



**The Institutional Status and Role of the Evaluation Society of Kenya:
*Aligning to the evolving national M&E landscape in the COVID-19 Pandemic
through a multi-stakeholder approach***

Gordon Wanzare,
Chairperson, Evaluation Society of Kenya (ESK)
9th Kenya National M&E Conference
17th – 19th May 2021

About Evaluation Society of Kenya (ESK)

- ❑ **Professional network** of M&E in Kenya established in 2008 and formally registered in 2011 (About 13 years old).
- ❑ **Membership:** 180 drawn from across all development sectors and actors. Membership categories include individual, corporate & students. Cu
- ❑ **Core mandate** is to promote evidence-based development locally and globally through high quality, equitable and gender sensitive Monitoring, Evaluation and Research.
- ❑ **Affiliate** of the African Evaluation Association (AfrEA).
- ❑ **Founder partner** of the Eval4Action and IOCE/EvalPartners movements, spearheading the promotion of the global evaluation of the SDGs (EvalSDGs EvalVision).

ESK Vision, Mission & Objective

VISION: High quality, responsive and innovative Monitoring, Evaluation and Research evidence culture and practice nationally, regionally and globally.

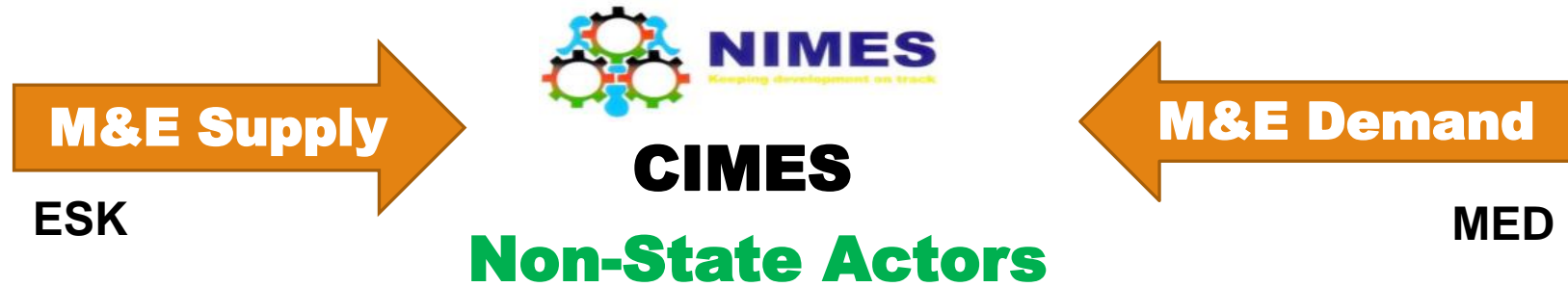
MISSION: To promote professionalization, capacity building, advocacy, utilisation and sound governance of Monitoring, Evaluation and Research practice.

OVERALL OBJECTIVE: Overall objective of the Society is to promote and facilitate gender and equity responsive capacity building, professional networking and sharing of evidence, M&E theories, techniques and tools among evaluators, policy makers, researchers and development specialists.

ESK Strategic Focus

- ❑ Strengthened **institutional capacity** of ESK.
- ❑ Enhanced individual capacities and **professionalization** of Monitoring and Evaluation practice through a multi-stakeholder approach, taking into account gender, social equity, climate change, and COVID 19 context.
- ❑ Enhanced national **demand and utilization** of M&E, taking into account gender, social equity, climate change and COVID-19 through multi-stakeholder efforts of strengthening ESK as a key stakeholder on the supply end and rallying around the NIMES/CIMES.

National Context



- ❑ M&E profession and ESK's relevance is centered around the country's state of M&E and upon whose mandate and strategic focus is anchored. Both supply and demand in the national M&E ecosystem is still generally weak.
- ❑ This calls for strengthened **institutional capacity for ESK, professionalization of M&E practice**, and **enhanced demand and utilization of M&E** through a multi-stakeholder approach.

ESK members adaptation to M&E during COVID-19 pandemic

- ❑ As consultants/M&E officers in various organizational settings involved in Covid-response assignments thro' remote data collection (e.g. phone surveys/interviews, SMS surveys, online surveys, WhatsApp/Zoom/Google Meet/Skype FGDs).
- ❑ Adherence to GoK/WHO COVID-19 measures.
- ❑ Do-No-Harm principle.
- ❑ Effective communication with M&E stakeholders.
- ❑ Flexibility and adaptive M&E.
- ❑ Participation in Webinars – M&E training, conferences, workshops e.g. EVIDENCE 2020 was virtual.

ESK key achievements pre & during Covid-19

- ❑ Institutional strengthening support of Secretariat (UNICEF/Daystar University partnerships) and members individual capacities.
- ❑ Strengthening of ESK governance- 2019 revised constitution/elections held, annual audits, regular board meetings, and AGMs/SGMs (last held in December 2020/April 2021).
- ❑ Under ESK/MED leadership, accorded a Global “Spot Light” (for learning & experience sharing) and winner of UNICEF-led IOCE/EvalPartners EvalSDGs 2018 award.
- ❑ Joint MED/ESK – World Bank Funded Pilot County Evaluation Project (advocacy, M&E training & rapid evaluations)
- ❑ Jointly with MED spearheading multi-stakeholder efforts towards the review of the existing national M&E standard curriculum.
- ❑ Newsletters

ESK key achievements pre & during Covid-19

- ❑ **Secretariat Milestone by UNICEF/Daystar - Staff on-boarding**

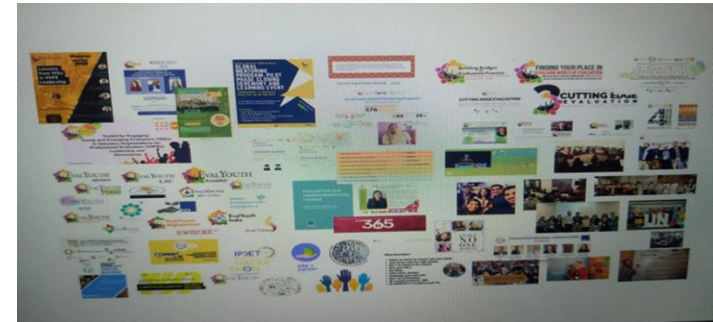


- ❑ **Members Rapid Evaluations Training**



ESK key achievements pre & during Covid-19

- ❑ ESK's Members Professional Development – e.g. participation in 2020 African Evidence Network (AEN) which champions Evidence-Informed Decision Making (EIDM)
- ❑ ESK EvalYouth Network exists (EvalVijana). In 2020 they participated in global youth conference



ESK key achievements pre & during Covid-19

❑ M&E training for members



Daniel Masetu, Jeniffer Mutua, Dr. Alex Mirara, Diana W. Sankale, Roseline N. Muchai R; Collins Okoth, Moses Oyagi, Beth Muriuki, Dr. Philemon Yugi, Miriam Mueni, Cheboi K. Andre Moses Thurairira, Elizabeth Njoki, Wabwire Mulumia, Phyllis Njenga(President).

- ❑ Partnership Building (including Strategic partnership with MED since inception) - Currently promoting the evaluation of the SDGs under EvalSDGs EvalVision through a national stakeholders Technical Working Group (TWG).



ESK key achievements pre & during Covid-19

- ❑ M&E advocacy e.g. with Kericho County MCAs



- ❑ Rapid Eval/RBM Training – Kericho Technical Officers



Breakaway session (Strand 5): Rapid evaluations in the Health and Water sectors during the COVID-19 pandemic: Case of Kericho and Kilifi Counties. Day 2: Tuesday 18th May 2021, 11:50-12:10. by Prof. Elizabeth Kuria

ESK key achievements pre & during Covid-19

❑ Rapid Evaluation for evidence– based development: Kilifi Water Sector



ESK key achievements pre & during Covid-19

- ❑ Participated in 2020 Eval4Action Campaigns



**We commit to promote
use of Evaluation for
better decision making**

EVALUATION SOCIETY OF KENYA (ESK)



**WE COMMIT
to action for
INFLUENTIAL
EVALUATION**

The graphic features a yellow background with a subtle wood-grain texture. On the left, the text 'We commit to promote use of Evaluation for better decision making' is displayed in bold black font. Below this, 'EVALUATION SOCIETY OF KENYA (ESK)' is written in a smaller font. The ESK logo, which includes a stylized map of Kenya and the text 'ESK Evaluation Society of Kenya', is positioned at the bottom left. On the right side, there is a circular logo for the 'Decade of Evaluation for Action' with the hashtag '#Eval4Action'. At the bottom right, the text 'WE COMMIT to action for INFLUENTIAL EVALUATION' is presented in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with 'to action for' in a smaller size and 'INFLUENTIAL EVALUATION' in a larger, all-caps font.

ESK key achievements pre & during Covid-19

- ❑ **Global linkages:** Member of **Inter-Regional Initiative for Professionalization of Evaluation (IRIPE)** launched in Dec 2020 which has so far documented a Multi-Country Status Report on Professionalization of Evaluation including Kenya.



Key challenges

- ❑ Resource constraint to provide professional development opportunities for our members, particularly in the wake of COVID-19
- ❑ Sustenance of ESK institutional structures e.g. secretariat operations and Board's oversight functions.
- ❑ Volunteering Board, and members on specific assignments.
- ❑ Emerging challenge of M&E during and post-pandemic and capacity needs for members to adapt.

How to get involved?

- ❑ Call to join ESK as an individual, corporate, or institutional member.
- ❑ Investment in ESK strategic focus areas in the form of grants – institutionalization, professionalization, and M&E supply/demand.
- ❑ Collaboration/partnership in member capacity building and professional development – training, scholarships, fellowship, internship etc.
- ❑ Localization of evaluations in the spirit of localization agenda. Affirmative action for ESK members to be more engaged in evaluation assignments which are normally given to “international experts”.
- ❑ Technical assistance.
- ❑ Volunteerism.

THANK YOU!



Partners

