



Narrative Report – IOCE Grant to EREN/EvaMENA to organize the EvalMENA 4th GA

EREN received from IOCE/EvalPartners on behalf of EvalMENA a grant of \$20,000 to support the organization of the 4th EvalMENA General Assembly held Feb 24-26, 2015 in Cairo. IOCE/EvalPartners was one of the five co-sponsors of the conference, together with The International Development and Research Center of Canada (IDRC), the UNICEF Regional Office for MENA (MENARO) the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3IE), the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD) and the Environment and Sustainable Development Unit of the American University of Beirut (AUB-ESDU)

The conference brought together some 90 participants from Egypt and the entire MENA countries, including many colleagues from EvalPartners since the face-to-face meeting of the EvalPartners Management Group was also held in Cairo on Feb 21-22, 2015 prior to the conference.

The program of the conference was centered around “the MENA Region Celebrates EvalYear’2015” with rich and diverse sessions for the first two days and the EvalMENA business meeting on the third day. The central theme of discussions revolved around developing a collective MENA position with regards to three themes of EvalYear’2015:

- Identifying the key future priorities for the global evaluation community to launch the 2016-2020 Global Evaluation Agenda
- Bridging the gap between the evaluation community (supply side) and the policy makers community (demand side), including Parliamentarians, to ensure good quality, equity-focused and gender-responsive evaluations are demanded and used in policy making;
- Mainstreaming evaluation in Sustainable Development Goals (which are replacing the Millennium Development Goals – MDGs in 2015) at international level, and in national development strategies at national level;

The General Assembly witnessed also the launch of three working groups in MENA around EvalGender+, EvalYouth and EvalSDGs, who complement the global efforts of IOCE/EvalPartners in these 3 areas. The full program is provided as an Annex to this report.

Prior to the conference on Monday February 23rd, 6 professional development workshops were offered for the participants in the GA, in addition to 68 other local participants not registered for the GA itself. A novelty for this year was



offering professional development workshops in Arabic and by EvalMENA members, in addition to professional development

workshops offered in English by international guest which was highly appreciated. The list of the professional development workshops is provided in the table below:

	Topic	Expert	Language
1	Hearing Silenced Voices: Methods to Include Traditionally Disenfranchised Populations in Evaluation	Larry Bremner (Canada)	English
2	Real World and Holistic Approach to Impact Evaluation	Jim Rugh (USA) and Nermine Wally (Egypt)	English
3	Development Evaluation: What to evaluate? How? By whom?	Mohammed El Fouly (Egypt)	Arabic
4	Participatory Community Evaluation: Principles and examples from the field	Dalia Bayoumi (Egypt)	Arabic
5	Impact Evaluation Workshop	Howard White (UK)	English
6	Real Time Evaluation for Humanitarian Action	James Drancy (UK)	English

What was the IOCE/EvalPartners support used for?

The initial approach of EvalMENA was to operate in a decentralized approach, in the sense that the funds raised for the General Assemblies would be transferred directly to the VOPE in charge of organizing the assembly for 3 reasons:

- i) Build the organizational and administrative capacities of the VOPE hosting the assembly and who can leverage appropriate momentum through its local presence
- ii) Reduce transaction cost by avoiding sub-granting
- iii) Increase efficiency, since a VOPE with strong local presence knows better venues, prices and costs and can achieve better value for money

Most unfortunately, new regulations in Egypt following the second revolution have put a lot of scrutiny on NGO funding, in the sense that security pre-approval was needed upon receiving the money but also upon spending it.

This is why EvalMENA had ultimately to step in and receive the funds from IDRC and ICD (which were used for travel and general organizational support), while EREN processed the funds received from UNICEF and IOCE/EvalPartners and 3IE opted for direct funding through the provision of bursaries.

EREN is hence attaching invoices and receipts for a total of US 20,000 and extends its warmest thanks and gratitude for IOCE and EvalPartners for their continuous and active support

Draft Program
The MENA Region celebrates EvalYear
24-26 February, 2015

	Tuesday Feb 24	Wednesday Feb 25	Thursday Feb 26
Morning Session (9:00 – 11:00)	<p>Opening Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening remarks and welcoming of participants (Nivine El Kabbag, EREN Chair) • Putting the workshop in context: The MENA region celebrates EvalYear’ 2015 (Ziad Moussa, Moderator of EvalMENA and President of IOCE) • Challenges of Mainstreaming Evaluation in the Public Sector (H.E Minister of Social Solidarity) • Keynote address: Marco Segone (Director, Independent Evaluation Office, UNWOMEN EvalPartners Co-chair, UNEG Chair) • Lighting the evaluation torch: youth evaluators from EREN and EvalMENA member VOPEs 	<p>Session 3: The Big data vs. Small Data debate and how to position MENA?</p> <p>Session Chair: Dr. Masahiro Igarashi, Director of the FAO Evaluation Office</p> <p><i>Keynote Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Howard White, Executive Director , 3IE (International Initiative for Impact Evaluation) • Pablo Rodriguez Billela, (Co-Chair, EvalPartners Knowledge management Task Force and ReLAC, Latin America) <p>Discussant 1: Bruce Currie Alder, Director of IDRC MERO office</p> <p>The data case in MENA: the Evaluation database enhancement project</p> <p>Khalil Bitar, President of the Palestinian Evaluation Association and Amjad Attar, President of EvalJordan</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">EvalMENA business meeting</p> <p>Introduction to the EvalPartners Task Forces (EP Co-chair Natalia and task forces co-chairs still present in Cairo)</p> <p>Setting a MENA-wide agenda of EvalYear’2015 events (group work per country leading to a schedule to be reinforced during the year)</p>
30 min	Coffee break		
Noon Session (11:30 – 13:30)	<p>Session 1: Bridging the gap between the evaluation community and policy makers</p> <p>Session Chair: Ziad Moussa, IOCE President</p> <p><i>Central question: How can we mobilize MENA Countries to support Evaluation practices in national programs and public policies?</i></p>	<p>Session 4: Multiple partnerships towards EvaPartners</p> <p>EREN/ESDUP2P Case on Media Promoting Culture of Evaluation in the Arab Countries, Cairo University or Journalism Syndicate</p> <p>Presentation of the EvalGender+ Initiative: Mona</p>	<p>Review of the advancement of the peer to peer projects</p> <p>Election of standing committees and new governance team</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy makers response: Hind El Fayed, member of parliament – Jordan • VOPES response: Jamal Ramadane, President Moroccan Evaluation Association • Arab Development Agencies response: Mr. Mohammed Al Yami, Head of Evaluation at ICD (member of the Islamic Development Bank group) • International Development agencies response: Dr. Roumiana Gantcheva, Regional M&E Chief, UNICEF MENARO • Civil Society Organizations response: Doha Abdelhamid, Head of M&E, King Abdulaziz Initiative for Cultural and Interreligious Dialogue (KAICIID) • Research organizations and academia response, Ghada Moussa, Head of Governance Center, Ministry of State of Administrative Development & EREN Board Member <p>Discussant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Mohammed El Fouly, EvalMENA Dean and President, EgDEval 	<p>Selim, UNWOMEN regional Office, Cairo</p> <p>Presentation of the Francophone Network for Emerging Evaluators and the global work towards EvalYouth, Marie Gervais, IOCE Vice-President</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EvalYouth in MENA: the Egyptian experience in working with young evaluators (Youssef Wardani, Deputy Minister of Youth, Egypt) – Session Chair: AwnyAmer, IDEAS and EREN Board Member • EvalGender in MENA: A roadmap towards integrating the EvalGender initiative (Fatma Khafagi, Gender Activist and Senior Policy Advisor on Women’s Rights) – Session Chair: Maha El-Said, EREN board member & Gender Advisor) • Is EvalMedia a possibility: Osama Kamal, Director and presenter of TV Program 360) 	
90 min	Lunch break		
15:00 – 16:30	Session 2: MENA priorities for the 2016-2020 Evaluation agenda	Session 5: Towards a strategy for mainstreaming	

	<p>Summary of the findings of the EvalPartners online consultations(Jim Rugh, EvalPartners coordinator)</p> <p>Three discussion groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening an enabling environment for evaluation in MENA (<u>rapporteur</u>:Amjad Al Attar, President EvalJordan) • Strengthening institutional capacity for VOPEs and Civil Society in MENA (<u>rapporteur</u>: Nasser Qadous, PEA) • Strengthening individual evaluator capacity development in MENA (rapporteur: AwnyAmer, EREN) <p><u>Five action items</u> should be proposed by every group and will be revisited in the GA of 2016</p>	<p>evaluation in Sustainable Development Goals in MENA</p> <p>Session Chair: Dr. Roumiana Gantcheva, Regional M&E Chief, UNICEF MENARO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the SDGs and how they replace the MDGs: the case of Algeria (Koorosh Raffii, Senior Evaluation specialist – Humanitarian, UNICEF) <p><i>Plenary Discussion: A backward looking assessment of the MENA experience with the MDGs and lessons learned for the SDGS.</i></p> <p>Five Ideas for moving forward (one idea per person)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Khadija Hassine (Morocco) • Mohammed Al Yami (Saudi Arabia) • Laila El-Baradei (Egypt) • Mahmoud Ghouil (Tunisia) • Mohammed AmerQariyouti (Jordan) <p>Plenary debate with the floor</p>	
30 min	Coffee break		
17:00 – 18:30	<p>Plenary training (optional): The EvalPartners VOPEs toolkit as a means to reinforce VOPEs in the region</p> <p>Presentation of the toolkit: Jennifer Bisgard, Chairperson of the EvalPartners Toolkit taskforce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on the use/users of the toolkit: Jim Rugh (EvalPartners Coordinator) and Nermine Wally (EvalMENA, President AfrEA 2012) 	<p><i>Cairo Statement on Steps towards integrating evaluation into National Programs and Policies</i></p> <p>Votes of thanks and closing</p> <p>Handing of the Evaluation Torch to ReLAC (Latin America and Caribbean Evaluation Association)</p>	

Evening	Dinner at the hotel	Closing dinner on the Nile	
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