring and Evaluation Forum (GMEF) which was established nearly two decades ago and Development Insights Hub (DIH), the most recent platform to foster M&E capacity building and knowledge sharing among state and non-state actors. These developments have enhanced the M&E architecture of the country. However, one key gap remained in terms of the absence of a harmonized platform and space for systematic and coherent capacity building and comprehensive knowledge sharing and publicity of M&E practice and development in Ghana.

It is on the basis of the above that the Development Insights Hub (DIH) in partnership with the Ghana Monitoring and Evaluation Forum (GMEF), the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), international partners such as UNICEF, AfrEA, UNFPA, and Twende

Mbele, and other local M&E actors came together to launch the Ghana Evaluation Week as a reliable and inclusive platform to promote the supply, demands and use of evaluation evidence for decision making in Ghana and beyond.

## 2.0 Purpose and Value of the Ghana Evaluation Week

The Ghana Evaluation Week, the first of its kind in the country, is a platform to promote evaluation culture and practice by fostering dialogue, knowledge sharing and networking. It is aimed at creating an inclusive and user-friendly space for continuous learning and improvement of evaluation practices in Ghana. The forum is geared towards strengthening the demand, supply, and use of evaluation evidence for decision making across Ghana. The Evaluation Week is intended to bring together policy makers, academia, media, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), private sector, students, M&E practitioners, and other allied stakeholders to engage and share ideas on M&E issues, practices, and innovations.

### Specific Objectives

Specifically, the Evaluation Week is intended to:

- raise awareness and promote knowledge sharing on M&E practices, trends, and innovations with the goal of increasing the demand, generation, and use of evidence to improve development and impact of public policies and programmes;
- improve the knowledge and skills of M&E practitioners and other stakeholders on how to develop and operationalize M&E frameworks, tools, and approaches both from the demand and the supply side.
- strengthen M&E networks by convening and connecting policymakers, civil society organisations, academics, evaluation practitioners, students, and the media around pertinent M&E issues.

## 3.0 Participation

The Inaugural Ghana Evaluation Week attracted **over 500** participants ( 400 in person and 100 online) from diverse sectors. The participants comprised of about 66% males and 34% females. The two-day even brought together key stakeholders from government institutions, academia, local and international non-governmental and non-profit organisations, the media, and development partners. The strong turnout reflected the high interest and growing national commitment to strengthening Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) as a tool for transparency, accountability and learning for development impact. It also shows the value proposition and the tremendous opportunity to mobilize and empower a critical mass of the citizenry to actively

participate in Ghana's development process and ultimately optimize the effectiveness and impact of government policies and programs.

Participation in the launch of the Ghana Evaluation week was broad based and comprised of both Ghanaian and foreign national who joined physically or via the online link. Some of the specific institutions that were represented included the following:

- Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs)
- Academia and research institutions (e.g., ISSER, GIMPA, DIWA, other universities)
- Development Insights Hub 9DIH
- Ghana Monitoring and Evaluation Forum (GMEF)
- Civil society organizations and local NGOs
- Development partners (UNICEF, UNFPA, Twende Mbele, AfrEA, ICED,)
- Media organizations and journalists (Joy News, GJA, NMC, GNA, Adom Fm)
- Private sector representatives and independent evaluators
- Members of the Young Evaluators Community of Practice (YECOP)

## 5.0 Outcomes and Key Highlights of the event

The Evaluation Week offered significant benefits to the event participants and the national M&E ecosystem by stimulating knowledge sharing, promoting evidence-based decision-making, and strengthening the demand, supply and use of evaluation evidence to improve the design, development, implementation and impact of government policies and programs.

Specifically, the launch of Ghana Evaluation week has created:

- **Enduring and reliable platform for learning from experience, connecting with experts, sharing best practices, and improving evaluation practice:** The event brought together state and non-state actors to discuss and reflect on critical M&E issues. The forum facilitate deep and honest deliberations on the critical constraints and opportunities for stimulating the demand, supply and use of evaluation evidence decision making along the national policy and program value chains.
- **Forum for continuous capacity development for young evaluators and M&E practitioners in Ghana:** The launch of the Ghana Evaluation Week on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and the follow-up training session on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025 signified the establishment of an avenue for consistent training for young evaluators and other M&E actors. The initial focus on evaluation methodologies and approaches and application of AI for evaluations has set the stage for follow-up training for young evaluators and other actors in the coming months.
- **An enduring platform for collaboration, partnership, and knowledge sharing among M&E stakeholders:** The design, development and launch of the Evaluation Week brought together state and non-state institutions such as DIH, GMEF, NDPC,

UNICEF, AfrEA, Twende Mbele and other M&E actors in Ghana within the Ghana M&E ecosystem. The demonstrated collaboration and partnerships established through the event is clear evidence of a reliable mechanism for harnessing the capabilities and interest of policy makers, development practitioners, and other stakeholders to deepen M&E in Ghana.

- A space for continuous advocacy and mobilization of support for effective generation and use of evaluation findings to inform decision making: The launch of the Ghana Evaluation Week has set the stage for a more reliable and harmonized effort and energy for promoting advocacy in the conduct and use of evaluation for decision making Ghana. The event brought together diverse partners and served as platform to harness and leverage the capabilities of key M&E actors promote the demand, supply and use of M&E in Ghana.
- **Enhance Technical Preparedness:**  
Organizers should ensure that all presentations are tested beforehand to avoid technical hitches. Where sessions involve virtual participation, a hybrid model, combining in-person facilitation with pre-recorded backup versions which could help mitigate connection or sound issues.
- **Incorporate Exhibition Stands:**  
Participants suggested that subsequent Evaluation Weeks should include **exhibition stands** where evaluators, institutions, and organizations can showcase their ongoing projects, tools, and research outputs. This would promote peer learning, networking, and cross-institutional collaboration within the evaluation community.
- There should be an opportunity for paper presentations by both evaluation experts and young emerging evaluators to enhance synergy and learning.

## 6.0 Conclusion

The Inaugural Ghana Evaluation Week was a resounding success, establishing a collaborative platform for reflection, learning, and forward action. It reaffirmed Ghana's commitment to evidence-based decision-making, enhanced accountability, and inclusive national development. Moving forward, the recommendations and resolutions derived from this event will serve as guiding principles for strengthening the country's evaluation ecosystem and promoting transparency and performance in governance.

## Annex 1: Event Structure

The two-day program was structured to blend a series of activities comprising of:

- **Opening and Welcome Session** - keynote address by invited guest
- **Keynote Address , Official Launch of the Ghana Evaluation Week and Handing-over of the EvalTorch.**
- **Two Roundtable Discussions** -focused on Ghana’s evaluation journey and the role of media in promoting evidence-based discourse, which was coupled with a question- and-answer session.
- **Certificate Presentation Ceremony** - recognizing mentees of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cohort of DIH’s YECOP program.
- **Capacity-Building Workshops** - focused on *child-centric evaluation* and *emerging technologies in M&E*.
- **Closing Ceremony** - with a vote of thanks and summary of key resolutions.

### 3.1 Day 1: Setting the Tone for Ghana’s Evaluation Future:

- The event opened with Prof. Peter Quartey, Board Chairman of DIH, who commended the collaboration between DIH, NDPC, and GMEF. He highlighted the importance of deepening evaluation practices across Ghana’s governance system.
- Mr. Kwabena Agyei-Boakye, Founder of DIH, emphasized that the Evaluation Week would become a permanent national platform promoting evidence-based policy and inclusive development. He also highlighted the need to advocate for evaluation in other areas, especially at the local level of governance structure.
- Mr. Michael Bekoe who represented the Government Statistician highlighted the importance of quality, reliable and timely for evidence-based decision making. Touching on some of the measures put in place by the Ghana Statistical Service to ensure the generation of relevant data in a timely manner, he indicated the need for synergy and stronger collaboration among the actors in the M&E space to ensure that we improve the generation and use of evaluation evidence to support government policies and programs.
- Dr. Evans Aggrey Darkoh (Head of Civil Service) in his remark said that the event could not have been organised at a better time than now. He that highlighted that this is what the country needs to close the loop of the evaluation cycle. To him evaluation was extremely important endeavour and critically important tool for advancing Ghana’s “Reset Agenda.” He pledged his office commitment to support the initiative and his willingness to collaborate with the organisers especially DIH to push forward the capacity building initiative for Young Evaluators in Ghana.
- Mrs. Dede bedu Addo (GMEF President) indicated the excitement of GMEF to be part of Ghana’s M&E journey and especially the organisation of the launch of Ghana Evaluation week. She highlighted GMEF’s contribution to the institutionalization of M&E in Ghana including supporting the development of M&E Policy for the country that is yet to be officially launched. She called for increased collaborative effort among the key M&E actors in Ghana to ensure that the gains are sustained.
- Mr. Osama Khogali (UNICEF Ghana), in his special remarks, noted Ghana’s progress in institutionalizing M&E but highlighted the need for improved coordination and private sector collaboration. He highlighted that the challenges of funding and poor collaboration

are a hindrance to evaluation progress and need to be looked at. He also encouraged that, as a country, we should develop a robust Monitoring and evaluation framework and policy. He highlighted that we should not only be interested in collecting data but also use that to inform decision-making and make reforms.

- Mr. Stephen Ampem Darko ( representing the Director of Twende Mbele) thanked the government for the opportunity to partner with Ghana. She underscored the role of peer learning among African governments in enhancing service delivery through M&E. She highlighted that M&E can be used as a tool for improvement in service delivery, and governments across Africa can learn from each other's success stories to make improvements in their evaluation structures.
- Dr. Emilly Maphambo (Deputy Country Director, UNFPA) gave an address on behalf of the UN Resident Coordinator. She highlighted the importance of evaluation, emphasizing how it helps identify what works to enable institutions to focus on results. She admonished that Monitoring and Evaluation must not be seen as a technical exercise but a strategic tool to use to inform decision-making. She announced that the United Nations, through the Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Ghana (2023-2025), is working closely with national institutions to promote data-driven policy making, inclusive planning, and results-based management in the country.

### **Keynote Address**

Delivered by Prof. Robert Darko Osei (ISSER), the keynote centered on *“Evaluation as a Driver of Fiscal and Development Accountability.”* Prof. Darko Osei mentioned the importance of learning from evaluation in every sector by repeating a quote by the Head of Civil Service, “Enthusiasm alone does not grow cassava”. He urged government institutions to use evaluation to determine “what works and what doesn’t and why,” and to prioritize value for money in all development interventions. He discussed how evaluation can be used to determine the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and impact of projects. The process of evaluation is critical for development and can build trust among stakeholders. He also highlighted the role of some government agencies, like the budget committee of the parliament auditor general’s reports, and the roles the fiscal council plays in championing evaluation efforts in the country. He concluded by recommending that the government ensure effectiveness before projects and ensure value for money in all spending for us to address the structural fiscal challenges we face.

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### **Panel Discussion 1: Ghana’s Evaluation Journey**

Moderated by Mr. Richard Laryea this session examined Ghana’s M&E architecture, looking at how some agencies have been going about evaluation and what could be done to promote evaluation in the country.

- Ms. Dede Bedu-Addo (President, Ghana Monitoring and Evaluation Forum) highlighted the role GMEF plays in fostering collaboration within the evaluation ecosystem and emphasized the use of local evaluators and tools to ensure that evaluation outcomes and processes are tailored to fit into the perspective of Africa.
- Mr. Nirav Shah (UNICEF) highlighted how evaluation functions at UNICEF, as they work with systems and support strong capacity building and how to work together to ensure accountability by bringing stakeholders together to build confidence,

- Prof. Charles Amoatey (Director for Development Impact West Africa) stated that the MTD plan, since 1992, has been supported by M&E, which was started by the NDPC with a constitution. He spoke on how the agency has been collaborating with the government since 2019 to ensure that researchers are paired with government agencies and ministries. Prof. Amoatey suggested the need to strengthen the NDPC by driving the M&E system like the ICT silos. He stated that NDPC must ensure that all government-funded projects are evaluated to ensure that we get good returns on all investments. He concluded that until we can fund our projects, we cannot utilize M&E.
- Mr. Paul..... representing NDPC gave an overview on the work that has been going on at the commission to ensure effective M& E. He stated that moving forward without a clear approval from the commission on the plan of ministries and agencies like the MMDAs the ministry of finance will not approve funding. He also spoke on challenges like capacity gap, funding cuts and red taping which affects evaluation efforts in the country.

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### Panel Discussion 2: The Role of Media in Evaluation Reporting

Moderated by Mr. Richard Otoo, the session focused on promoting public accountability through the media and the role the media could play in championing evaluation in the country.

- Mrs. Rebecca Ekpe (Vice President, Ghana Journalist Association, GJA) indicated that M&E is **not explicitly a stand-alone module** in their training, but that they incorporate investigative journalism training, which requires fact-finding and evidence. She expressed openness to partnership from relevant stakeholders in training and rewarding journalists whose work are related to monitoring and evaluation.
- Prof. Kwame Karikari highlighted the extent to which evaluation findings are reported in the media and how media and oversight bodies, such as the Auditor-General's Office, can reinforce transparency. He spoke about how the media is failing to monitor issues at the district level, like how they spend. He acknowledged that some media houses are important because they host programs of current affairs with evidence. He mentioned that the evaluation required some expertise and that our media is polarized. He suggested that those in the media should be discerning and make sure to bring professional editors on board to help prepare their members in the newsrooms.
- Mr. George Sarpong, the executive secretary of National Media Commission, spoke about the inadequate resource in terms of both funding and personnels which undermine the work of journalist to do intensive evaluations
- Mrs. Patience Agyare-Ashie highlighted the need to strengthen institutional collaborations and building capacity of journalists in the country. She highlighted the relevance of empowering journalist with the requisite knowledge and skills to be able to report M&E findings in user friendly manner.

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### Presentation of Certificates – DIH Mentee Program (YECOP)

Certificates were awarded to the 1st Cohort of 23 young males and females evaluators who had successfully gone through five month rigorous hands-on training in monitoring and evaluation mentoring program organized by the Development Insights Hub (DIH) after completing.

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### **3.1.2 Day 2: Deepening Learning and Capacity Building**

#### **➤ Presentation on the INCE Project**

Ms. Sarah Adjei and Ms. Patience Ampomah from NDPC presented the Integrated National Capacity Enhancement (INCE) Project, which seeks to strengthen institutional M&E capacity, improve data interoperability, and enhance planning alignment across sectors.

#### **➤ Workshop I – Making Evidence Work for Children**

UNICEF led a though provoking presentation on “ Making Evidence Work for Children”. The training was facilitated by Savera Hamzeeva and Samuel Debrah, the session focused on designing *child-centric evaluations* that include children’s perspectives and use participatory methods to ensure inclusive outcomes. The session was interactive and enabled participants to ask question and seek clarification on the underlying conceptual and methodologies related to the child centric evaluation.

#### **➤ Workshop II – Emerging Technologies for M&E**

This section sought to highlight some of the emerging AI tools for evaluation. Facilitated by Mr. Isaac Kofi Maafo and Mr. Stephen Atimbere, the session explored Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), and Big Data applications in M&E. Participants examined digital tools for data collection, analysis, and visualization. The session included questions and answers and storytelling sessions that allowed the participants to have a deeper insight on the possibilities and challenges with the use of AI as it pertains to evaluation.

#### **➤ Closing Ceremony**

The launch was concluded with closing remarks from Mrs. Dede Bedu- Addo and Mr. Kwabena Agyei-Boakye, who expressed gratitude to all stakeholders and reaffirmed DIH’s commitment to sustaining Ghana Evaluation Week as an annual knowledge-sharing platform.

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## **4.0 Key Takeaways**

Below are the key takeaways from the two-day event:

- Renewed commitment to strengthen Ghana’s M&E architecture and coordination mechanisms.
- Consensus on the need for sustainable funding models for evaluation.
- Agreement to deepen collaboration between M&E institutions and the media.
- Institutionalization of Ghana Evaluation Week as an annual event.
- Enhance collaboration between government, civil society, academia, and private sector actors in evaluation activities.

- Strengthen capacity-building initiatives for M&E professionals, journalists, and local government officials.
- Improve data sharing and interoperability among public institutions for unified reporting and decision-making.