



21-25 OCTOBER 2019, EMPEROR'S PALACE, GAUTENG, SOUTH AFRICA

Reflections from SAMEA Conference

November 2019

Conference report

582
conference
delegates

427
workshop
registrations

273
individual
participants
registered

269
individual
participants
checked in



50%
of delegates
are from
outside SA



Six strands



Better Evidence for Public Policy & Implementation

focuses on how public sector institutions use evidence in policy and decision-making to deliver better outcomes for society. This strand delves into how M&E provides evidence on the nature and scale of developmental challenges, implementation successes and shortcomings, outcomes and impacts. It will bring together officials from national, provincial and local government to discuss how they use M&E to inform policy-making, programme design and implementation to deliver sustainable outcomes for citizens.



Climate Change & Building Resilience

provides an opportunity to discuss how M&E helps us to assess implications of climate change on individuals, communities and organisations and how strong evidence contributes to build resilience. Monitoring and evaluating climate adaptation and mitigation projects and programmes can provide valuable insights on how to build resilience in a changing world. This strand focuses on the use of M&E in gathering evidence on the efficiency and effectiveness of adaptation and mitigation programmes.



MERL Tech

explores the role of technology in monitoring, evaluation, research and learning. This strand will provide a platform to discuss the influence of technology on how practitioners design M&E studies, collect data, analyse information, report on and visualise data. This strand will appeal to M&E practitioners, data scientists and computer scientists, who use big data and technology to improve their monitoring capabilities and/or the rigour of their evaluations.



M&E & Non-Profits

draws lessons from how M&E is carried out in the non-profit sector and how it enables learning, shapes current practice and adapts to changes brought about by technology, donor demands and communities' needs. Non-profit organisations are frequently called on to demonstrate the impact of their developmental interventions. This strand marshals evidence on how M&E is used by non-profit organisations to make decisions on the design, funding and implementation of their programmes.



Investing for Impact

explores the role of M&E in impact investing and corporate social investment. Impact investing is a rapidly growing industry and seeks to achieve positive social change alongside a sustainable financial return. This strand will focus on how M&E tools and methodologies can be used to measure the impact of investments and corporate social investment programmes. This strand draws together M&E practitioners, impact investors, non-profit organisations, foundations, development finance institutions and companies to discuss the M&E methods, tools and techniques involved in impact investing.



M&E Skills in a Changing World

examines the changing skills needed for the M&E profession in the 21st century and discusses the evolving roles of practitioners. Development programmes are often complex and require careful analysis before any value judgement is made about them. As such, M&E practitioners require a multi-disciplinary set of knowledge and skills to effectively monitor and evaluate interventions. While technical skills such as qualitative and quantitative analysis are important, softer skills and attributes such as cultural awareness are also essential for M&E practitioners. This strand will focus on the skills required by M&E practitioners in a wide range of sectors and contexts.

Key takeaways from strands

- Evaluation is a critical practice for social justice- therefore cannot be business as usual
- Needs to be truly embedded in context e.g. interrogate privilege and power
- Cross-sectoral collaboration is imperative for solving global challenges: business, government, civil society
- In order to increase evaluation use – need to create a culture that values learning
- (Evolving) skills requirements for M&E: embrace technology, good communication, rigorous but practical, ethical
- Evaluative thinking is key – and should be practiced by all
- Impact investing (new strand) – need to build a bridge between IMM and M&E

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South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association

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