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Volume 1, Number 4
Fall 2017

Message from the President: Lennise Baptiste



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Congratulations to the Newsletter Team for another great offering which features two new contributors who are also members. Taitu Heron, Gender and Development Specialist, reports on Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy which was presented recently in Jamaica. Ivan Somlai--who has more than 30 years of experience monitoring projects in the Caribbean region, Central and South America, Africa and Asia--focuses on the value of unannounced monitoring. In this newsletter, Claudia Nicholson, VP, Evaluation Practice and Consortium, writes about the Theory of Change, and her article is complemented by Ann-Murray Brown who provides some insight about software that can be used to define the theory of change for your project. Valerie Gordon, VP Research and Publications, captures the highlights of the Caribbean Action 2030 Conference on Advancing SDGs, held in Jamaica in the summer.

The importance of employing evaluation methodology that reflects how we as evaluation professionals undertake our work in the global south is highlighted in the presentation of the second set of results from the survey: Made in Africa Evaluation Framework - Perspectives from members of the Caribbean Evaluators International Network which was administered to CEI members in April 2017.

Finally, in this edition, we say thank you to Molly Hamm-Rodríguez who has acted as country representative for the Dominican Republic for the past 3 years, but recently relinquished the position to return to the US to further her studies; she is our Feature Member in this edition. We also recognise our three UN volunteers: Joseph Oche and Marcin Golebiowski (website developers) and Ainelén Bortolozzo, our Spanish translator.

We invite members to send comments to

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Caribbean Action 2030: A Benchmark Conference for Advancing the SDGs in the Caribbean

By: Valerie Gordon, Vice President, Research and Publications



UNDP photo : Jamaican Prime Minister The Most Hon. Andrew Holness, right centre, and Professor Jeffrey Sachs, left centre, hold the No Poverty SDG sign joined by participants of Caribbean Action 2030

The government of Jamaica and the University of the West Indies, Mona with support from UNDP Jamaica, recently hosted a Regional Conference - Caribbean Action 2030, from 28-30 June 2017, in order to accelerate regional action on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Jamaica's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith, chaired the conference, and was joined by a number of senior government Ministers from other Caribbean countries (Belize, Grenada, Guyana, St Kitts & Nevis and St Lucia).

The conference was a forum for discussion on how to guide action on the SDGs in the region. A draft Partnership Framework Agreement was endorsed by several Caribbean countries, containing specific undertakings to accelerate action and recommendations from youth in the areas of resource mobilization, civil society engagement, research and capacity building. It is to be further reviewed by the participating countries before signing.

Among the many highlights of the conference was the presentation on the SDSN Sustainable Development Goals Index and Dashboard[1] which will monitor implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the region. It has been noted by the Annual Global SDG Report (2016) that out of 16 Caribbean small island developing states (SIDS), 10 were not featured due to a lack of available data.

The Caribbean Policy Research Institute (CaPRI) presented its findings on data gaps for SDG evaluation and monitoring in Caribbean SIDS. The study was carried out in partnership with the Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD), UWI, and focused on a limited number of countries that could quickly make progress towards efficient monitoring of the SDG goals. Four CARICOM countries (Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica, St Kitts & Nevis, and St Lucia) were selected according to criteria, such as data sets already available, response rate, and willingness to accommodate on-the-ground interviews. As a result of the study, all four countries made significant strides towards monitoring their progress, with St Lucia achieving the benchmark of 80% of data collected to be included in the next Global Annual Report; the other 3 countries averaged 73%. The study highlighted the need for statistical capacity building, robust data collection and information systems in the region.

The UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, Ms. Jessica Faieta, and the United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Jamaica, Bruno Pouezat, recognised that key areas of concern to the region in the SDG era are the needs of those often left behind first, especially women, youth, elderly, children and indigenous peoples. They assured the governments and the peoples of this region of continued support for their efforts, and to uphold the Global 2030 Agenda commitment to 'Leave No One Behind'.

Caribbean Evaluators International (CEI) was not to be left out and participated in this Regional Conference. Through its national charter Voluntary Organization of Professional Evaluators (VOPE) in Jamaica, the CEI showcased its activities in the region as well as its work aligned to the SDGs. CEI members hosted a booth where over 100 visitors were given information about the organisation and monitoring and evaluation. The CEI Board especially thanks members of the SDG Conference Planning Committee in Jamaica, as well as CEI members who attended the various sessions over the duration of the Conference.

Recorded streaming of the live conference sessions can be found at <http://www.caribbeanaction2030.com/live-streaming>

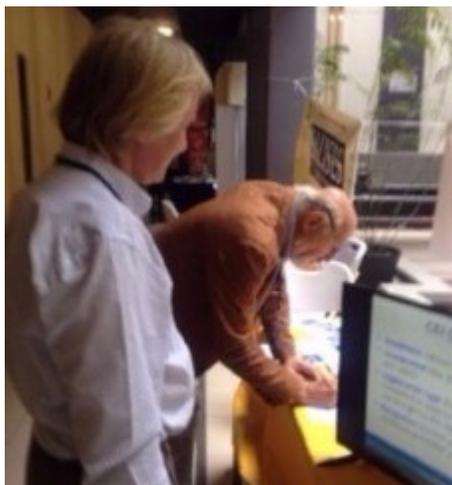
References:

1.UNDP, July 7, 2017: Caribbean Action 2030 Framework Agreement endorsed by Region's Ministers

<http://www.jm.undp.org/content/jamaica/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2017/07/06/caribbean-action-2030-framework-agreement-endorsed-by-region-s-ministers-.html>

2. Jamaica Gleaner July 17, 2017: CAPRI Progresses Towards Further SDG Monitoring In The Caribbean

[1] See also <http://www.sdgindex.org/>



CEI Member, Jan Voordouw and a visitor at the CEI booth



CEI members and visitors stop by the booth for a photo



A Brief Note on Gender, Development and Feminist Evaluation

By: Taitu Heron, Gender & Development Specialist, UNDP Jamaica, CEI Member

Earlier this year, Canada's new "Feminist International Assistance Policy" was presented at a public forum in Kingston, Jamaica, by Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development, Mrs. Celina Caesar-Chavannes. The policy, geared toward promoting gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, is seen by the government of Canada as the most effective approach to reduce poverty, enhance an equitable form of capitalism and to promote peace.

Mrs. Caesar Chavannes elaborated the six priority areas of the policy: (1) gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; (2) human dignity, with an emphasis on health, nutrition, education and humanitarian action; (3) inclusive growth with emphasis on climate smart agriculture, green technologies and renewable energy; (4) environment and climate action; (5) inclusive governance, democracy, human rights and the rule of law; and (6) peace and security, particularly combating gender-based violence and advancing peace processes[i]. The boldness of this approach and its multidimensional focus has implications for monitoring and evaluating progress and development outcomes of programmes and projects within specific geographic and development conditions. This feminist adaptation to Canada's international assistance policy behooves Caribbean development

practitioners and evaluators to consider 'feminist evaluation', a specialization that is not yet well-known in the region (a gendered approach to evaluation is more familiar).

Feminist evaluation, like other approaches, is concerned with measuring the effectiveness of programmes and projects, examining their merit or worth and looking at forms of data indicating specific change (Podems, 2014). A gendered approach to evaluation generates evidence that can influence the outcomes of policies and programmes that are sensitive to the differential needs of both men and women. A feminist lens is similar in this regard, but additionally deliberately deconstructs gender and other social constructs, and focuses more on why and what structures and systems impede women's advancement. Programmes are designed to alleviate historical bias against women within systems, structures and ways of knowing.

The gendered approach does not necessarily have the intention to disrupt structures or patriarchal ways of knowing. Rather, it exposes inequalities and biases, and pays attention to the relationships and differentiated needs and interests among and between men and women that may hinder the advancement of both.

Analyzing gender often allows a broader picture of the relations among human groups and their environments. It gets to the heart of the distribution of power, land, services and resources based on race, gender, ethnicity, class, religion, sexual orientation, age, disability, and so on. Feminism adds a political edge, highlighting women's subordination with a clear intention to disrupt patriarchal structures as a way to advance the position of women. Podems (2014) advises that choosing a feminist evaluation approach needs careful consideration and is to be based on cultural, social and technical appropriateness within a given context.

Canada's new feminist international assistance policy is poised to offer opportunities for positive development outcomes in targeted projects and programmes across the Caribbean. This implies that development practitioners, including M&E specialists, may have to become more versatile and expand their tools and competencies. Also, such approaches need to be tailored to Caribbean ideas and visions.

References

<http://feministevaluation.org/>

http://www.betterevaluation.org/en/themes/feminist_evaluation

Podems, Donna R. (2010). "Feminist Evaluation and Gender Approaches: There's a Difference?", *Journal of Multidisciplinary Evaluation*- Vol. 6 (14). Access here: https://www.wcasa.org/file_open.php?id=876

Canada's Feminist Assistance Policy, Government of Canada. Access here: http://international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/priorities-priorites/policy-politique.aspx?lang=eng#3

[i] More on the policy is found at goo.gl/4h2ET2

The Value of Unannounced Monitoring

By: Ivan Somlai, CEI Member



Every project should have built-in monitoring and evaluation. Participatory evaluative processes are—or should be—common in serious development projects and are rightly the “gold standard” to aspire to. Such modalities would have a predetermined composition of teams that are representative of the donor, implementer, host executing agency as well as the beneficiaries. Such a team process is ideal, and essential, if one desires or requires perspectives and recommendations from all key stakeholders in a participatory way, especially if there is to be a clear, interdisciplinary implementation.

There are, however, circumstances wherein such forethoughts cannot be embedded, or may be overlooked during the planning stage: projects of very short duration, projects that have relatively small budgets, or projects that have insufficient staff to keep abreast of the project’s progress. The reader can — as do I! —rationalise that if adequate monitoring cannot be built into a project, then perhaps that project should not be started in the first place. However, such projects have been—and are—underway in many countries. Two such scenarios, funded by a bilateral donor through its Embassy as well as its Consulate, I was asked to monitor and evaluate.

From the roughly nine years of disbursements for 95 projects in multiple sectors throughout the country, I selected (in view of the limited timeframe) 17 projects for investigation, representative of geographic dispersal, sectoral variety, already-identified major concerns with particular projects as well as a combination of completed and still operational projects.

A conscious decision was taken by me —and agreed to by the donor—to not announce beforehand my arrival at the selected projects. We even agreed that I would not inform any donor staff (as some were involved directly or peripherally with projects through personal connections), although we did agree to my letting the Consul know my whereabouts for safety’s sake. Naturally this resulted in some limitations (e.g. some staff were not present when I arrived, certain people involved had to be traced by a lot of walking, project documentation was at times unavailable on site), but it nonetheless presented a more realistic setting at each project site.

This format of unannounced visits had been germinating in my mind from previous experience with multi-country monitoring and evaluations of projects where funding agencies and hosts were aware that an evaluation was imminent, what was to be assessed and which eminent persons were arriving. Within such an aforementioned context, most project sites had been well-prepared, with flowers for the incoming monitors/evaluators, selected locals effusively praising the project and lauding the donor, and the overall creation of an artistic mirage of success, all undoubtedly leading to recommendations for continuance of the worthwhile project.

My preferred approach, therefore, was to walk unannounced into all project sites. As I approached each site, I stopped at roadside tea shops or stores or just chatted with passers-by on the trail to gain knowledge about the project and its effects within the surrounding communities. I found this process immensely effective in learning and gauging project reality. Through informal but careful dialogue, a certain understanding could be garnered as to knowledge of the project by residents in surrounding communities and perspectives about the project by various and potential stakeholders. In this way, before arriving at the project ‘headquarters’, I obtained useful background to help shape the more intensive on-site assessment.

This modality is a desirable option within the life of any project, but especially in contexts wherein donor, executor or local culture may be historically known or suspected to tolerate obfuscation in implementation and

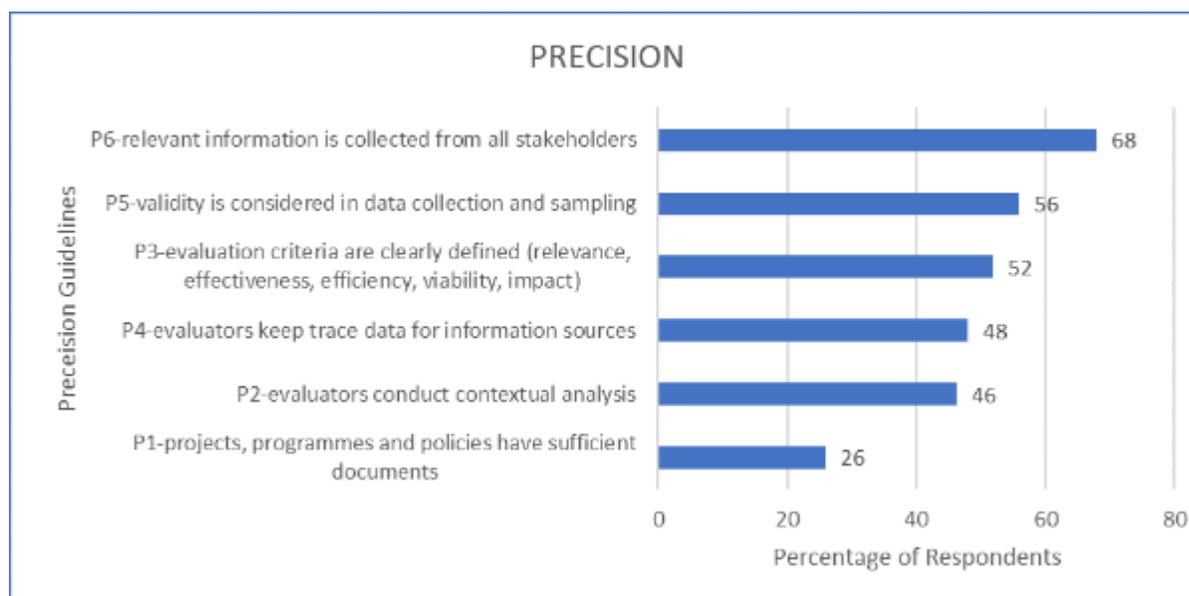
related documentation. More precise insight could be obtained via direct correspondence with me.

MA'AT: The Quest for Truth and justice

In February 2017, a survey was administered to CEI members, which focused on the evaluation guidelines identified in the Made in Africa Evaluation (MAE) Framework. There was a 33% response rate and the results presented here must be considered indicative as they represent the views of 33% of the CEI members and not 33% of the total number of persons working in the evaluation field in the Caribbean region.

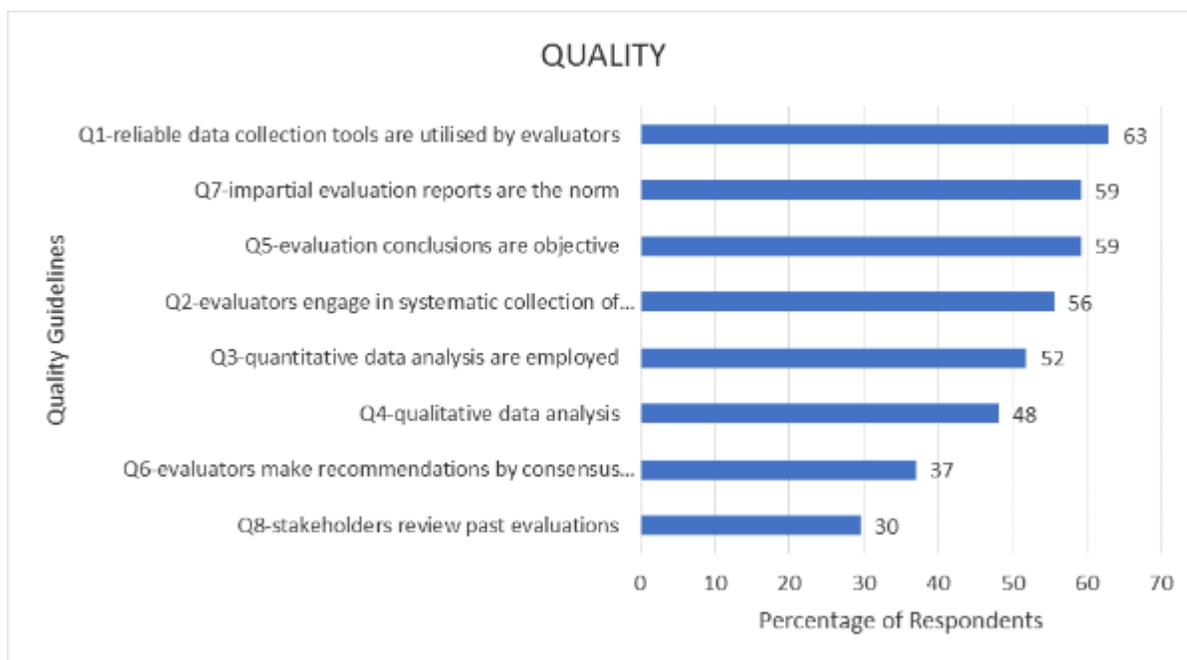
The MAE Framework comprises guidelines in five areas: (1) utility - to ensure that the information needs are met; (2) feasibility - to ensure useful, participatory, realistic and efficient practices; (3) precision - to ensure the collection and use of technically relevant data; (4) quality – to ensure the validity and reliability of information resulting from evaluation; and (5) respect and ethics – to safeguard the respect of legal and ethical rules as well as the well-being of stakeholders involved in the evaluation or affected by its findings. Additionally, the understanding of Nommo (knowledge creation), Ma'at (justice, truth, interrogating processes), and Ubuntu (togetherness, collaboration, consensus building) in African culture (Chilisa 2015) are essential to correctly apply the MAE guidelines.

The focus of this article is the frequency of the observation by the CEI respondents of the cultural element of MA'AT in the practice of evaluations in the Caribbean region. In the analysis of results, MA'AT is linked to the precision and quality (PQ) guidelines in the MAE Framework and therefore the use of technically sound data collection and analysis processes to respond to evaluation questions and to provide unique insight about the implementation context.



Respondents used a seven-point nominal scale with end-points of 1-Not common to 7-Very common to indicate the frequency of their observations of the implementation of the PQ guidelines in the Caribbean. Among the survey respondents, 68% agreed that focus on collecting relevant information from all stakeholders (P6) was frequently implemented in the region. Guidelines P5-valid data collection and sampling, P3-having clearly defined criteria, P4-keeping the trace data from information sources and P2-conducting contextual analyses were perceived as practiced in the Caribbean by 56%, 52%, 48% and 46% of the respondents respectively. Therefore, on average among the respondents, 50% agreed that guidelines P5, P4, P3 and P2 were being

followed in the region. There was agreement among the respondents that the least observed PQ guideline among the respondents was that projects, programmes and policies have sufficient documentation to trace the processes of needs assessment and decision making.



Among the respondents 63% agreed that reliable data collection tools were being employed (Q1); 59% agreed that impartial evaluation reports are the norm (Q7); 59% agreed that evaluation conclusions are objective (Q5); and 56% agreed that evaluators utilise systematic data collection practices (Q2). Quantitative data analysis (Q3-52%) was employed slightly more than qualitative data analysis (Q4-48%). When the essence of MA'AT (truth and justice) are considered, the respondents agreed that in the region evaluators making recommendations based on consensus (Q6-37%) and integrating stakeholders' reviews of past evaluations (Q8-30%) into recommendations are not common practices.

References

Chilisa, Bagele (2015). A Synthesis Paper on the Made in Africa Evaluation Concept: Commissioned by African Evaluation Association (AfrEA). University of Botswana, Chilisab@mopipi.ub.b

African Evaluation Guidelines and Evaluation in the Caribbean. Report of February 2017 survey of CEI members presented at the South-South Convening, of evaluation association in the global south held in Kampala, Uganda, March 27 and 28, 2017

What is a Theory of Change?

By: Claudia Nicholson, Vice President, Evaluation Practice



Evaluators are often called upon to develop a Theory of Change or critique one prepared by someone else, given that it usually forms the basis of a results-based evaluation. So, what is a Theory of Change? In simple terms, a theory of change is an illustration depicting how an initiative (programme, project, or policy) is supposed to bring about its intended changes. In other words, it lays out the assumptions, logical chain of events, the environment, and interrelationships required to achieve the stated results.

A Theory of Change should consist of a diagram and a narrative description. The illustration should provide a clear visualization of the initiative, and how the expected results will be achieved. Normally, this means identifying the interrelationships of inputs, activities, outputs and outcomes.

The Theory of Change should be able to answer some basic questions^[1]:

1. Is the illustration an accurate depiction of the initiative?
2. Are there any gaps in the logical chain of events?
3. Are the relationships shown plausible?
4. Is it realistic to assume that the initiative will result in the attainment of stated results?

A Theory of Change diagram can be depicted in many different ways and can be very complex, depending on the initiative and number of interrelated parts. Several examples can be found here: <http://www.theoryofchange.org/library/toc-examples/>

Today, various software packages are available that can be used to help with Theory of Change illustrations. A list, recently published by Ann-Murray Brown, a CEI member, is reproduced with permission in this issue of Eval Chat. It can also be seen here:

<https://www.annmurraybrown.com/single-post/2017/07/27/Software-for-Developing-Theories-of-Change>

[1] Adapted from *The Road to Results: Designing and Conducting Effective Development Evaluations*. Linda G. Morra-Imas, Ray C. Rist. 2009.

Developing Software for Theories of Change

by: Ann-Murray Brown, CEI Member



“Just wondering what software is out there/you are using to type up theories of change you develop during workshops etc.? I'm generally using flowcharts in PowerPoint (but also have previously used Visio - no longer have access though) but I'm wondering if there are other, better options out there? Ideally ones that are free to use. Thank you in advance for your help!”

This question was recently posted on an online platform for development practitioners. The discussion that ensued resulted in a list of software for visualising Theories of Change (TOC). I felt that this list was of too much value not to share with a wider audience.

So, in no particular order, we have:

1. **VUE** (Visual Understanding Environment), open source 'mind mapping' freeware from Tufts University <http://vue.tufts.edu/about/index.cfm>

Remark: Requires signing up to an account to be able to download.

2. **Omnigraffle** <https://www.omnigroup.com/omnigraffle>

Remark: For Macs only. Paid, not free.

3. **Draw.io** <https://www.io/>

Remark: Successor to Visio. It is online, so internet quality is important.

4. **Lucidchart** <https://www.lucidchart.com/>

Remark: Flowchart maker, requires account and signing up is free

5. **TOCO Online** <http://www.theoryofchange.org/toco-software/>

Remark: Register for free, premium version available. Online only; internet quality is important.

One person indicated that they signed up but it didn't seem to work. They just had an endless compass spinning. Firefox and Edge browsers had the same result.

6. **Coggle** <https://coggle.it/>

Remark: Free version but your diagrams are public (three can be private). Better security/features for \$5/month – i.e. all diagrams are private. Online; internet quality is important.

7. **MIRADI** <https://www.miradi.org/>

Remark: Free trial for 60 days. \$30 for a self-declared low-income individual. \$285 to \$300 for standard subscriptions.

8. **Netway** <http://www.evaluationnetway.com>.

9. **DoView** <http://doview.com>

Remark: they offer special conditions for CSOs namely, free licenses for international development projects that cannot afford DoView.

10. **Kumu.io** <https://kumu.io/>

Remark: an online system mapping tool

11. **Scapple** <https://www.literatureandlatte.com/scapple.php>

Remark: is the stand-out tool for me for drawing interconnected “items” and what I use for results-chain diagrams.

12. **Loopy** <http://ncase.me/loopy/>

Remark: It is a potentially useful tool for drawing complex systems and relationships.

13. **Decision Explorer** <http://banxia.com/dexplore/>

Remark: Very flexible and allows complexity of arguments about change to be represented. This means the analyst/evaluator has to work on the ordering of the components of the theory. But there is a set of tools designed to help. Decision Explorer can help to get at underlying complexity and the interdependencies within projects and to help explain them to third parties. It could do with an update though, especially in terms of the output options.

14. **Graph Editor** <https://www.yworks.com/products/yed>

Remark: The free and standalone package is adequate for most organisations. There is a 90 sec intro video on the same page.

And lastly...

15. Standard charting and graphics tools in **Word, Powerpoint, Google Docs, OpenOffice** etc.

Author’s Acknowledgement:

Many thanks to the persons who shared their knowledge and experiences and to Matthew Pritchard for compiling the list.



Featured Member: Molly Hamm-Rodríguez

Molly Hamm-Rodríguez has served on the CEI Board as the Assistant Country-Lead for the Dominican Republic since 2014. During this time, she supported efforts to identify and connect evaluators in the Dominican Republic while working full-time as the Associate Director of The DREAM Project, an educational nonprofit organization on the North Coast of the country. Her monitoring and evaluation work focuses on education and youth development in Latin America and the Caribbean. During her time with CEI, she was an active member of the group that started work on a quarterly newsletter for the CEI, (now the Communications Committee), and also supported early efforts to revamp the CEI website, that we can now be proud of. In addition, almost from the beginning of her attachment to the Executive of the CEI, she has actively managed the organisation's social media offerings.

Following the expiration of support provided by a UN Volunteer for the layout and publication of the first edition of

the newsletter in mid-2016, Molly stepped up to take on the task of putting together subsequent editions - organising articles, photos and notices into the attractive format we now take for granted, publishing and circulating the finished work to our subscribers. In addition, she oversaw the translation of the newsletter into Spanish by coordinating the efforts of two UNVs, one of whom she managed to charm into continuing with us up to the present, far beyond her obligated period of service.

As she steps forward to conquer new horizons, embarking on a Ph.D. program in Educational Equity and Cultural Diversity at the University of Colorado-Boulder, she will relinquish her position on the Board of the CEI, but will continue as a member of the organisation, and actively support where she can. We want to wish her every success, and God's richest blessings in her new chapter of life.

Honoring Our Volunteers

The CEI Board and membership want to take the opportunity to honor the volunteers who have assisted us in various aspects of our operations over the last 2 years. These individuals are all UN Volunteers who have gone over and above their original agreed obligations to provide their services in support of the work that we do. They have become family to us, and we thank them heartily for their support. We do look forward to a continued association with them and their advice and guidance as far as they are able to provide.



Marcin Gołębowski, a UN Volunteer, has been working on the new CEI website for over a year now. A native of Poland, Marcin has a Master in Computer Science from the University of Wrocław in Poland. During his 8 year career, he has worked on various Internet website projects. Currently, he works on traveplanet.pl which is one of the largest Polish travel e-commerce websites. In his free time, he enjoys learning about electronics.



Joseph Oche is a native of Nigeria and lives and works in Abuja. As a UN Volunteer, he has been assisting the CEI in revamping its website since 2016. Joseph has a Masters in Information Technology from the National Open University of Nigeria and numerous IT certifications. He has over 7 years experience in the ICT industry, providing solutions in various capacities. He is a co-founder of tarlent.com. and has worked with various non-governmental organizations through the UN Volunteers platform. In this respect, he is proud to have worked with CEI on this project.



Ainelén Bortolozzo, a UN Volunteer, has assisted the CEI in reaching a Spanish-speaking audience by translating its quarterly newsletters from English to Spanish. She is an Argentinian translator and interpreter who recently graduated with a Masters in Translation and Intercultural Mediation from the University of Salamanca in Spain. Given her particular interest in international topics, she has worked with various non-governmental organizations through the UN Volunteers platform. In this capacity, she has worked on translations and text revisions with the goal of making information accessible to a greater number of people around the world. In this sense, she is proud to have worked with CEI for more than one year on this project, which is an essential piece of the organization's communications strategy.

CEI Activities and the SDGs at a Glance

In March 2017, in Kampala Uganda, at the African Evaluation Association Conference, the Heads of the Evaluation Associations in the Global South, discussed how we can partner to conduct evaluations, which contribute to sustainable development and are responsive to the unique contexts of our countries.



Conference Presenters focused on : SDG 1 – Ending Poverty; SDG 2 – Ending Hunger; SDG 4 – Quality Education; SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities; SDG 5 – Gender Equality; SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Building Strong Institutions



At the Caribbean Urban Forum 2016, in Suriname, 3 members of the CEI facilitated a workshop on monitoring and evaluation for sustainable urban development for regional professionals who work in the area of urban planning.



Urban Planning focuses on SDG
7 – Affordable and Clean Energy
9 – Industry Innovation and
Infrastructure
11 – Sustainable Cities and
Communities
12 - Responsible Consumption and
Production

In a region that is very vulnerable to natural disasters as we focus on SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth, we have to make SDG 13 - Climate Action, SDG 14 - Life Below Water, and SDG 15 - Life on Land our priorities as we undertake projects and programmes to develop the region.

Reflections after the Hurricanes

The climactic events of the last month have once again exposed our vulnerability as a region to natural disasters. As I write this message I am picturing volunteers and regional technocrats whom I know personally, and who are on the ground helping with the distribution of food and medical supplies in Dominica, Barbuda, Anguilla, St. Maarten and other islands. I am certain that our members, and other persons in the CEI network, will be sought out to assist our regional governments with relief and rebuilding efforts. The Board of the CEI is willing to join in those efforts.

The following messages were received from friends of the CEI network:

“Our heart goes out to the islands that have been devastated, the people who have died and the suffering that is now taking place in the aftermath – I hope the region will receive support from all over the world” - Rob Van DeBerg, President of IDEAS.

“Please accept my deepest sympathies for the devastation in your region. I am so sorry, my heart goes out for you! I offer my prayers for you and your families” - Susan Tamondong, VP IDEAS, Phil Eval and EvalPartners Management Group.

“I’m so sorry of hearing about the damage of the hurricanes in the Caribbean, and mostly knowing that the nightmare has not finished yet. Please, receive my solidarity in these hard days” - Pablo Rodriguez-Bilella, IDEAS and RedEvalAR.

“Our prayers and love are with you and your communities” – Adeline Sibanda, President of the African Evaluation Association.

“My heart goes out to the people in the Caribbean who have lost everything, and whose short-medium term livelihoods have been destroyed” – Zenda Offir, South Africa.

These sentiments provide some evidence not only of the increased visibility of our region but also the development work we must do together to preserve the environment, as all of our lives will be impacted.

Our evaluation work should always focus on the improvement of the quality of lives of citizens of the world.

Launch of New CEI Website

We are pleased to officially launch our new and improved website. The new site www.caribbeanevaluators.org, offers many features that we hope our members and visitors will find useful and informative.

First of all, aspiring members can now sign up for membership directly from the website. The new application form provides us with a comprehensive profile of who our members are, their needs, and also how they would like to participate in contributing to the vision and mission of the organization.

Our **Resources** section boasts quite a compendium of learning and reference resources that we hope visitors and members will find helpful. We want to encourage the sharing of additional resources that you have found to be interesting and useful.

The **News and Events** section provides a listing of upcoming events and current news that are relevant to our work in the Caribbean and beyond. We particularly like to feature information on our partners and ask members to send us links of interesting and relevant news and events that we can add.

Through **Social Media** you can keep in touch with our feeds (Facebook, Twitter) directly from the page and

contribute to these platforms. This is highly encouraged--we like your likes!

Via our **Newsletters**, members and visitors can subscribe to our quarterly updates and can also access the archives of past editions in Spanish and English.

The **Gallery** is a visual of CEI activities and participation in various fora around the world.

Upcoming features on the website include:

- Webinars on various topics, offered for and by members
- A members' gallery that is searchable and will allow members to be located based on their work (for paying members only)
- Online payment application



Upcoming Events

American Evaluation Association (AEA)



American Evaluation Association Conference: "Evaluation 2017: From Learning to Action": November 6-11, 2017

Professional Development Workshops: November 6-8 & 11, 2017, Washington, DC USA

<http://www.eval.org/>

During Evaluation 2017, the focus will be on exploring ways that our community can learn from evaluation to create better practices and outcomes. Evaluation is dependent on learning from each other and putting theory into action.

- Learning to Enhance Evaluation Practices - Share evaluation practices, including theories, methods and ethics, or lessons in diverse professional settings.
- Learning What Works and Why -Share evidence of what works and why in public policies, programs, and projects.
- Learning from Others - Share innovations from other communities that have been or could be incorporated into evaluation practice.
- Learning About Evaluation Users and Uses - Share your insights on users of our evaluations, our place in policy decision-making, and effective strategies to increase evaluation utilization



Evaluation of the Sustainable Development Goals: transforming life through global and regional partnerships, with an emphasis on Latin America and the Caribbean.

Joint conference ReLAC-REDLACME-IDEAS
December 4 – 8, 2017 • Guanajuato, México

The International Conference is a joint effort of the Latin American and Caribbean regional evaluation networks ReLAC, REDLACME, and IDEAS, the global association of evaluators. The Conference will feature a variety of activities, such as keynote speeches, panels, workshops, individual presentations, poster exhibitions and specially designed activities.

The themes are:

- M&E and the SDGs
- M&E Approaches and Methodologies
- Roles of evaluation networks and associations
- Evaluation agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean

Please note that CEI Members are eligible for the Members' registration rates.

<http://www.conferenciadeevaluacion.mx/en>

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