



## **ICED Discusses the Use of Monitoring and Evaluation in Governance at The Global Evidence and Implementation Summit 2018 (GEIS)**

The Global Evidence and Implementation Summit 2018 (GEIS) brought together experts from across the world to share their experiences in generating and implementing evidence for better policy and practice. With approximately 700 delegates from 30 countries in attendance, the Summit explored the design, implementation and review of effective programs and policies. Highlighted were contemporary synthesis, research and practice strategies for improving the lives of individuals, families and communities worldwide. The Summit (GEIS2018) held in Melbourne, Australia from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018, was preceded by one held in London, Great Britain in 2016 and Cape Town, South Africa in 2017.

To achieve the overarching theme, *“Evidence, synthesis and implementation: Creating impact for stronger communities around the world”*, GEIS 2018 was structured into five core sub-themes;

- Understanding what works
- Achieving scale and sustainability
- Methods for impact and implementation evaluation and synthesis
- Using evidence for better policy, programs and practice
- National and global cooperation and partnerships

During the Summit, it was emphasized that there is no area of government where robust evidence cannot advance the policy process. However, data alone is not information and information without expert analysis is not knowledge while knowledge is only evidence when applied contextually. It is therefore, imperative that the processes, structures and skill sets needed to improve on the incorporation of evidence into policy are robust and adaptable.

While at the Summit, Dr David Ameyaw, President and the Chief Executive Officer of the International Centre for Evaluation and Development, presented on using evidence for effective communication and on the value of integrating monitoring and evaluation into program life cycle for governance. He was accompanied by Dr. Julius Muia, the Principal Secretary, State Department for Planning and Dr. Samson Machuka, Director, Monitoring and Evaluation Department, both from the National Treasury and Planning in Kenya.

This was further explored in one of the key plenary sessions where policymakers discussed building a responsible government acknowledging that establishing national evaluation systems is a complex and long-term commitment. Legislatures discussed their successes and challenges in building a culture of evaluation and evidence use in a panel titled, *‘Building Responsible Government: High Level Policy Perspective on the Values of National Evaluation Systems’*.

Panelist Dr. Julius Muia, the Principal Secretary, State Department for Planning at the National Treasury and Planning Kenya, emphasized that the most effective mechanisms to ensure success in institutionalizing monitoring and evaluation include the following:

- ✓ Existence of a legal and policy framework to facilitate the uptake of M&E practice and culture. In the context of Kenya:
  - i. The constitution emphasizes on the principles of good governance to guide implementation of government policies to realize its development goals;
  - ii. The Constitution demands for capable, accountable and transparent public institutions;
  - iii. A devolved system of governance that is demand driven to achieve the country's development goals;
  - iv. The Kenyan constitution has classified information as a right thereby enabling the citizenry to demand for evidence on government decisions.
- ✓ Robust oversight authorities created by the constitution. For Kenya, this includes:
  - i. The legislature demanding for evidence in the implementation of government policies, programmes and projects.
  - ii. The formation of an MPs' caucus on evidence use to inform policy has enhanced demand for quality and timely M&E information;
- ✓ An effective national M&E Policy. The Kenyan government has:
  - i. Created a Monitoring and Evaluation Department to coordinate the National Integrated and Evaluation system (NIMES). Automation of the NIMES into e-NIMES as a dashboard has proven to enhance reporting;
  - ii. Financial Resources set aside by the M&E policy. Government agencies are required to set aside at least 1% of their development budget to undertake M&E functions;
  - iii. An annual M&E Week hosted by the Monitoring and Evaluation Department that brings together practitioners of M&E to share experience and knowledge on M&E best practices.
- ✓ Legal requirement for timely reporting in the use of public resources. In Kenya, the PFM Act require government agencies to report on a quarterly basis to oversight bodies.
- ✓ A well-coordinated planning functions that sets monitoring and evaluation activities during the development of government plans. The Kenyan MTP III outlines how evaluations will be conducted over five years. Outcome Indicators to be tracked in the five-year period are agreed upon during the planning phase.

The summit closed by reiterating that effective programs and practices can only achieve their full potential if they reach the entire population for which they are intended. Participating in the conference enhanced the collaboration between ICED and The Campbell Collaboration to promote evidence synthesis and knowledge brokering amongst policymakers and evidence practitioners in sub-Saharan Africa. ICED looks forward to taking part in the next Global

Evidence and Implementation Summit to take place in Mexico in October, 2019 and share experiences and innovation from the continent.