

NATIONAL EVALUATION SYSTEMS: ENGAGING YOUTH, ADDRESSING CRISIS AND BUILDING RESILIENCE

31 October 2023



planning, monitoring
& evaluation

Department:
Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



PRESENTATION OUTLINE



Background

- Youth unemployment stands at 51,5% in South Africa, one reason being lack of experience and skills
- Youths have the qualifications but lack technical skills to undertake the actual evaluations
- Youths are often incorporated in evaluation teams in order to comply with team composition requirements. This perception needs to change and there is a need to afford them a chance to “learn from doing”
- Many organisations, government and non-government are investing in increasing the technical capacity of Emerging evaluators (composition mostly youths) namely UNICEF, SAMEA, CLEAR-AA, GEI, WFP, and many others are a test
- The establishment of a Ministry on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities is an indication of commitment by South African government to ensure youth actively participate in their own development.
- Quotes have been set for employment of youth in South Africa
- In the same light, the National Evaluation System has considered the participation of youth as critical.
- Investing in youth pays off and that impacts positively in labour market outcomes

Initiatives



In commissioning evaluations, Inclusion of youth as bidders has been incorporated in procurement processes. The Preferential Procurement Regulations, utilised by DPME place youth at an advantage for procurement in commissioning evaluations. Under Section 1.1.1 of the Terms of Reference template, there is intention to procure services from companies whose teams have 15% of youth in their composition.

The development of an Equity Guideline by DPME emphasises the involvement of youth. DPME in its partnership with SAMEA has an Emerging Evaluators Programme. Recently UNICEF sponsored a programme to equip Emerging Evaluators on Rapid Evaluations

DPME Emerging Evaluators programme(although at conceptualisation stage) has an incubation programme for youth owned evaluation companies

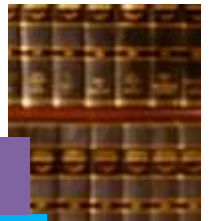


DPME's capacity development strategy has a component of partnering with universities in data collection exercise of evaluations. Most of the data collectors are youth

DPME also has an internship programme whose aim is to provide workplace evaluation experience and the target for internship programmes are the youths.

An implementation Evaluation on the Youth Policy currently in the NEP

DPME contribution to evidence on youth through inclusion of the Youth Policy evaluation and participation in the evaluation.



Preferential Procurement

The Evaluation background has been included in Annexure A.

1. EXPERIENCE / SKILLS / TEAM COMPOSITION / PAST PERFORMANCE

The attached spreadsheet must be used to summarise qualifications, skills and experience and to cost the proposal.

1.1. Team composition

The implementation evaluation project requires a reliable and effective service provider with the following competencies:

- Extensive experience in commissioning evaluation one of which have been an evaluation of South African government policies/ programmes;
- Expertise in development and testing of survey questionnaires/ data collection techniques;
- Expertise in production of quantitative and qualitative reports
- Proven track record in delivering professional results

1.1.1. Empowerment requirements

The proposed team must meet the following empowerment requirements:

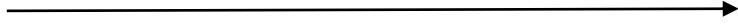
- **Black PDI%:** At least 50% of the person-days required to complete this project must be allocated to Previously Disadvantaged Individuals (PDIs)¹;
- **Gender%:** At least 40% of the person-days required to complete this project must be allocated to women;
- **Youth%:** At least 15% of the person-days required to complete this project must be allocated to youth (persons aged 35 or younger); and

Annexure B1 must be completed and the required details of each team member must be provided. Team members indicated in the proposal must be available for the duration of the project and must play a meaningful role in the project. Replacement of team members may only be done in consultation with DPME and replacement team members must have the same PDI profile as well as qualifications / experience as those they are replacing.

1.1.2. Qualifications and Experience required

LESSONS LEARNED

Benefits



- Reduction of unemployment
- Impartation of requisite skills hence gaining experience
- Sustainability of Evaluation function guaranteed

Challenges



- Risks around technical expertise to produce reports that can feed into Evidence Informed Decision Making (EIDM)
- Anecdotal evidence suggests that youths experience is not yet good for conducting evaluation especially youths leading the evaluations etc
- Tokenism i.e., many times youth are relegated to data collection roles without clearly defined career pathways

How best to strengthen

- Involvement of youth should not be compliance driven, instead it should result in skills impartation
- There are opportunities to involve youth as peer reviewers given the number of youths acquiring post graduate qualifications in evaluations
- Need to consider assigning Emerging Evaluators to mentors and coaches who will provide step by step capacity development and exposure
- Responsibilities should not be limited to data collection only but all other evaluation deliverables
- Youth targeting is crucial as it impacts largely youth at greatest risk of labour exclusion
- Skills training and entrepreneurship create opportunities for entry and growth in field of evaluations

NGIYATHOKOZA

DANKIE **KE A LEBOGA**

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LIVHUHA**

Thank You