



## **Uganda Evaluation Week 2024 – Call for Abstracts**

**Theme: “Development with Purpose: Empowering Accountable learning for achieving Development Goals and Enhancing Climate Resilience”.**

**Date: 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2024**

**Dear Evaluation Practitioner/Scholar,**

Uganda Evaluation Association working in partnership with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) Uganda, invites you to participate in the upcoming 8<sup>th</sup> Uganda Evaluation Week. We welcome submission of abstracts and papers on diverse topics related to Monitoring and Evaluation, as well as Innovations that support the sector.

The Uganda Evaluation Week will be hosted in Kampala.

The concept note can be downloaded from this link: [Concept-8th Uganda Evaluation Week 2024- 11.03.2024.pdf \(ugandaevaluationassociation.org\)](https://www.ugandaevaluationassociation.org/Concept-8th%20Uganda%20Evaluation%20Week%202024-11.03.2024.pdf)

### **1.0 Objectives of the Evaluation Week**

1. To provide a platform where stakeholders share experiences from evaluations that have contributed to attainment of national targets towards NDP III and SDGs in building resilience to Climate change.
2. To explore innovative ways for evaluation practice that improve learning and strengthen synergies between local practitioners and international evaluation actors.

The conference aims to enhance the practice of monitoring and evaluation by fostering a shift towards impactful, learning -oriented outcomes beyond accountability. It will delve into the evolution of accountability centric evaluations to practices that prioritize learning. Emphasizing the importance of

moving past mere evidence generation, the conference will promote shared learning experiences anchored in strong partnerships. The overarching theme provides a foundation for stimulating discussions, interactive workshops and diverse activities throughout the event.

## **2.0 Target Audience**

Participants will comprise Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) practitioners in Uganda drawn from Government, the Private Sector, Non-governmental Organizations, Civil Society, academia, Young and Emerging Evaluators, and students. Participants from the East African Community (EAC) member states as well as those from Africa and the wider international community.

## **3.0 Context**

The Uganda Evaluation Week is an annual stakeholder event in the UEA's strategic plan (2021-2025). It showcases evidence use from monitoring and evaluation to support given development interventions by government, NGOS/CSOs and Private Sector, International development partners in the country. The majority of these interventions are funded by Government wherein the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) hosts the secretariat responsible for promoting the culture of monitoring and Evaluation in government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). Thus, government provides the space where the growth of the Uganda Evaluation Association has evolved and operates.

The past seven editions of the Uganda Evaluation Week resulted from concerted stakeholder collaboration from the time the Government of Uganda (GoU) instituted the first of the now three five-year National Development Plans (NDPs) in 2010. The overall goal of the NDP, which is in sync with the Uganda Vision 2040, is to propel the country towards middle income status through strengthening the country's competitiveness for sustainable wealth creation employment and inclusive growth. Through the five-year NDP cycles, the OPM has cooperated with development partners, Africa and Regional Evaluation Associations, and particularly the Uganda Evaluation Association to deepen mainstreaming of M&E in government, the private sector and Civil Society Organisations.

#### **4.0 The 8<sup>th</sup> UEW 2024 edition**

The event is scheduled to start with **pre-conference workshops** on the **19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of August, 2024** followed by a **three-day conference** starting from the **21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2024**. Both the Pre-Conference workshop and the Conference will be by subscription.

#### **4.1 Expected Outcomes**

1. Strengthened support for integration of evidence-use in national development initiatives spanning various sectors.
2. Improved methodologies in evaluations practices and expanded research prospects for both local practitioners and international evaluation stakeholders.

#### **4.2 Conference Sub-themes**

Three sub-themes align to the main theme. Abstracts and papers in English are invited from evaluators, experts, academics, researchers, and students among others. Accountability in Learning: Measuring Progress towards NDP and SDGs, Catalyzing Change: Learning Strategies for Climate Action, Sustainable Growth: Education as a Driver for Resilient Development

#### **Sub-theme 1. Accountability in Development: Enhancing utilization of evidence to achieve national targets progress towards NDP IV & SDGs**

- a) Exploring the current landscape of evaluations primarily serving accountability demands.
- b) Exploring Factors contributing to Limited Utilization of Evaluation in Decision Making and Project Design: Case Studies from Local Development Programmes
  - i. Investigating the factors contributing to underutilization of evaluation insights in shaping decision-making processes and Project Design
  - ii. Drawing insights from the experiences of specific local development program – Emyooga, Parish Development Model (PDM) – Deepening Financial Inclusion, Agricultural Credit Facility, Small Business Recovery Fund, Uganda Development Cooperation (UDC), Blockchain Technologies.
  - iii. Analyzing the unique challenges encountered within programs that impede the effective integration of evaluation findings.
- c) Developing practical approaches to increase the uptake of evaluation findings for informed decision-making: Lessons from NDP II Evaluation and NDP III Mid-term Review.

- d) Strategizing Evaluation Approaches Aligned towards NDP IV to Promote Continuous Learning and Informed Project/Program Design.
- e) Integrating Localization in Evaluation to Enhance Relevance and Impact
  - i. Examining the role of local stakeholders in the evaluation process to ensure the relevance and applicability of findings.
  - ii. Leveraging indigenous knowledge and local expertise to improve the contextual accuracy of evaluations.
  - iii. Enhancing the capacity of local institutions and evaluators to drive sustainable evaluation practices and foster local ownership.
  - iv. Addressing challenges and opportunities in implementing localized evaluation methodologies within the context of national development frameworks.

**Target:** Ministries, Department and Agencies, Parliament, Private Sector, Academia, NGOS/CSOs and Development Partners.

### **Sub-theme 2. Catalyzing Change: Partnerships in Learning strategies for Climate Action and Resilience.**

- a) Showcasing case studies that exemplify successful resilience of communities participating in learning-focused practices.
- b) Analyzing evaluations and early warning that led to tangible improvements of livelihoods in subsequent projects and programs.
- c) Exploring collaboration model(s) between stakeholders that enhance the effectiveness of monitoring and evaluation in Climate Resilience; Experience from the Private sector initiatives on tree planting such as Cultural institutions, Banking institutions, NGOs, among others.

**Target:** Private Sector, CSOs / NGOs, Cultural institutions, Ministries, Department and Agencies, Parliament, Private Sector, Academia, and Development Partners.

### **Sub-theme 3. Innovation in Evaluation Practices: Tools and Techniques.**

- a) Integrating innovative tools and techniques in evaluations – AI Technologies, Localization of Evaluation, Social Network Analysis, Life Stories, Big Data Analytics and Digital Dashboards.
- b) Showcasing advancements in evaluation methodologies that contribute to a more nuanced understanding of project impacts and outcomes such as Integration of indigenous knowledge.

## **5.0 Guidelines on how to participate**

The organizing committee invites interested individuals to express their interest in presenting as part of a panel discussion or leading or chairing specific sessions.

The 2024 Uganda Evaluation Week Conference and Exhibition will include keynotes addresses, breakout sessions, policy dialogue, and workshops. In addition, there will be two days pre-conference training sessions, exhibitions and side events by partners and sponsors.

Three main sub-themes have been identified. Abstracts written in English are invited from experts, evaluators, academics, researchers, students, policy makers using evidence for decision-making, and development professionals who have undertaken development and policy interventions based on rigorous evidence for the Papers/presentations, Workshops, Panels, Roundtables and Exhibitions that communicate to the overall theme or the indicated sub-themes.

Abstract should be at most 350 words in MS Word, and double-spaced. Submitted will be made electronically to: **conference@ugandaevaluationassociation.org** and a copy sent to **ueaevalconference@gmail.com**. Multiple abstracts may be submitted but should be registered separately.

## **5.1 Types of Presentations**

### ***A. Short Paper Presentations (15 minutes each)***

Papers are intended to generate discussion and therefore should be based on a recently completed evaluation and or study, with the aim of clarifying issues in evaluation theory and propose new and innovative evaluation paradigms.

Paper proposals should indicate:

- i. Title of the paper, clearly indicating it as is on the paper presentation
- ii. Name, title and institutional affiliations or the author
- iii. Name and title of presenting author
- iv. Emails and telephone contact of presenting author

### ***B. Round table and Panel Discussion (45 minutes)***

Roundtables are for discussions of evaluation and studies work-in-progress and will last 45 minutes each. They accord authors with the opportunity to present their work in order to seek and provide clarify, strengthen arguments and consider next steps to finalizing the work. Once approved, authors will provide electronically their work highlighting issues they would wish to be discussed. Those wishing to print hard copies may seek advice on the number of copies.

### ***C. Poster presentations***

An exhibition of posters during the evaluation week will be provided for. As such posters with images as well as text will be required for display at a designated space. Posters will be expected to depict an evaluation study including key questions asked, methodology, data, findings, recommendations and conclusions. Posters will be displayed during the conference and presenters need to be available to respond to questions about the poster on display. Accepted Poster presentations will be displayed in the exhibition hall for the duration of the conference. Posters should measure approximately 0.95 m in width and 1.5 m in height. Poster presenters are advised to submit the hard copy of their posters to the secretariat a day before/on the first day of the conference.

### ***D. Exhibitions***

Exhibitions of branded items, publications etc will be provided during the conference. The exhibitors will be expected to indicate:

- i. The title of the exhibition
- ii. The name of the member association or organization
- iii. The contact details (including e-mail address)
- iv. Should be accompanied by a half- to one-page description of the exhibition stating the materials required
- v. Confirmations and booking upon payment to be made one month before the conference.

## 6.0 Dates to Note

#	Description	Deadline (2024)
1.	Abstract Submissions	30 <sup>th</sup> July
2.	Notification of Acceptance	Rolling Basis
3.	Receipt of PowerPoint Presentations with Full Paper	5 <sup>th</sup> August
4.	Receipt of Soft Copy for Poster Presentations	5 <sup>th</sup> August
5.	Exhibitions Confirmation Booking and Payment	10 <sup>th</sup> August
6.	Workshop registration	30 <sup>th</sup> July

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