

National Evaluation Capacities 2017 Pre-conference workshop

Tools for Conducting Evaluation System Diagnostics in Governments

Trainers



Stephen Porter is currently the Director for the Learning, Effectiveness and Accountability Department at Oxfam America. Stephen has a range of experience in development practice, including academic, donor and experience applying a rights-based approach to evaluation. Previously, Stephen was Evaluation Advisor for Market Development at the UK Department for International Development and was the Director of the Center for Learning on Evaluation and Results for Anglophone Africa at the University of Witwatersrand. He holds an MPhil in Public Policy from the University of Cape Town. Stephen has eleven journal and book chapters published on the topic of evaluation systems development.



Haneen Malallah has worked extensively in the social sector in managerial, consulting, and advisory capacities in the United States as well as entities operating nationally in Jordan and Oman. She is currently serving as the Knowledge, Learning, and Accountability Advisor at Oxfam America. Ms. Malallah has been an adjunct faculty at the SIT Graduate Institute as well as Marylhurst University. Ms. Malallah holds an MS in Management, with a focus on Development Management. She received a Fulbright Scholarship (2005 – 2007) and the King Hussein Peace Scholarship (1999).



Emma Fawcett is an Evaluation, Learning and Effectiveness Advisor at Oxfam America, where she supports MEL work within inclusive value chains, country-led evaluations on women's economic empowerment, and gender disaggregated analysis of datasets from recently completed impact evaluations. Prior to joining Oxfam, she was a Program Manager at the Una Chapman Cox Foundation, a Professorial Lecturer at American University, and a Research Fellow at the Inter-American Development Bank. She has conducted policy-oriented development research and evaluations on a range of topics, including economic and private sector development. Emma holds a PhD in international relations from American University.

Workshop Outline

Many evaluators highlight challenges in evaluation use. Improving evaluation utilization is a task that is often far larger than the individual evaluator, it is a systems issue. It is important for evaluation commissioners and managers to move towards systematic evaluation practice that meets the demands of the organization and increase utilization of evaluation findings.

Evaluation system diagnostics are helpful to (re)align evaluation practice with demands from across different political and organizational levels and thereby contribute to improving the utilization and relevance of evaluations. This workshop presents a set of diagnostic tools and concepts that seek to identify different demands for evaluation.

This workshop introduces a diagnostic toolset that has been developed through eleven analytical processes of government evaluation systems in Africa, application in international NGOs and in evaluation systems development in the UK Government. These tools are designed to answer three questions:

- (i) What is value of evaluation in the context?
- (ii) What demands emerge from different stakeholders?
- (iii) What is the relevance of the current evaluation systems in responding to these demands?

Answers to these questions are of high importance for the development of evaluation systems as they inform refinement of the political and technical aspects of the evaluation system, namely: policy, incentives, procurement, competencies and quality assurance mechanisms.

The workshop presents a range of tools and concepts that can identify new opportunities for evaluation. In considering the three questions above, participants will engage with:

- surveys that have been developed that seek to understand different potential uses of evaluations;
- additional tools that aid the identification of underlying problems, such as the Five Whys Analysis;
- application of organizational culture concepts to understand latent demand and some useful political economy frameworks.