CONCEPT NOTE

The Future of M&E: Culture, Context, and Collaboration

May 29 – June 2, 2023

www.glocalevalweek.org
Background

gLOCAL Evaluation Week is 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. Allowing participants insight into how their work fits in with regional monitoring and evaluation (M&E) ecosystems and the larger international M&E community, gLOCAL helps to inspire and energize a global movement – individuals and organizations who value the power of evidence to improve people’s lives.

Since its launch in 2019, the gLOCAL platform has hosted thousands of events in multiple languages across six continents. It has grown to become one of the largest M&E knowledge-sharing events in the world. gLOCAL event participants and hosts include international organizations, regional M&E bodies, (sub-) national governmental and non-governmental organizations, decision makers, commissioners, Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation, academics, researchers, and students – who all come together to connect, learn, and collaborate.

gLOCAL is convened by the Global Evaluation Initiative (GEI) – a network of organizations and experts that supports country governments with strengthening national monitoring and evaluation (M&E) ecosystems and improving the use of evidence in their countries. gLOCAL was launched by the Centers for Learning on Evaluation and Results (CLEARs), a GEI Implementing Partner. The CLEARs continue to play an essential role in organizing regional gLOCAL events.

The GEI focuses its support on efforts that are country-owned and aligned with local needs, goals, and perspectives. Knowledge sharing is central to GEI’s mission and is the inspiration behind the annual convening of gLOCAL. This year, gLOCAL is also an important component of GEI’s commitment to implement the Turin Agenda, a framework for action on rapidly and sustainably strengthening country national evaluation systems that emerged out of the 2022 National Evaluation Capacities Conference, hosted by the United Nations Development Programme.
gLOCAL 2023 Themes:  
The Future of M&E: Culture, Context, and Collaboration

Evidence-based decision-making is more important than ever as the world struggles with the continuing impacts of COVID-19, new instances of conflict, climate change, widespread poverty and inequality. The ability to monitor and evaluate the relevance and effectiveness of policy interventions is an urgent priority as governments and organizations try to balance limited resources with increased needs.

This year, gLOCAL will look at three important thematic areas that are crucial for the practice and institutionalization of M&E: Culture, Context, and Collaboration.

**Culture:** Adapting M&E approaches to the local cultural and socio-demographic context is imperative to supporting the use of evidence for decision-making. For M&E to be influential, it must consider the values and belief systems of citizens, policymakers, and other M&E stakeholders. Moreover, supporting a culture of evidence-based decision-making requires an understanding of existing values and beliefs.

- How can culturally responsive M&E principles be usefully integrated with (universally considered) good (scientific) principles of evaluation research?
- How can culturally responsive M&E practices and processes contribute to a culture of evidence-based decision-making?
- How can the practice of M&E help neutralize the harmful effects of biased information coming from a growing number of sources (e.g., social media)?

**Context:** Monitoring and evaluation do not take place in a vacuum. They are embedded in institutional contexts (with their specific uncertainties and volatilities), which in turn are embedded in broader social, economic, and political environments.

- How can we develop resilient M&E systems that can withstand and outlast institutional uncertainties and volatilities?
- How can we adapt M&E systems and practices to be effective in fragile or unstable contexts? And how do we make a case for more investment in M&E during times of crisis?
- How can M&E contribute to addressing the greater societal issues of our time, such as climate change and inequality?
**Collaboration:** The complexity and urgency of the challenges in strengthening evidence-based decision-making require even more coordinated action than ever before. But true collaboration is not just coordination. It is a shared commitment to reimagine ways of working together - merging resources, skills, and unique strengths of each partner to jointly contribute to solutions. Creative and strategic partnerships are especially important in times of resource scarcity, as they help to reduce duplication of efforts while maximizing results. In addition, M&E must continue to strive to involve the voices of those most affected by the policy interventions in question and work to bring more diverse stakeholders to the table.

- What are key collaborative arrangements needed to generate successful (influential) evaluations and/or M&E systems?
- How can collaboration with stakeholders outside the M&E process strengthen the use of evidence?
- How can M&E include the voices of those who are affected most by the policy intervention?

**Sub-Themes**

In addition to the special themes of Culture, Context, and Collaboration, event organizers can choose any M&E topic to present or discuss around: methods, evidence use or capacity development.

**Format, Dates, and Planning**

- Session formats can include presentations, roundtable or panel discussions, trainings and workshops, and more. This year, gLOCAL organizers are welcome to host in-person, virtual, or hybrid events based on their target audience.
- **gLOCAL 2023** will take place between May 29th and June 2nd, 2023
- The call for proposals will be open throughout the month of March. The proposal approval deadline for the gLOCAL Secretariat will be the end of April.
- Please visit [www.globalevalweek.org/call-for-proposals](http://www.globalevalweek.org/call-for-proposals) for general information, evaluation criteria, and other requirements.