FINAL REPORT

EVALMENA 4th General Assembly

The MENA Region Celebrates EvalYear'2015

(International Year of Evaluation)

23-26 FEBRUARY, 2015

The Eval Partners 2015 General Assembly was organized by Egyptian Research and Evaluation Network (EREN) in collaboration with EVALMENA. The GA conference was supported by IOCE/EVALPartners, UNICEF-MENARO, IDRC, 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 was organized under the auspices of Ministry of Social Solidarity and Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform in Egypt

Table of Contents

1. Conference Overview

During the period of 23rd to 26th of February, EREN, in collaboration with EvalMena, hosted the EvalMENA 4th General Assembly in Cairo with a title of "The MENA Region Celebrates EvalYear'2015". The conference was supported by IOCE/Eval Partners , UNICEF-MENARO, 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 was organized under the auspices of Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS) and Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform.

The conference aimed to discuss study and make recommendations to five key components:
- Bridging the gap between the evaluation community and policy makers
- MENA priorities for the 2016-2020 Evaluation agenda
- The Big data vs. Small Data debate and how to position MENA?
- Multiple partnerships towards EvaPartners
- Towards a strategy for mainstreaming evaluation in Sustainable Development Goals in MENA

International organizations, government officials, monitoring and evaluation specialists, youth evaluators, representatives from the different evaluation networks of EVALMENA, local and international academic professional evaluators and a parliamentarian member were present at the conference.

2. One-day Seminars – Six seminars Prior to Eval MENA GA

Workshops

One day prior to the conference, six parallel workshops took place simultaneously. They were mostly meant to enhance knowledge and skills on different vital topics related to evaluation. The sessions were led by senior evaluators and practitioners in different evaluation and development organizations. A number of 90 participants attended the workshops. The topics that the workshops discussed are:
1. Hearing Silenced Voices: Methods to Include Traditionally Disenfranchised Populations in Evaluation (Larry Bremer – English)
2. Real World and Holistic Approach to Impact Evaluation (Jim Rugh & Nermine Wally – English)
3. Development Evaluation: What to evaluate? How? By whom? (Mohammed El Fouly – Arabic)
4. Participatory Community Evaluation: Principles and examples from the field (Dalia Bayoumi, Arabic)
5. Advanced Impact Evaluation workshop (Howard White – English)

6. Real Time Evaluation for Humanitarian Action (UNICEF headquarters – English)

3. Conference Sessions: Speakers and Content

Opening Session

Speaker: H.E Ghada Waly, Minister of the Ministry of Social Solidarity
<u>**Title: Challenges of Mainstreaming Evaluation in the Public Sector**</u>

Limited attention to evaluation in the development field: National partners supporting and investing in research and evaluation are very limited, and the biggest proof is that nearly no NGOs are working exclusively on evaluation, except EREN in Egypt. Hence, return on investment from development is evidently limited.

Not accepting being evaluated: The evaluation is a very complicated process and it is important to know what are we evaluating. Officials in the public sector do not accept being evaluated as they see it as a way to judge their performance. There is a general situation of not accepting the dissemination of evaluation findings. A part of the problem in the public sector is the lack of incentives for results achieved by specific workers, where no line of accountability or of recognition is set up.

Research-based interventions (MoSS's experience): The problem is that the information are not centralized but rather disbursed Even the workers were not aware of the findings of the database because no one has all the information but every workers has some information and does not want to share it. An example for this is that MoSS eveloped a database for all NGOs in Egypt. Evaluation of this database indicated that 30% of the orphanages are not fully operational; and eventually the Ministry stopped issuing licensing for new orphanages.

Conditional Cash Transfer Programme "Takaful and Karama": Due to lack or very little monitoring in the social pension programme, not all of the beneficiaries of the cash assistance qualify and thus subsidies are irrationally disbursed and resources are wasted. MoSS has launched a new conditional cash transfer programme "Takaful and Karama" that aims to break the cycle of poverty. This will be complemented with an employability programme. Constant evaluations for the programme are conducted to decide on what is sustainable and what is not. It is extremely important is to explain to the workers how the evaluations are useful for the programme.

Speaker: Marco Segone, Chair of UNEG and the Director of Evaluation at UN Women
<u>**Title: The world we have versus what we want**</u>

In order to implement evaluation you need to work on the supply and demand side, as well as building the capacities of the policy makers. That's is why EVALMENA aims to:
 - ✓ Develop individual capacities
 - ✓ Strengthen institutional capacity
 - ✓ Strengthen enabling environment

EVALMENA started with just a few people and we are now global network that hosts UN secretary general and other influential people. By declaring 2015 the year of evaluation EVALMENA aim to mainstream evaluation in the development sector as well as institutionalize it in the government and public sector.

Mr. Marco Segone presented a significant presentation on "equity-based approach" and he professionally linked it to evaluation to prove that there is a major linkage between equity and evaluation. Each single evaluation should focus on equity and should mobilize donors and organizations to adopt

Mr. Segone ended his speech on transferring the lantern of evaluation, where

3.1 First Session: Bridging the gap between the evaluation community and policy makers

Title: How can we mobilize the 22 Arab Countries to support Evaluation practices in national programs and public policies like the mobilization we have seen around EvalYear?

Keynote Speakers:

- **Policy makers response: Hind EL Fayez,** member of the parliament - Jordan
- **VOPES response: Jamal Ramadane,** President Moroccan Evaluation Association – Morocco
- **Arab Development Agencies response:Mohamed El Nyami,** on behalf of**Khaled Al-Aboodi,** CEO of the ICD (member of the Islamic Development Bank group)
- **International Development agencies response: Dr. Roumiana Gantcheva,** Regional M&E Chief, UNICEF MENARO
- **Research organizations and academia response: GhadaMousa,** Head of Governance Center, Ministry of State of Administrative Development & EREN Board Member
- **Doha Abdelhamid,** head of monitoring and evaluation unit, King Abdelaziz for impact evaluation, Saudi Arabia

Hend El Fayez:

The parliamentarian members in Jordan are facing many challenges, particularly regarding the monitoring and evaluation sector. In order to hold the government accountable, as a member, one needs to have the resources and tools to help us with our job. The members are working without any resources and there are no good calibers. Furthermore, there is a gap between the parliament and the people because the people vote for the individual based on a personal judgment and not based on the policies and program proposed. The civil society organizations as

well as the citizens and the media need to participate with the parliament to unify efforts and improve the system.

Gamal Ramadani:
The Moroccan network focuses on 4 components that are
- ✓ The importance of M&E
- ✓ Public debate
- ✓ Capacity building and training for whoever is interested in M&E on the institution and individual level

Mohamed El-Yamy:
IOCE focuses on supporting evaluation, and organizational capacity for the private sector is considered as they play a major role in development of societies. This can be defined as offering job opportunities and supporting micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). MSME as it consists 50% of the production of an economy. The organization also does advocacy work in order to affect and improve national policies.The prior mentioned goals and objectives couldn't be achieved without a well-maintained monitoring and evaluation system that is a separate entity or a department to ensure remaining objective and reaching un-biased findings.

Ghada Mousa:
Changing the policies adopted by the current government. These policies should also include evolving the culture of these governing bodies to accept the concept of monitoring and evaluation. The government should then focus on evaluating educational system in order to ensure quality education services across the country, which leads to the birth of evaluation in the Egyptian culture.

There is a misconception between monitoring and evaluation. There should be a fine line, when it comes to educating young evaluators, regarding the difference between monitoring and evaluation. It is quite vital for the trainers to focus on this point.

The research center within universities in Egypt must offer training programs directed towards monitoring and evaluation. This is due to the lack of adequate budgeting for research allocated for evaluation, if any.

Romiana Gantcheva:
UNICEF has a decentralized system for monitoring and evaluation and it is absolutely essential to include civil society. Not only does UNICEF value the evaluations but stresses on the importance of understanding the findings and building on the analysis. Few of the examples are:

Palestine: CCT program benefits 290,000 children in the country and addresses child poverty from a multi-dimensional perception. The evidence of evaluating the program showed a need for training of social workers a need to take a more integrated approach in social protection.

Yemen: The social protection programme in Yemen suffered from shortage of inclusion to the people who are in need of the help. Moreover, rducation and proper sanitation are services that were not offered in some of the areas where the program is operational. As a result, several policies were modified with the cabinet's approval as well as expansion of programmecoverage to reach 250,000 families.

Doha Abdelhamid:

The communication is a vital issue for our society. This will prevent to reinvent the wheel again but a solid system should be present to build on, instead of replicating the efforts exerted.

Ms. Doha has worked with Ministry of Finance (MOF) and 14 other organizations to construct M&E systemin the public sector. The project began in 2000 and was supported by the media. After the successful completion of the program, other ministries wanted to adopt the same policies. After one and a half year of success, the program was stopped after a cabinet reshuffle, where the new ministers decided to stop the project.

3.2 Second Session: MENA priorities for the 2016-2020 Evaluation agenda

Keynote Speakers:
- **Dr. Mohamed El-Fouly,** Professor of National Research Center and Evaluation Senior Advisor
- **Jim Rugh,** Coordinator at EvalPartners International Initiative

Dr. Mohamed El-Fouly
The use of English language in evaluation is not correct or relevant to our culture because this is targeted for the government and the public sector workers. The aim of the funded pilots is to institutionalize the policies with a focus on sustainability. That is why the use of language is very important.

The M&E should not just be included in the universities but also included in the syllabus of schools. As for the problem of the society in accepting evaluation, this starts from within the family where the father does not accept criticism from the children. It is an easy mission to promote the concept of M&E and reach out to every individual in the MENA region. Starting from teaching methodology and school syllabus is a crucial aspect to start transferring knowledge to the younger generations.

Jim Rugh:
This is a very important year for all of us because it is the international year of evaluation and the focus of the world will be directed towards evaluation. This includes the media and even UN general assembly. Twenty three events across the world are discussing the global evaluation agenda 2016-2020.

Activity: The audience was divided into three discussion groups. Each group had to propose <u>five action items</u>, which will be revisited in the GA of 2016.

The three discussion topics were:
- Strengthening an enabling environment for evaluation in MENA
- Strengthening institutional capacity for VOPEs and Civil Society in MENA
- Strengthening individual evaluator capacity development in MENA

Plenary training

The EvalPartners VOPEs toolkit as a means to reinforce VOPEs in the region

Speakers: Jim Rugh and Nermine Wally

3.3 Third Session: The Big data vs. Small Data debate and how to position MENA?

Keynote Speakers:
- **Howard White,** Executive Director, 3IE (International Initiative for Impact Evaluation)
- **Larry Bremer,** President (2013-2014) Canadian Evaluation Association

Discussants:
- **Mr. Pablo Rodriguez,** member of the Red EvaluARnetwork - Argentina
- **Bruce Currie Alder,** Director of IDRC MERO office

Howard White:

SMALL DATA: The small data should be used in research and analysis and should never be undermined. Governments usually tend to scrap old program. Mozambique was a successful experience where small data was optimally used especially in the CCT program. Analyzing small data helped to guide policy makers and implementers to expand the program from a pilot implemented in 70 villages to national policies targeting over 600 villages. This proves that high quality studies can influence policies and save lives.

BIG DATA: The challenges to big data are mainly getting quality data, accessing the data itself and accessing and using of administrative data.

Pablo Rodriguez:

Impact evaluation goes beyond just studying the impact. No single methodology had a monopoly on influencing policies but we need to find a common ground and a way to reach development interventions. A balance between qualitative and quantitative analysis is important for a

comprehensive impact evaluation. Journalism can be compared to impact evaluation in the sense that good journalism does not tell a story but to clarify an issue for the people by giving examples without giving claims of their own.

"Evaluation cannot hope for perfect objectivity but neither does this mean that it should slump into rampant subjectivity". Ray Pawson

Bruce Alder:

Questions we need to ask ourselves?

- How to explain what evaluators do without naming it 'evaluator'?
- How do we know, as evaluators, what we know?
- What do we want to learn?
- What is the information that is viewed as credible?

The world is focusing so much on the big data and the use of the newest technologies but neglecting history. The study of history could help us understand how did we reach where we are now. The key trend is that the status quo is changing. Open data and open access for information is getting more and more public. We need to make the research and evaluations that have been conducted to make it available for the public. Additionally, data set with analyzed economic activity of the country, which is now available for most countries. The role of evaluators is now shifting from policy making to include a premiere to the experiences as philosophers and how do you understand social change.

Speaker: Amjad Attar, President of EVALJordan

Title: The data case in MENA: the Evaluation database enhancement project

EVALJordan has an initiative to create a database for all evaluation in order to make it public for other evaluators to benefit from and enhance the policymaking process using evidence-based research. A proposal was submitted to the IOCE and $950,000,000 was granted to launch the initiative. The idea was to link evaluators and decision makers together and was then evolved to become an online evaluation database. The online database is currently a hub for policy makers, evaluators, researchers and individuals.

3.4 Fourth Session: Multiple partnerships towards EVALPartners

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

The session emphasized on the need to simplifythe terminology of evaluation for all people in make the culture of evaluation widely disseminated and eventually accepted. Mr. Werdany also

highlighted the important role of youth in strengthening evaluation. It recommended an extensive plan of youth integration in the evaluation of development and in the decision making process. This could be done basically through capacity building and training.

EvalGender in MENA: A roadmap towards integrating the EvalGender initiative Maha El-Said, EREN board member & Gender Advisor)

The aim of EvalGender is to promote the concept of equity based gender research. Usually when analyzing the findings of evaluation, the separation between men and women does not occur.

Is EvalMedia a possibility: Osama Kamal, Director and presenter of TV Program 360)

Evaluators need to collaborate with the media in order to give more visibility to the field and advocate for it. Efforts could be directed towards examining various media channels and forms to communicate evaluations to the public.

3.5 Fifth Session: Towards a strategy for mainstreaming evaluation in Sustainable Development Goals in MENA

Plenary Discussion: A backward looking assessment of the MENA experience with the MDGs and lessons learned for the SDGS.

Keynote Speakers:
Dr. Laila El-Baradei
Mohamed Yami – Saudi
Representative on behalf of **Anis ben-younes** - Tunisia
Mohamed Qariouky – Jordan

Laila El-Baradei:
In order to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), strategic planning from the start is the key. One of the challenges of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) was the funding sources and successfully reaching the people who need it the most. The goal of all development projects is not to entirely accomplish international goals but focus on the local problems and aim for quality as well as the quantity.

Mohamed Yami:
The government seriousness in achieving the SDGs is reflected in specific issues. The most important issue is to develop a timeframe and an action plan along with forming partnerships with international organizations and interested donors. This is practically the most important factor in accomplishing real development.

Representative on behalf of **Anis ben-younes** - Tunesia

It is recommended to get acquainted with the last report published in December of the UN assembly where it discusses the 17 goals within 6 priorities. It is a report that is worth reading and is very much linked to the issues we are currently discussing.

Mohamed Qariouky

Jordan has a success story with nearly achieving 5 goals of the MDGs. The country incorporated the MDG in its national agenda and Jordan calls for other countries in the region to benefit from its experience.

4. EvalMENA Business Meeting

Action items proposed to be revisited in the GA of 2016

1. Develop individual capacities

Capacity Building:
Conduct a solid needs assessment for the practitioners in the MENA region. EVALMENA could play or arrange such an assessment. The EVALMENA P2P initiative is something similar to what was suggested where established organization could engage with less experienced networks.

M&E Terminology:
Terminology of M&E is to be unified and adapted in Arabic language in order contextualize the evaluation process within the Arab World.

Engaging Youth:
The youth evaluators usually have the theoretical experience but lack the practical field experience. Hence, it is important to offer mentorship or coaching for the youth together with internships with the expert evaluators to transfer the knowledge to new generations.

Education
Include M&E in all syllabi of the different university majors or offer accreditation to be permitted to practice evaluation.

Awareness-Raising
Make the role of evaluation clear to stakeholders and simplify the language in order deliver the right message.

2. Strengthen institutional capacity

Readiness assessment

Readiness assessment is a requisite to determine the monitoring and evaluation capacity and demand present in a country. The assessment is done at the national, local in the sector-wide levels of government.

Non-financial Institutional Resources

Raising awareness on the benefits of evaluation is an essential process that supports the internal processes of individuals and organizations to learn, apply, reflect and promote for the positive change at the institutional level. Awareness should be accompanied with knowledge sharing whether through the use of technology, online training and other various communication channels.

Advocacy and Evaluation

VOPEs should work and support government officials and parliamentarians in an attempt to institutionalize evaluation in the public sector. Evaluators should work closely with policy maker on draft laws that are research-based and follow up on law adoption process.

Sustainability

Evaluate the progress and performance of evaluations conducted by VOPEs.

3. Strengthen enabling environment

National evaluation

The evaluation law should be incorporated within the national and system of a country. All stakeholders have a common goal to work for, which is harmonized to the national priorities of whole state.

Legal Framework

In the MENA region, evaluators tend to jump to capacity building without going back and studying the root causes of the problem which is frequently the legal framework.

Freedom of information law

The flow of information and the transparency are two vital issues in establishing an enabling environment to evaluation practices. Information should favorably be made available for the public's access.

5. Conference Recommendations

1. Evidence-based Policy Making

A main topic discussed right through the conference was forming collaborations between evaluators and key government officials and policy makers to strengthen evidence-based policy-

making. In order to adapt such approach, a national state of readiness has to be present in order to benefit as well as conduct evaluations. The strategy starts with a readiness assessment and capacity building for government officials. This should be accompanied by a champion from within the ministries/government who to believe in the cause and is a part of it.

2. Government-Civil Society Collaboration

Governments are recommended to build collaborations with universities, think tanks and NGOs to enhance transparency and accountability through promoting evaluation practices in all national programs, whoever the implementers are; government, NGOs or even private sector.

3. Culture of Evaluation

National partners need to ally together to communicate their views on doing development better and on reflecting on lessons learnt from implemented initiatives, and then act accordingly. In an attempt to cultivate a positive culture towards accepting evaluation, the evaluator needs to develop a clear vision for the purpose of evaluating initiatives and to use different evaluation methods that fit to the stakeholders.

4. Sustainable Development Goals Contribution

MDGs are collective targets for the world as a whole and were not designed to be implemented in all regions with a unified timeframe. Through the discussion in the conference, several subjects discussed and proposed to possibly revise and take into consideration in the new sustainable development goals (SDGs). Some of which are:

- The importance of evaluating the SDGs (the MDGs were not evaluated);
- Having different timeframes for every goal.

5. Media and Evaluation:

Media channels are recommended to integrate evaluation as an important issue regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of development. Hence, media can help in promoting the culture of evaluation, and development practitioners should consider media people in the publishing of adapted or customized evaluation reports to be made available to media people.

5. Limitations

1. The seven parallel workshops the first day made it impossible to attend more than one workshop. If the workshops were spread through out the conference it would have given the attendees the chance to attend several workshops rather than just one. Another suggestion regarding this point would be that the sessions could be shorter and the attendees would select more than one workshop to attend.

2. There was a general confusion regarding the workshops that were related to impact evaluation due to the naming of the sessions and a number of attendees attended the wrong workshop.

3. In order for the conference to have a greater impact on the policy makers and society, media coverage should be present throughout the conference.

4. No high level key officials attended the conference. We strongly recommend that government key officials and influential policy makers engage in such initiatives to raise awareness, promote and build liaison with the government and public sector at large.

5. A clear vision with goals, outputs and outcomes was not formulated and agreed upon as a benchmark to evaluate the following year's performance in the proceeding conference.

6. ANNEXES

Conference Agenda

Time	Tuesday Feb 24	Wednesday Feb 25	Thursday Feb 26
9:00++– 11:00	**Opening Session** • **Opening remarks and welcoming of participants** (Nivine El Kabbag, EREN Chair) • **Putting the workshop in context: The MENA region celebrates EvalYear' 2015** (ZiadMoussa, Moderator of EvalMENA and President of IOCE) • **The role of M&E in administrative reform and in supporting accountability** (H.E the Minister of Planning and Administrative Reform) • **Challenges of Mainstreaming Evaluation in the Public Sector** (H.E Minister of Social Solidarity) • **Keynote address: Marco Segone** (EvalPartners Co-chair, UNEG Chair) • **Lighting the evaluation torch:** youth evaluators from EREN	**Session 3: The Big data vs. Small Data debate and how to position MENA?** *Keynote Speakers:* • Howard White, Executive Director , 3IE (International Initiative for Impact Evaluation) • Larry Bremer, President (2013-2014) Canadian Evaluation Association Discussant 1: Bruce Currie Alder, Director of IDRC MERO office Discussant 2: Discussant from the Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Development (TBC) **The data case in MENA: the Evaluation database enhancement project** Khalil Bitar, President of the Palestinian Evaluation Association and Amjad Attar, President of EvalJordan	**EvalMENA business meeting** Introduction to the EvalPartners Task Forces (EP Co-chair Natalia and task forces co-chairs still present in Cairo) Setting a MENA-wide agenda of EvlYear'2015 events (group work per country leading to a schedule to be reinforced during the year)
11:00-11:30	**Break**		
11:30– 13:30	**Session 1: Bridging the gap between the evaluation community and policy makers** (Session Chair: MP Kabir Hashim, Minister of Highways and Investment promotion in Sri Lanka, Chair of the Parliamentarians Forum on Development Evaluation) • Video highlighting the adoption of EvalYear'2015 at the UN General Assembly *Central question: How can we mobilize the 22 Arab Countries to support Evaluation practices in national programs and public policies like the*	**Session 4: Multiple partnerships towards EvaPartners (Plenary then 3 Parallel Sessions)** **EREN/ESDUP2P Case on Media Promoting Culture of Evaluation in the Arab Countries,** Cairo University or Journalism Syndicate **Presentation of the EvalGender+ Initiative**: Mona Selim, UNWOMEN regional Office, Cairo • **EvalYouth** in MENA: the Egyptian experience in working with young	Review of the advancement of the peer to peer projects Election of standing committees and new governance team

	mobilization we have seen around EvalYear? • **Policy makers response:** Hind El Fayez, member of parliament – Jordan • **VOPES response:** Jamal Ramadane, President Moroccan Evaluation Association • **Arab Development Agencies response:** Mr. Khaled Al Aboodi, CEO of the 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:** Ibrahim Makram, Senior Director of Development in Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services. • **Research organizations and academia response,** Ghada Moussa, Head of Governance Center, Ministry of State of Administrative Development & EREN Board Member Discussant: Arab League representative (tbc)	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 (FatmaKhafagi, Gender Activist and Senior Policy Advisor on Women's Rights) – Session Chair: Maha El-Said, EREN board member & Gender Advisor) • Is **EvalMedia** a possibility: Tania AwadGhorra, new anchor LBCI, and Hanadi El Dayri Senior reporter, Annahar newspaper (Osama Kamal, Director and presenter of TV Program 360) Session Chair: TBC	
13:30-15:00	**Lunch**		
15:00–16:30	**Session 2: MENA priorities for the 2016-2020 Evaluation agenda** **Summary of the findings of the EvalPartners online consultations**(Asela Kalugampitiya, EvalPartners coordinator) **EREN Case of Integrating Evaluation in Legislative Bodies: Methods and Tools.** Aly El-Sawy, Consultant at Parliamentary Think Tank (TBC)	**Session 5: Towards a strategy for mainstreaming evaluation in Sustainable Development Goals in MENA** • **Presentation of the SDGs and how they replace the MDGs**. Mohammad HediManai (Tunisia) • **The current Indicators and monitoring framework of SDGs and**	

	Three discussion groups: (EREN to propose rapporteurs for these groups) • Strengthening an enabling environment for evaluation in MENA • Strengthening institutional capacity for VOPEs and Civil Society in MENA • Strengthening individual evaluator capacity development in MENA Five action items should be proposed by every group and will be revisited in the GA of 2016	**its implication in the MENA region** (Kassem El Saddik, Lebanon) _**Plenary Discussion: A backward looking assessment of the MENA experience with the MDGs and lessons learned for the SDGS.**_ Five Ideas for moving forward (one idea per person) • Khadija Hassine (Morocco) • Mohammed Al Yami (Saudi Arabia) • Laila El-Baradei (Egypt) • Palestine • Jordan Plenary debate with the floor Rapporteur of the session: DjelloulSaci, Algeria	
17:00–18:30	Plenary training (optional): **The EvalPartners VOPEs toolkit as a means to reinforce VOPEs in the region** Jim Rugh and Nermine Wally	_**Cairo Statement**_ **on Steps towards integrating evaluation into National Programs and Policies** **Votes of thanks and closing** **Handing of the Evaluation Torch to ReLAC** (Latin America and Caribbean Evaluation Association)	