

EVALSDGs Vice Co-Chair Election

Jennifer Mutua: Personal Motivation Statement

June 2020



With a passion for promoting evidence-driven socio-economic growth (owing to its great transformative potential), in 2017, I was runner-up winner of the African Evidence Network (AEN) Africa leadership award. Am founder and immediate former chair of the Evaluation Society of Kenya (ESK). I was AFREA's Eastern Africa board representative between 2012 and 2017. Further, I represented AFREA in the IOCE/EvalPartners Management Group in 2013. My work experiences as M&E/Program/Gender expert are at national, regional and global levels.

All these engagements have not only sharpened my evaluation expertise and knowledge of its landscape, but empowered me with a very strong understanding of the SDGs. Related to that is a strong knowledge of the SDGs alignment to national priorities and linkages to M&E (including the mainstreaming of social equity, gender and climate change issues).

I hold an MA in Gender and Development Studies. Augmenting this are various evaluation professional trainings, including the *"Executive Leadership Programme in Evaluation and the SDGs"*. Below are key highlights demonstrating some achievements and commitment towards EvalSDGs' objectives, purpose and ways of working on my part:

- I. Through my mobilization efforts as ESK chair and its joint Monitoring & Evaluation Department's (MED) collaborations, 2015 EvalYear was celebrated in Kenya.
- II. Following that under my stewardship, Kenya was identified among the EvalSDGs "Spotlights", for global learning and experience-sharing towards the promotion of the evaluation of the SDGs.

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- III. In 2018 under my watch, Kenya was recognized as the winner of the EvalSDGs Global Competition. Specifically, for promoting the EvalSDGs agenda through a multi-stakeholder approach involving Government, ESK, Parliament, Academia and other development partners (e.g. the World Bank).
- IV. The efforts are towards the strengthening of the National Integrated Monitoring & Evaluation System (NIMES) and County Integrated Monitoring & Evaluation System (CIMES), while at the same time giving ESK national visibility and relevance. The Systems track the implementation of the *Vision 2030* and its alignment to the SDGs. They are coordinated by MED. Some of the key achievements under the MED/ESK collaborations through my mobilization efforts (i.e., before and after the EvalSDGs win), within a national context of weak M&E culture and practice are:
 - In 2016/2017, with UN Women/EvalPartners funding support, EvalSDGs agenda advocacy events launched in Kenya at national and devolved levels.
 - During that, action plans consultatively drawn and are now under implementation through a national stakeholders' network Technical Working Group (TWG), chaired by MED with ESK as the Secretariat.
 - Under this, e.g. in 2019, we got World Bank funding support towards a pilot evaluation capacity building project for 2 Counties, with potential for replication.
 - Parliamentary advocacy including strong representation of Kenya at the 2018 EvalColombo Global Parliamentary Forum.
 - Ongoing consultative review of existing national standard M&E curriculum, expected to inform the professionalization process of M&E.
 - Plans are underway for UNICEF Kenya and Daystar University to support a secretariat for ESK as most of these work has been on a voluntary basis.

I believe I have what it takes to be co-vice chair. That includes bringing some of the added- value of the above experiences to the EvalSDGs management team. Specifically, towards taking the evidence agenda to the next level, globally. Significantly, at a time when among other challenges, the climate change and COVID-19 devastating socio-economic impacts, present strategic opportunities for the EvalSDGs agenda to make a difference. Not only towards their response and Post-Recovery through evidence, but also towards potential "never-before-experienced" socio-economic transformation. I am non-political. I stepped down from ESK chair position in Dec 2019. Hence, I have ample time for this role.

Vote for Me!