Partnership Council
PROGRESS REPORT
NOV 2023

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Agenda

BLOCK		SESSION
1	*30 min*	**9:30 |** OPENING SESSION • Welcoming remarks from Sabine Bernabe (IEG Director General) and Isabelle Mercier (UNDP IEO Director) • Opening remarks by Lily Chu (IEG, *DSO*) • Partners' introductions
2	*15 min*	**10:00 |** OVERVIEW OF GEI ACHIEVEMENTS • Country level work • Training and Professional Development • Knowledge agenda
	45 min	Discussion and Q&A
3	*15 min*	**11:00 |** STRATEGIC REFLECTIONS • Consolidating the GEI program
	45 min	Discussion and Q&A
4	*60 min*	**12:00 |** LUNCH BREAK
5	*15 min*	**13:00 |** EVALUATING THE GEI • Evaluation of the GEI
	45 min	Discussion and Q&A
6	*15 min*	**14:00 |** GEI FORWARD LOOK: FY24 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS • Leveraging the WBG system (OPCS, CIF, GEF) • Fundraising strategy • Fundraising challenges
	45 min	Discussion and Q&A
7	*30 min*	**15:00 |** CLOSING REMARKS • Sabine Bernabe (IEG Director General) and Isabelle Mercier (UNDP IEO Director) • Dugan Fraser (GEI Program Manager)

Partnership Council May 2023
(The Hague) Meeting Notes

Summary of agreed actions

Country engagement - GEI management to develop and share a country engagement strategy to be followed by implementing partners commencing activity in a GEI priority country.

IPDET - GEI management team to make sure that the IPDET program offers value for money to a wider range of participants and contributes to advancing their career progression.

Fundraising - GEI management to explore range of options including remunerated work secondees from key partners.

Impact - GEI management to facilitate opportunities for direct interactions among decision makers rather than relying just on advice from evaluators.

GEI evaluation - GEI global team to arrange one-on-one conversations with each member to define more clearly roles and responsibilities.

Key decisions and next steps

1. **Sustained commitment to GEI** - Donors were satisfied with the GEI strategic approach and its performance, agreeing it is moving in right direction. They confirmed their commitment to sustain the GEI in the medium term and are keen to find ways to support it, particularly by connecting GEI management with their respective development assistance branches of donor governments.

2. **Country engagement** - The program management team needs to develop and share a country engagement strategy illustrating the approach to be followed by implementing partners commencing activity in a GEI priority country. That approach should take into consideration and build upon key partners' strengths in country, avoid fragmentation of efforts, and reduce transaction costs. To that effect, the GEI global team will prepare a standard operating procedure for country engagement including an "exit strategy" when appropriate.

3. **IPDET** - The program management team needs to make sure that the IPDET program offers value for money to a wider range of participants and contributes to advancing their career progression. The Partnership Council would like to see it better situated in a broader capacity building endeavor with a stronger link to post-IPDET activities in the regions covered by CLEAR centers, so that it deepens its role as a transformative program for developing country professionals.

4. **Fundraising** - Partners had an extended discussion on fundraising, recognizing the critical role that this will have in sustaining the GEI initiative in the longer term. Partners encouraged GEI management to explore a number of possibilities, including undertaking strategically aligned remunerated work and using the earnings to finance more in-depth country work (as for example with the RAS instrument), and looking into the prospect of adding more secondees from key partners to the GEI team.

5. **Impact** - Partners encouraged GEI management to explore the possibility of having decision makers interact with one another as a more effective way to share knowledge and lessons learned in a peer-to-peer fashion, rather than relying on evaluators conveying key messages.

6. **GEI evaluation** - Partners noted the progress in the GEI evaluation preparation, and it was agreed that the GEI global team would arrange one-on-one conversations with each member to define more clearly their roles and responsibilities in this important endeavor.

GEI at a glance
## May 1st – Sep 30th, 2023

GEI deliverables

MESA Diagnostics		Partnership Activities		Total Trainings		Knowledge Products	
	2		6		32		6
Countries with training		**Countries with Partnership Activities**		**Training Participants**		**Knowledge Events**	
	4		12	Total Participants	2,431		42
				Share of Female Participants	46%		

Summary of GEI Activities and events

Activities By Implementing Partner	
GEI Implementing Partner	Activities
CERP	14
CLEAR AA	9
CLEAR FA	7
CLEAR LAB	8
CLEAR SA	14
GEI Global Team	1
IPDET	6
Grand Total	59

Events By Implementing Partner	
GEI Implementing Partner	Sum of Events
CERP	5
CLEAR AA	7
CLEAR FA	7
CLEAR LAB	7
CLEAR SA	9
GEI Global Team	1
IPDET	6
Grand Total	42

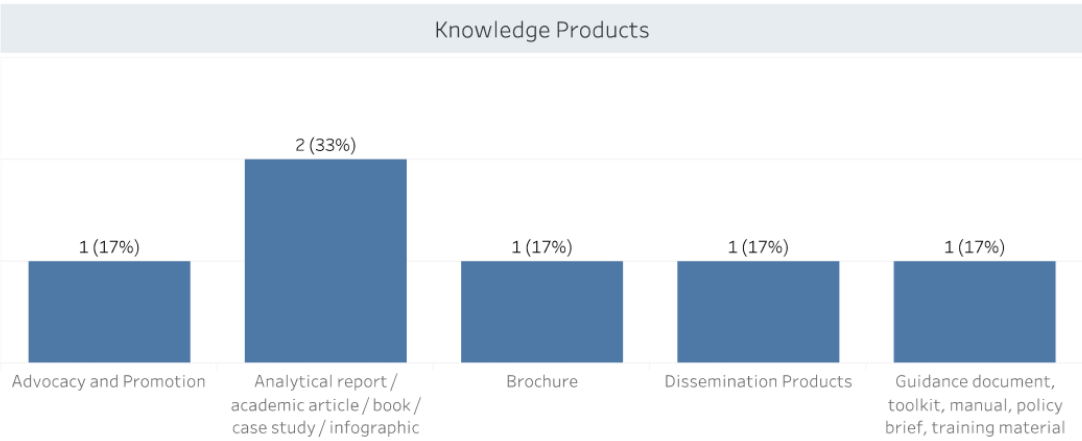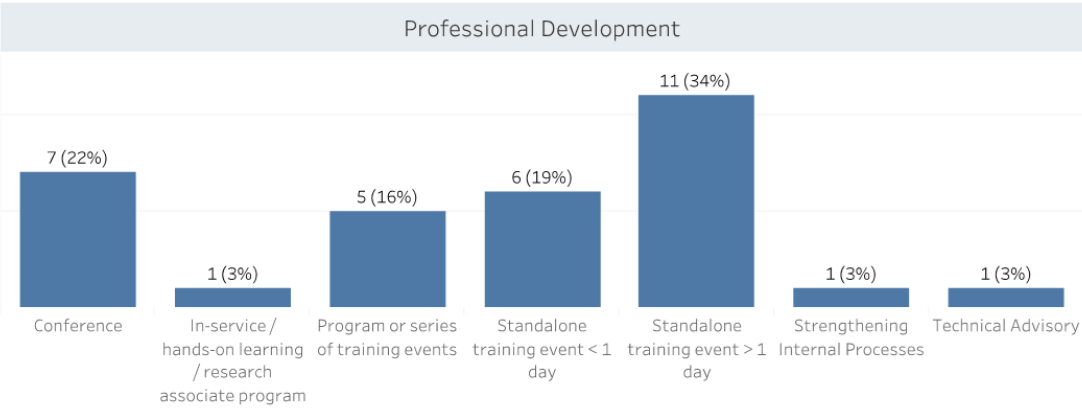| Knowledge Products by Implementing Partner		
GEI Implementing Partner	Activity Type (2)	Activities
CERP	Analytical report / academic article / book / case study / infographic	1
CLEAR AA	Analytical report / academic article / book / case study / infographic	1
CLEAR LAB	Dissemination Products	1
	Guidance document, toolkit, manual, policy brief, training material	1
CLEAR SA	Advocacy and Promotion	1
	Brochure	1
Grand Total		6

GEI summary of activities by priority areas

Activities by Priority Area

Youth	Gender	Climate Change	Fragile Countries
38%	26%	22%	15%
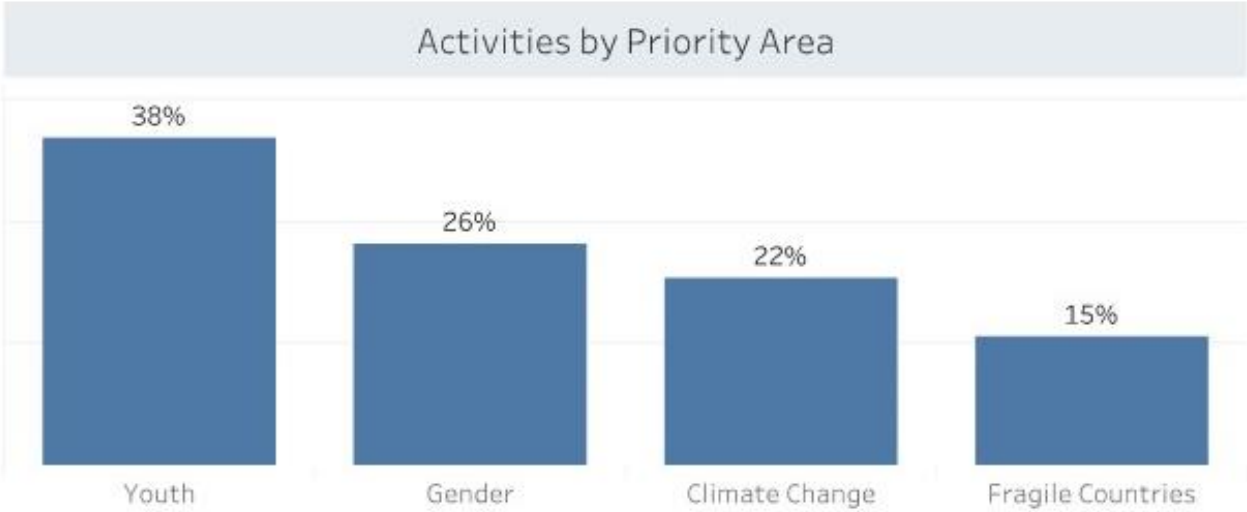
Activities by Priority Area & Implementing Partner

GEI Implementing Partner	Youth	Gender	Climate Change	Fragile Countries	Grand Total
CERP	40%	20%	40%		100%
CLEAR AA	23%	36%	18%	23%	100%
CLEAR FA	67%		17%	17%	100%
CLEAR LAB	83%	17%			100%
CLEAR SA	47%	26%	26%		100%
ENAP				100%	100%
GEI Global Team		50%	50%		100%
IPDET	27%	27%	27%	18%	100%
Grand Total	38%	26%	22%	15%	100%

GEI Knowledge and professional activities

Activity Breakdown

Category	Count
Country Partnership	12 (20%)
Documents and Knowledge Products	6 (10%)
Professional Development	32 (54%)
Program Management	9 (15%)

Professional Development

Category	Count
Conference	7 (22%)
In-service / hands-on learning / research associate program	1 (3%)
Program or series of training events	5 (16%)
Standalone training event < 1 day	6 (19%)
Standalone training event > 1 day	11 (34%)
Strengthening Internal Processes	1 (3%)
Technical Advisory	1 (3%)

Knowledge Products

Category	Count
Advocacy and Promotion	1 (17%)
Analytical report / academic article / book / case study / infographic	2 (33%)
Brochure	1 (17%)
Dissemination Products	1 (17%)
Guidance document, toolkit, manual, policy brief, training material	1 (17%)

1 Country Partnerships

1.1 Country engagement guidelines

As suggested by the May Partnership Council, the GEI developed a set of guidelines to describe how partners should work at country level to achieve GEI's intended outcomes, i.e., "an increase in the number of governments using M&E systems to generate and use evaluative evidence to plan, design, and manage implementation of better policies and programs that support achievement of national and international development goals."

The guideline has been incorporated in the broader GEI Operations Manual and illustrates three main ways in which the GEI network can support countries:

1. Through long-term partnerships called "country programs"[2], or

2. Through ad hoc support in response to requests that align strategically with the GEI's overall objectives and principles, or

3. Through its knowledge platform, GEI makes available multiple resources that can be used by countries themselves to strengthen their own systems.

The guidance note suggests systematic and consistent modalities that implementing partners can put in place to select a portfolio of countries, initiate a dialogue with local institutions, catalyze the efforts of other development partners, and ultimately deliver an effective capacity development program that strengthens national M&S systems.

The full text of the guidance note will be provided as a separate document.

1.2 CLEAR LAC selection

A new CLEAR Center for the Latin America and Caribbean region has been selected. The new CLEAR LAC Center will be hosted at the Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile (PUC). The selection process followed a rigorous method that included the request for Expression of Interest, a shortlisting process, interviews with shortlisted candidates, followed by a selection of two finalists.

The new CLEAR LAC program will be implemented by a consortium of PUC centers comprising the Center for Public Policy, J-PAL LAC and MIDE (the Centre for Measurement) working collaboratively in a strong partnership. The University is a highly regarded institution, ranked amongst the top in the Region. It has a strong reputation for academic rigor and excellence, as do the three centers making up the consortium.

The proposal received strongly aligns with the GEI's strategic approach, with a strong focus on country-level programming and on knowledge generation and sharing. It demonstrates technical expertise, strong membership of and participation in a regional M&E community of practice, leadership in various aspects of evaluation capacity development and a nimble and innovative team keen to explore ways of building country M&E systems.

The new CLEAR LAC website is live and can be accessed at this link: https://www.clearlac.org/

Some highlights of country partnership work carried out by GEI partners include:

Mozambique

CLEAR LAB hosted 12 representatives from the National Directorate of Monitoring and Evaluation of the Ministry of Economy and Finance. The group learned about Brazilian experiences in evaluation systems by interacting with the federal government and two states (Espírito Santo and Minas Gerais). They also visited the National School of Public Administration and the Institute of Applied Economic Research. CLEAR-LAB is also mentoring an Evaluation Committee to evaluate Mozambique's National Water Policy, supporting its first multisectoral rapid evaluation.

India

CLEAR SA supported the Tamil Nadu Education department to unlock the largest database on education in the state by cataloguing 1131 datasets, generated codebooks for 40 datasets, and produced usability reports for 6 key thematic areas including student/school/teacher masters, assessments, out-of-school children, and schemes. The catalog is the first-ever systematic documentation of the database and is serving as the foundation for the department to optimize the database and engage with external organizations on leveraging administrative data for research and effective monitoring.   CLEAR SA also provided advisory support to the Directorate of School Education on database management with a list of recommendations on practices to improve searchability, link ability, efficiency and use of datasets in the Education MIS.

Benin

CLEAR FA provided technical support to the general directorate of evaluation at the Benin's Ministry of Development and Coordination of Government Interventions (national M&E system coordination unit) to undertake a meta-evaluation of country-led evaluations carried out by the government over the last 20 years. Lessons from this exercise were presented to a broad range of stakeholders during a workshop.

Uzbekistan

GEI and CLEAR PCA were invited by the Agency for Strategic Reforms (ASR) under the President's office and International Strategic Center for Agri-Food Development (ISCAD) to initiate a process of strengthening monitoring, evaluation and learning systems in Uzbekistan. Following a desk review and initial online interviews, the GEI team visited Uzbekistan in June 2023 and delivered MESA. MESA findings and recommendations have been discussed with the government. Currently, the CLEAR PCA in partnership with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) supports the ASR to use MESA findings and recommendations for informing national reform in central planning.

2 Training and capacity development

2.1 IPDET 2023

IPDET delivered its two-week on-site training program in July 2023. In addition to the fundamentals of M&E, the curriculum also included workshops on timely themes and cutting-edge evaluation methods, such as evaluation for social justice, climate change evaluation, and use of machine learning in evaluation delivered primarily by GEI's broad network of experts. The program brought together 171 participants from 63 countries. GEI scholarships enabled 76 individuals, including ten from countries in fragile and conflict-affected situations, to attend the on-site program. They represented government agencies, research institutions, the VOPES, and UN institutions working at the country level.

2.2 ENAP

In collaboration with key regional stakeholders, ENAP continued its strong delivery of trainings in Francophone Africa and MENA, through the PIFED program in French and TAQYEEM, the first international evaluation program, in Arabic. Following its pilot in 2021, TAQYEEM has been delivered both online and in-person seven times. In FY 23, a regional training was carried out from November 6 to 24, 2022. Thirty one participants from seven MENA countries (Egypt, Jordan, Oman, Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Yemen), of which three (3) are affected by fragility and conflict, attended the 3-weeks long online TAQYEEM course. The participants hailed from governmental organizations and occupied strategic roles in their national M&E systems. ENAP also successfully collaborated with IsDB to deliver a more tailored TAQYEEM course to Cour des Comptes (CdC) staff in Morocco earlier this year.

2.3 WGTPD

GEI Working Group on Training and Professional Development, held quarterly, continues to be a key platform for knowledge sharing and coordinating training and professional development activities of the entire GEI network to the benefit of M&E stakeholders in developing countries and the broader M&E community. In addition to GEI's implementing partners, over the last year a number of GEI's associated partners, including ALNAP, ADB, Deval, 3ie, IsDB, UNICEF, and WFP shared their evaluation capacity development experiences in this forum. Task teams of GEI network experts are formed regularly to work on strategic initiatives of common interest.

2.4 Evaluation Competencies Framework

The GEI task team is developing a competency framework for evaluators with an aim to create a shared understanding of a set of competencies of professional evaluators and M&E practitioners across the GEI network. The competency framework will help guide evaluators in their career pathways and learning and development needs, and support training and professional development providers in their curriculum development.

Additionally, a GEI-supported study has been conducted jointly by IPDET and the Asia Pacific Evaluation Association (APEA) which mapped the academic training offers in evaluation in the Asia Pacific region. The study helped create the 'Consortium of Institutions on M&E education in Asia Pacific'. A thorough review of existing competencies and standards in evaluation training, conducted in this study also feeds into the GEI's global work on evaluation competencies.

2.5 National Evaluation Systems' online course

A task team of GEI Network experts is working to develop an online course titled "Fundamentals of an Effective National Evaluation System" in response to the growing demand from developing countries to understand better the critical components of M&E systems and how M&E fits the policy cycle. This introductory-level web-based course will cater to a broad audience, including government decision-makers and M&E practitioners.

CERP conducted a series of online course under the M&E Boot Camp for M&E professionals, program managers, and development practitioners. The training aimed to strengthen participants' technical skills within M&E, Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methodologies, and Project Management and help participants further advance their career in the development field.

3 Knowledge and Communications

3.1 Knowledge Curation and Production

GEI's knowledge platform, BetterEvaluation (BE), has been consistently expanding its content offerings. New method pages added to the site include guidance on how to use environmental footprint calculators, existing documents, evaluation journals, and multiple lines and levels of evidence. Since last April, 46 new resources were added to the site, many of which were contributed by the BE community. These resources covered a wide range of topics, including AI-driven content analysis, understanding causation in complex settings to evaluative thinking.

Two new knowledge products that were co-created with the Footprint Evaluation Initiative were also launched during this period - a new guide on Sustainability-inclusive evaluation: Why we need it and how to do it and a new case study that explores how to evaluate the environmental impact of personal protective equipment (PPE) in the COVID-19 pandemic.

The platform also introduced the Monitoring and Evaluation and Learning (MEL) toolkit, curated by the Open Society Foundations' Economic Justice Program (EJP). This toolkit draws on five years of EJP's work and shares a range of resources and tools that prioritize long-term change and adaptive learning for donors wanting to address the imbalances of power and burdensome MEL requirements for grantees.

In November, GEI is scheduled to launch the Beta version of the M&E System Resources. This section is tailored to cater to the needs of M&E practitioners and government officials interested in establishing or strengthening M&E systems. The M&E System Resources is expected to be fully completed and officially launched by February 2024.

3.2 Knowledge Sharing

The gLOCAL Evaluation Week stands out as a unique knowledge-sharing event, connecting a global community of people across sectors and regions. Over the course of a week, participants from all over the world join events – in their neighborhood or across the ocean – to learn from each other on a vast number of topics and themes. This year's gLOCAL theme revolved around "The Future of M&E: Culture, Context, and Collaboration," attracting an estimated **20,000 participants to over 300 events.** Following the event, the proceedings from many sessions have been documented and are now accessible on the website, where they will remain available for the next year, gLOCAL 2023.

Beyond gLOCAL, GEI has actively disseminated knowledge to external audiences. It hosted the first **BExchange webinar** to present the OECD recommendations about the use of evidence for decision makers. The webinar also provided insights from two countries, Portugal and Colombia,

as they work to comply with these guidelines. The event saw the participation of over 340 attendees from around the world and generated substantial interest and follow-up questions.

GEI also played a pivotal role in producing and delivering the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of WBG IEG, contributing to several knowledge talks that centered on gender, climate change, and capacity building. These activities fostered closer collaboration between GEI and IEG's Knowledge and Communications teams.

3.3 Communications

GEI employs various communication channels such as podcasts, stories of change, blogs, social media, and newsletters to disseminate knowledge and raise awareness about its work on a global scale, reaching thousands of M&E practitioners worldwide. Some of the latest products include:

- BLOGS: Seven GEI knowledge pieces were published by AEA, ahead of their annual evaluation conference, in their "A Tip-a-Day by Evaluators" Blog Series . Additionally, eight new blogs were published on the BE platform sharing insights from gLOCAL 2023 and the importance of 'knowing the place' when addressing environmental sustainability in evaluation.

- STORIES OF CHANGE: This series continues to expand, with two more stories from India and the Solomon Islands soon to be added to the list of knowledge products. https://www.globalevaluationinitiative.org/stories-of-change

- ONLINE COURSE: In July, CLEAR-LAB launched a free online course in Portuguese called "Monitoring and Evaluation of Public Policies". The course aims to introduce the main concepts and importance of M&E for evidence-based management, providing tools for developing monitoring plans and resources on different types of evaluations.

Furthermore, the network of communication focal points across the GEI network remains active, collaborating to deliver coordinated communication efforts regarding GEI-related news and events. These collective outreach efforts have been summarized in the graph below.

3.4 GEI Network Outreach Data FY23

*Data aggregate from all implementing partners and the global team FY 2023 (July 1st 2022 – June 30th 2023).

Followers	
Linkedin	114,062
Twitter	46,513
Facebook	41,194
YouTube	5,171

Website	
Page views	1,959,396
Total users	964,005

Newsletter	
Subscribers	28,079
Open rate (Avg)	37%

Followers percentage per channel

- LinkedIn - Twitter - Facebook - YouTube
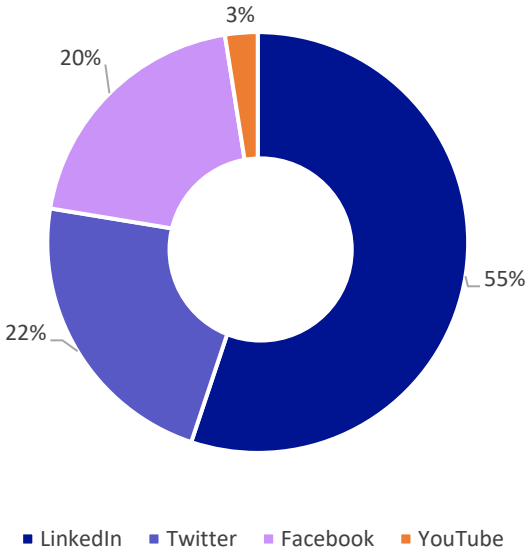
4 GEI priority areas

4.1 YOUTH

GEI successfully concluded the first round of Hands-on Learning Program in May 2023. The second round of the program started in September with new interns placed in the CLEAR Centers. The program is now also expanded to include government counterparts. Young evaluators will be placed in the government agencies responsible for coordination of monitoring and evaluation in Colombia, Costa Rica, and Mexico.

CLEAR FA designed a new course on children and youth -centered project evaluation to promote pro-youth and pro-children national evaluation system. A 5-days trainers workshop was held in Senegal bringing many evaluation stakeholders from West Africa to improve and validate the first draft of the materials, and to develop case for the course.

4.2 CLIMATE CHANGE

GEI supported the Climate Investment Fund (CIF) observers (representatives from civil society, indigenous organizations, and the private sector) to build their evaluative skills and conduct evaluations of climate finance programs. In parallel, GEI is developing training content on evaluation of climate action. GEI's MESA diagnostic allows countries to analyze national systems and capacities for reporting on climate commitments and advises countries to harmonize the use of climate data in national decision making.

4.3 GENDER

The GEI global team is implementing the "Feminist Innovation in M&E" (FIME) project. One of the goals of the project is to understand to what extent gender-transformative practices are utilized across the GEI network, identify gaps, and suggest concrete actions to address those gaps.

A dedicated consultant has been recruited. The consultant will help establish a Reference group to support the FIME project implementation and provide advice on an ongoing basis. At present, the GEI team is working on carrying out an assessment that will include a self-administered online survey for the universe of GEI partners, key informant interviews, and some focus group discussions.

Initial steps have also been made to begin organizing the FIME version of the GEI Launchpad, expected to be designed between now and the end of the calendar year, and delivered in Q1 and Q2 of 2024.

4.4 FRAGILITY, CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE

The global team issued a TOR for the compilation of a database of specialized consultants.

GEI and ALNAP jointly initiated a project aimed to develop a curated, high quality up to date knowledge resource page dedicated to M&E issues in fragile and conflict-affected situations. The resources will be hosted in the Better Evaluation platform and will be accessible to M&E stakeholders across the humanitarian-development spectrum.

5 Exploring new opportunities

5.1 Strategy partnership with WBG Governance Global Practice for RAS[1] in Saudi Arabia

The engagement with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to support the establishment of a dedicated Middle East and North Africa (MENA) CLEAR Center is moving forward. The Ministry of Finance has allocated USD 500,000 to fund the preparatory phase to set up the center. The GEI Global Team is collaborating closely with the World Bank Country Management Unit and the World Bank Governance global practice in managing this engagement, which will lead the engagement with KSA with technical support from the GEI global team. The preparation of the advisory program will begin in the Fall of 2023.

5.2 PRIME reactivated

The program on rural M&E originally commissioned by IFAD and delivered by CLEAR LAC was suspended at the end of 2022. We are delighted to report that the program has now been reactivated and will be convened and delivered by CLEAR LAB in collaboration with all the CLEAR Centers and the GEI global team. A grant from IFAD in the amount of $1.5 mill will be provided to make this work possible.

5.3 Collaboration with World Bank Operations Policy and Country Services Unit

As part of its commitment to deepening relationships with strategic World Bank partners, GEI is in discussion with Operations Policy and Country Services (OPCS) department to develop and deliver a training program to project implementation units and other affiliated World Bank clients. To this effect, resources will be provided by OPCS. This will potentially open up a significant amount of resources for the CLEAR network.

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[1] Reimbursable Advisory Services.

6 GEI Program Management

6.1 Grants to Implementing Partners

A total of 9 grants have been made to implementing partners since the inception of the GEI program. A table illustrating the grants provided to implementing partners is presented below. In addition to the first round of grants, the GEI global team has disbursed the second tranche of grants to CLEAR Anglophone Africa and CLEAR Lusophone Africa and Brazil. In FY24 additional grants will be provided to implementing partners as illustrated below:

GRANT	Grant disbursement schedule (in USD)		
	FY22	FY23	FY24
IPDET	1,460,000		687,000*
ENAP	250,000		265,000**
CLEAR AA	650,000	650,000	650,000**
CLEAR FA		875,000	565,000**
CLEAR LAB	736,000	736,000	792,000**
CERP		750,000	305,000**
CLEAR SA	852,516	-	487,040**
CLEAR LAC			500,000**
TOTAL per FY	3,948,516	3,011,000	4,251,040
Cumulative disbursement	3,948,516	6,959,516	11,210,556

* Grant already disbursed

** Grant will be made in FY24 but not yet disburse

The table below presents the supervision missions already conducted and the ones foreseen during FY24:

Supervision missions FY23-FY24					
Implementing partner	TTL	Project #	Status	FY23	FY24
CERP	Kete	P178041	Active	Feb-23	Jan-24
CLEAR AA	Fabio	P177221	Active	May 2022 (v)	Feb-24
CLEAR FA	Fabio	P178506	Active	Apr-23	Apr-24
CLEAR LAB	Fabio	P177200	Active	Jan 2023 (v)	Feb-24
CLEAR SA	Kete	P177159	Active	Nov-22	Nov-23
ENAP	Anna	P177237	Active	Jun 2022 (v)	Nov 2023 (v)
IPDET	Anna	P176750	Active	Jun 2022 (v)	Jul-23
CLEAR LAC	Fabio	P181531	Preparation	Aug-23	Apr-24

(v) = virtual supervision mission

7 GEI Budget estimates FY23-FY25

7.1 GEI budget estimates FY24

Cost categories	Value
Grants to implementing partners	4,251,040
Core staff GEI global team	1,704,200
Consultants	1,193,402
Equipment and buildings	177,200
Communications and IT	151,700
Travel (RETF supervision, fundraising, conferences)	150,000
Meetings and governance bodies (PC, AB, IC and Annual Meetings)	110,000
Support to country program	90,000
Global programs (internships, Launchpad, IOCE, etc.)	326,750
Admin	11,200
TOTAL	8,165,492

7.2 GEI Budget Summary Table FY23 – FY25

GEI Budget Summary Table	FY 23	FY24	FY25
INCOME			
Curent BOC in MDTF	1747715		
MDTF Contributions by FY		2,893,603	2,893,603
IEG Contributions		3,400,000	3,400,000
Additional expected contributions*		250,000	
TOTAL INCOME	1,747,715	6,543,603	6,293,603
Carry over from previous FY**		1,747,715	581,651
TOTAL AVAILABLE INCOME		8,291,319	6,875,255
EXPENDITURES			
RETF Grants	-	4,251,040	2,240,000
Variable cost (BETF projections from work program)		1,797,527	1,797,527
Fixed cost - Staff salaries + part BETF****		1,661,100	1,800,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	-	7,709,667	5,837,527
End of FY GEI overall balance	1,747,715	581,651	1,037,728

* E.g. KSA RAS and other contributions as a result of fundraising | ** This refers to the balance between total cumulative income minus total expenditures at the end of a given FY. | *** Data retrieved from RM projections database

8 GEI Financials

This table shows the generous contributions committed by the GEI donors to the GEI MDTF. Despite the difficult times in resource mobilization due to multiple international crises, some new donors have committed new resources to the GEI, demonstrating continued interest in the international development community for the GEI agenda. We recognize and appreciate the support of the UNDP's Independent Evaluation Office and the German Institute for Development Evaluation which provide full time staff members working as part of the GEI's Global Team.

GEI overall income (Thousands, US$)							
Bilateral Agencies							
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25**	TOTAL PAID	TOTAL COMMITTED
Sweden	2,417,503	908,926		-	-	3,326,428	3,326,428
Netherlands	1,222,500	281,725	345,355	263,900	263,900	1,849,581	2,377,381
Germany	1,208,320	1,465,230	1,052,200	1,000,000	1,000,000	3,725,750	5,725,750
Switzerland	-	403,735	265,674	276,700	276,700	669,409	1,222,809
Finland	305,925	-	-	-	-	305,925	305,925
Portugal	-	11,292	-			11,292	11,292
Denmark	263,223	-	228,741	263,000	263,000	491,964	1,017,964
Canada	190,506	-	361,520	366,703	366,703	552,026	1,285,433
Total Bilateral	7,064,148	1,960,093	1,908,135	2,170,003	2,170,003	10,932,379	15,272,982
Multilateral and UN Agencies							
IADB	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	1,000,000	2,500,000
UNDP	200,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	500,000	800,000
UNICEF			10,000	10,000	10,000	-	30,000
CIF				250,000		-	500,000
IFAD	50,000	300,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	350,000	470,000
Total MDB & UN Agencies	750,000	950,000	740,000	950,000	700,000	1,900,000	4,090,000
Total Bilateral, MDB and UN Agencies	7,814,148	2,910,093	2,648,135	3,120,303	2,870,303	12,823,376	19,362,982
IEG							
Total IEG Contributions*	3,308,000	2,200,000	2,900,000	3,400,000	3,400,000		15,208,000
Grand total cumulative MDTF	9,665,977	14,977,959	20,526,094	27,046,397	33,316,701		33,316,701

* Note that IEG Contributions for FY21 include $808,000 in grants to GEI partners | Committed in contract | Soft commitments

** Note that some figures for 2024 and 2025 are tentative and are not yet covered by signed agreements.

8.1 GEI MDTF Current Account situation

Bilateral Agencies

Current account situation for the GEI MDTF as of 4 Oct 2023		
Financial Summary		
(+) Contributions Paid-in		13,372,378
(+) Investment Income		374,179
(-) Admin Fee		382,326
(-) Disbursements		7,617,194
Fund Balance		5,747,038
Outstanding Commitments		2,992,339
Main Fund Balance		1,747,715
Balance of Commitment*		1,747,715

* BOC = funds available for new grant commitments

9 Fundraising

Since the last Partnership Council, the GEI global team has approached various potential donors, including France, Korea, Saudi Arabia, Saudi Development Fund, the Global Fund and the Global Financing Facility. Discussions have been productive and demonstrated a significant and growing interest in the work that GEI does, particularly on the need to train and professionalize a cadre of evaluators in developing countries as well as a strong need for training of counterparts and own staff by many institutions.
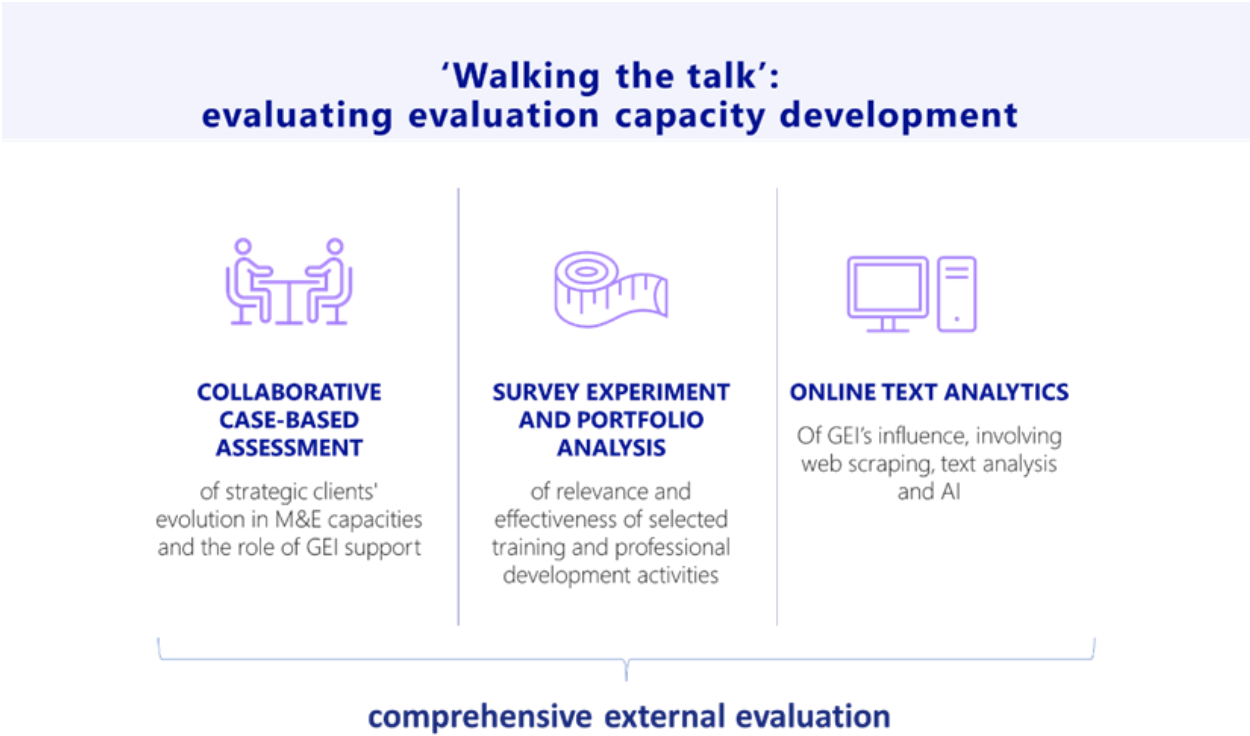
To systematize our approach to fundraising, the GEI global team has hired a short term consultant who will assist with a variety of tasks including preparation of background research on donors, customization of material for presentations, sustaining the engagement over time, and prepare dedicated marketing material.

10 Evaluation Strategy Update

The GEI has proposed a comprehensive evaluation strategy to assess different aspects of the GEI's work.

The first part of the strategy encompasses a three-pronged evaluation approach to assess the main areas of work undertaken by the GEI:

1. A case-based approach to assess the causal contribution of the GEI's work to M&E capacity and systems development at organizational and national levels in selected countries.

2. A survey (experiment) approach to assess the relevance and effectiveness of selected GEI training and professional development activities.

3. An online analytical approach to assess the causal influence of GEI's knowledge work and events (using web site analytics, web scraping, text analysis and Machine Learning and Deep Learning applications).

'Walking the talk': evaluating evaluation capacity development

COLLABORATIVE CASE-BASED ASSESSMENT

of strategic clients' evolution in M&E capacities and the role of GEI support

SURVEY EXPERIMENT AND PORTFOLIO ANALYSIS

of relevance and effectiveness of selected training and professional development activities

ONLINE TEXT ANALYTICS

Of GEI's influence, involving web scraping, text analysis and AI

comprehensive external evaluation

This part will be managed and conducted by the GEI Global Team with the help of external consultants. The methodological details of each of the three evaluative exercises have been

presented and discussed at previous partnership council meetings. The GEI Global Team is happy to provide further details on the scope and methodological design of each of the exercises. The findings from the evaluative studies will complement the data and lessons captured through GEI&US and other regular reporting mechanisms (e.g., ISRs, ICRs) on activities, outputs and, to a limited extent, outcomes.

The purpose of this part is twofold. First, to understand the relevance and effectiveness of the GEI's work across its main areas of work (country engagements, training and professional development, knowledge generation and sharing). This includes developing a better understanding of how and to what extent the GEI's work at the global, regional, and country levels contributes to changes in M&E capacities and systems and, ultimately, changes in organizational learning, accountability, and decision-making for better policies and better lives.

In addition, this work will feed into the second part of the evaluation strategy: the comprehensive external evaluation of the GEI's work (which is planned in the final year of the first replenishment cycle). The proposal is that one or more of the GEI core partners would manage the external evaluation to ensure independence from GEI operational activities.

The status of implementation (October 2023) is the following:

Collaborative case-based assessment - The GEI Global Team has finalized an initial design and case selection of the exercise. The aim is to initiate the empirical work in the second half of FY24 (first half of 2024).

Online text analytics - The GEI Global Team has had discussions with the IEG Methods Team on the methodological approach. The aim is to initiate the design work in the second half of FY24 (first half of 2024) and conduct the analysis in the first half of FY25 (second half of 2024).

Survey experiment and portfolio analysis - The GEI team has designed and recently launched a global survey on evaluation training to better understand how GEI trainings address the needs and priorities of different evaluation stakeholders. The survey includes a conjoint experimental block as well as more descriptive and attitudinal questions relating to evaluation training preferences and needs. In combination with portfolio analysis the survey data analysis will help assess the relevance and potential effectiveness of GEI's training programs. The effectiveness analysis aspect will be further strengthened by other (existing/future) studies such as the IPDET tracer study.

Comprehensive external evaluation - The aim is to initiate the planning and design work in the first half of FY25 (second half of 2024) and conduct the evaluation in the second half of FY25 (first half of 2025). Rather than establishing separate reference groups for the 'in-house' evaluative activities and the comprehensive evaluation as previously suggested, for efficiency and quality purposes we propose to establish a single reference group that will provide feedback on both parts. The organization of the comprehensive external evaluation will be a topic for discussion at the partnership council.