
Report on the Evaluation Development: From Analysis to Impact Project

Impact Evaluation Strand and Network of Networks

Executive Summary

In 2011 the Evaluation Department of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided a grant in support of the NONIE strand that took place in Rome in April 2012. An unspent balance following that conference was provided to IOCE to support the next NONIE event. This unspent balance along with funding from the UN Women, led way to IOCE organized the next NONIE event in partnership with African Evaluation Association (AfrEA) and Cameroon Development Evaluation Association (CaDEA) as an Impact Evaluation/NONIE strand with the AfrEA 2014 conference held in Yaounde, Cameroon, on March 3-7, 2014.

As a leading partner, IOCE was responsible for raising funds for the strand to cover related expenses including securing premises for strand sessions and bursaries for participants interested in impact evaluation.

IOCE had established a volunteer Task Force (TF) led by IOCE President Natalia Kosheleva and IOCE Vice-President Murray Saunders. All TF members worked as volunteers. TF members reviewed proposals for strand preconference workshops and conference presentations as well as bursary applications.

Impact Evaluation/NONIE Strand program included:

- 5 preconference workshops,
- Networking event for evaluation specialists interested in impact evaluation;
- 8 conference sessions; and
- one open meeting to discuss the future of impact evaluation and NONIE.

IOCE also awarded 12 bursaries supporting participation in the Impact Evaluation Strand to evaluators from 8 low income African countries.

Background

Network of Networks for Impact Evaluation (NONIE) is an informal partnership of organizations committed to promotion of high quality impact evaluation. NONIE members include the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) Evaluation Network, the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), the Evaluation Cooperation Group (ECG), and the International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE). NONIE members take turns to organize NONIE knowledge exchange events – either as a standalone events or as part of bigger evaluation conferences.

In 2012, the NONIE event was organized by UNIDO in a format of a stand-alone conference and took place in Rome in April 2012. At the NONIE Business Meeting conducted within the framework of this conference, it was agreed that International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE) would organize the next NONIE event in conjunction with African Evaluation Association (AfrEA) 2014 conference. UNIDO agreed to pass to IOCE any savings from Rome NONIE event to be applied towards the next event.

The IOCE is an international membership organization that brings together national and regional evaluation associations, societies and networks that provides leadership in evaluation worldwide by encouraging demand for evaluation, and supporting organizational capacity of evaluation associations. AfrEA is a member of the IOCE, with two AfrEA representatives serving on the IOCE Board.

Operational arrangements for NONIE 2014 event

In April 2013 the IOCE President attended an AfrEA Board meeting to discuss preparation for AfrEA 2014 conference and the NONIE event integrated into this conference. The IOCE and AfrEA agreed that the NONIE event would be organized as an Impact Evaluation Strand fully integrated into the conference. The IOCE took responsibility for substantive management of the strand and for raising and managing funds to cover related expenses including securing premises for strand sessions and bursaries for participants interested in impact evaluation. AfrEA took the responsibility for reaching out to potential strand participants in Africa to ensure strong participation of African evaluation specialists and for collection of strand presentation proposals. AfrEA was also responsible for incorporation of Impact Strand Session into the conference program and overall conference logistics. Cameroon Development Evaluation Association (CaDEA), AfrEA member and partner hosting the AfrEA conference in Younde, Cameroon, took the responsibility for financial management and logistics in Cameroon.

Impact Evaluation/NONIE strand program

The IOCE had established a volunteer Task Force (TF) led by IOCE President Natalia Kosheleva and IOCE Vice-President Murray Saunders. TF members reviewed proposals for strand preconference workshops and conference presentations. All TF members worked as volunteers.

Resulting Impact Evaluation Strand program included:

- 5 preconference workshops,
- Networking event for evaluation specialists interested in impact evaluation;
- 8 conference sessions; and
- one open meeting to discuss the future of impact evaluation and NONIE.

IOCE President Natalia Kosheleva coordinated strand events on the ground in Yaounde with AfrEA and CADEA staff. In addition she and IOCE Treasurer Martha McGuire chaired Impact Evaluation strand sessions.

Bursaries Management

TF members also reviewed applications for Impact Evaluation Strand bursaries. The IOCE had a joint call for bursary applications with the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie) to minimise the workload for applicants. Participants were assessed based on their existing experience in the field of impact evaluation as well as their ability to use the knowledge gained at the conference and to share it with colleagues. The IOCE also tried to maximize the geographical coverage of bursaries.

IOCE was able to provide bursaries to attend the Impact Evaluation Strand at the AfrEA 2014 conference to eight participants based in low-income countries outside Cameroon:

#	Name	Country	Affiliation
1	Mr. Bernard Sawadogo	Burkina Faso	University of Ouagadougou
2	Ms. Fiker Abebe	Ethiopia	Girl Hub Ethiopia
3	Mr. Awuor Ponge	Kenya	Institute of Policy Analysis and Research (IPAR)
4	Mr. Jackson Mutavi	Kenya	Bindaas Social Ventures

5	Mr. Charles Jumbe	Malawi	Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources
6	Ms. Kany Roseline Sidibe	Mali	Research Center MARIKANI
7	Ms. Kissa Mwaisoba	Tanzania	Agriculture Research Institute
8	Ms. Jocelyne Rakotondrazafy	Madagascar	Aide et Action International

The IOCE Secretariat purchased air tickets for bursary participants, paid their conference fees directly to AfrEA and organized the transfer of DSA and visa fee subsidies to them. All bursary recipients were highly satisfied with the quality of support provided by the IOCE Secretariat.

The IOCE Secretariat managed to get lowest fare air tickets to most participants from outside Cameroon which resulted in some savings in the bursary budget. Given that by this time all reasonably priced air tickets to Yaounde were sold out, the IOCE decided to use the budget saving to support attendance of evaluation specialists from Cameroon who were based outside Yaounde.

These participants were selected in cooperation with AfrEA Board. Bursaries were awarded to four evaluation specialists from Cameroon:

#	Name	Affiliation
1	Mr. David Ngoh Essoh	Cameron Development Evaluation Association
2	Ms. Inès Ayangma Abedie	Cameron Development Evaluation Association
3	Mr. Fule Chi Bemieh	Research Center MINADER Nyong & Mfoumou
4	Mr. Blaise Moumben	Cameron Development Evaluation Association

The IOCE and AfrEA have agreed that AfrEA will receive and manage the bursaries for participants from Cameroon, including making hotel arrangements.

At the conference the IOCE team took special efforts to enhance the conference experience of the bursary recipients. They were introduced the several leading international experts in the field of impact evaluation present at the conference. The IOCE representatives at the conference also introduced bursary recipients to each other and encouraged them to stay in contact after the conference.



Bursary recipients Charles Jumbe and Fiker Abebe.



Bursary recipients Kany Roseline Sidibe and Jocelyne Rakotondrazafy talking to Burt Perrin, one of the leading international experts in the field of impact evaluation.

After the conference the IOCE received a number of very positive comments from the bursary recipients. For example, here is the comment from a person who attended a session on impact evaluation of agricultural projects: “It was an incredibly powerful experience. I learned a lot from being a part of the panel. Throughout the session I felt supported by her (chair) open nature and willingness to explore”. Overall assessment of the usefulness of attending the Impact Evaluation Strand was also very positive. “I would wish to say that this was an invaluable learning experience for me. As a new evaluator I found it very rewarding to be able to share my work with my peers. This year's conference brought us an open, supportive, and knowledgeable group”, commented one of the participants.

Financial Report

The report below is a representation of the funds spent on this project. All amounts are in US funds.

Expenses	Amount
Bursaries	\$6,300
IOCE President Travel to Youndé	\$3,070.00
Share of conference premices costs	\$9,000.00
Networking event	\$1,400.00
Administrative fee	\$6,344.00
Subtotal	\$26,110.00



An audit of all expenditures took place on February 9, 2015 by Nephin, Winter and Bengley.

Prepared by Lynn Burgess

Approved by IOCE President, Natalia Kosheleva

Date