





8<sup>™</sup> BIENNIAL 2022

21 – 23 September 2022

Hilton Hotel, Sandton, Johannesburg
South Africa
&
Hybrid



# CONFERENCE REPORT

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#### **About SAMEA**

**Conference objectives** 

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**Conference participation** 



# ABOUT SAMEA

SAMEA cultivates a vibrant community that supports, guides and strengthens monitoring and evaluation as an important discipline and instrument for equitable and sustainable development.



#### SAMEA aims to:

- Provide a platform for interaction and information sharing among all those interested in M&E.
- Promote high quality intellectual, ethical and professional standards in M&E.
- · Increase the use of M&E theory and practice.
- Promote the development and adoption of M&E approaches and methods suitable to a South African and development context.
- Promote post-graduate education and continuing professional development in the field of M&E.
- Increase the profile of South African M&E at national and international level.
- Help build understanding of international developments and trends in M&E.
- · Be a resource on M&E in South Africa.

# CONFERENCE THEME

#### "Transforming M&E for an inclusive and sustainable world"

The conference was specifically designed to provide M&E practitioners the much-needed opportunity for networking and productive engagement with each other's work, which the pandemic deprived M&E practitioners of in the past few years.

#### **Conference Strands:**

- 1. Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation to address Systemic Crises for a Just Transition
- 🤼 2. Made in Africa Evaluation
- 3. M&E Evidence for Adaptive Management
- 4. Monitoring & Data Management
- 🐧 5. Tech-Enabled M&E
- 🧑 6. M&E Capacity Building & Emerging Evaluators





# CONFERENCE FORMAT

The conference format was hybrid – hosted physically at Hilton Sandton with a virtual component.

The programme, physical venue and technology were designed to facilitate interpersonal interaction in meaningful and innovative ways. In addition, significant effort was made to ensure that the virtual offering leveraged international cutting-edge techniques to make it highly participatory, engaging, and facilitating of networking.

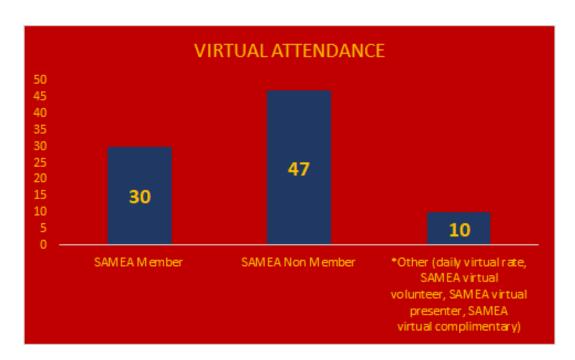
The conference ran over five days, comprising 2 days of pre-conference professional development workshops.

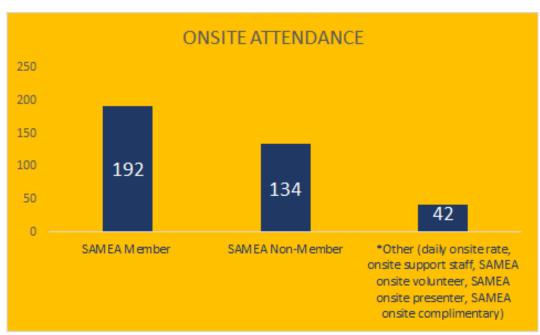
There were six strands for conference presentations. Three plenaries were held, including the opening and closing sessions. Plenaries comprised international experts who shared their time and experience with participants over a range of practical, learning sessions.















**Timeline** 

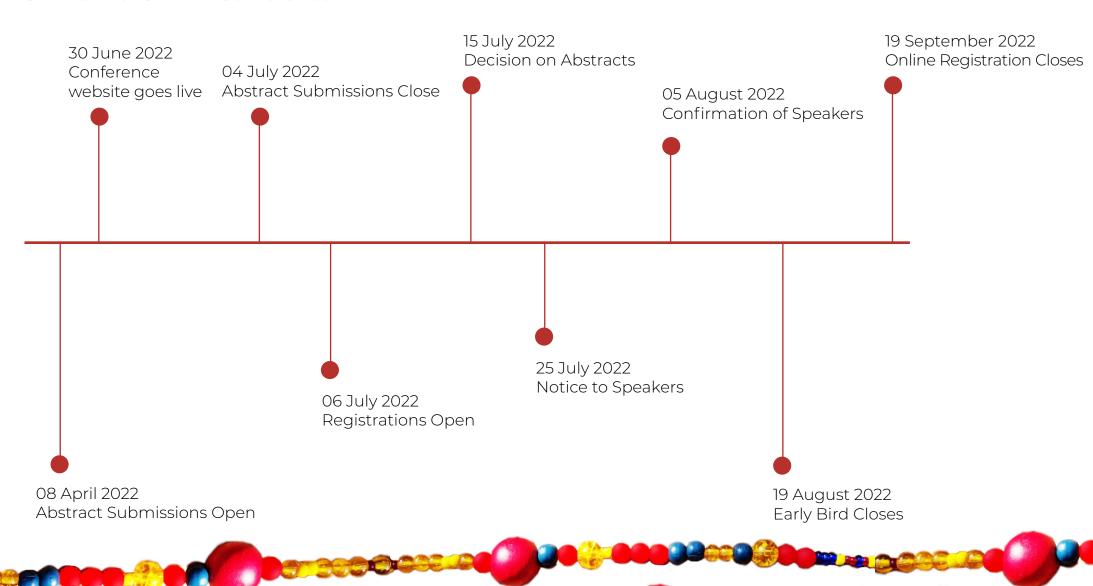
**Organising committee** 

**Conference sponsorship** 

**Abstracts** 

# TIMELINE

#### 8<sup>th</sup> Biennial SAMEA Conference



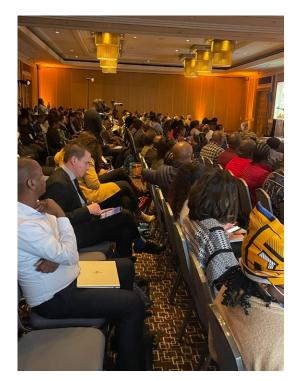
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# ORGANISING COMMITTEE

The 6 conference strands were organised by a phenomenal organising team (see Appendix A for the names of the organising committee).

The excellent leadership provided by strand co-coordinators in conceptualising, reviewing and managing the strands ensured a very successful event.

Volunteers were mobilised and briefed to provide 'front-and-back end' support towards an effective event flow.





# CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP

SAMEA has a long tradition of working with partner organisations to deliver successful biennial conferences that meet the needs of M&E practitioners in South Africa and neighbouring countries. Building capacity for M&E requires the collective efforts of public, non-profit and private sectors and we thank the organisations that joined us on our mission to expand and deepen M&E practice.

#### Sponsorship options included:

- Premium Sponsorship
- Select Sponsorship
- Classic Sponsorship
- In-kind sponsorships for strand management and social event contributions







# **ABSTRACTS**

The conference coordinating team reviewed 92 abstracts via the Tourvest online electronic review platform, finally selecting 73 for the conference. The abstracts were of a very high standard.

Accepted abstracts per strand:

- 20 Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation to address Systemic Crises for a Just Transition
- 20 Made in Africa Evaluation
- 24 M&E evidence for adaptive management
- Monitoring & Data Management
- Tech-Enabled M&E
- M&E Capacity Building & Emerging Evaluators

**ABSTRACTS** received **ABSTRACTS** selected

# **PROGRAMME** CONFERENCE

**Plenaries** 

**Exhibitions** 

**Events** 

**Technology and Communication** 

## **PLENARIES**

#### **PLENARIES & KEYNOTE:**

#### **Opening Plenary Session**

Welcome and opening: UNICEF and DPME Opening address: Deputy Minister Kekana

Keynote address: Thandolwethu Lukuko: The systemic crises facing us and the need for a Just Transition and Dr Mark Abrahams: Made in Africa Evaluation: evaluation and evaluation systems fit for context and diversity

#### **Plenary 2 Session**

Keynote address: Dr Mjiba Frehiwot

Plenary address: Mine Pabari: Using Evidence in Complex Times

#### **Closing Session**

Keynote address: Al Kags: (virtual address and Loise Mboo): How do we ensure

ethical approaches to digital technology and data

Reflective plenary: UNICEF, DPME, SAMEA

Closing address: Dr Michael Quinn Patton - Next steps towards influencing practice

Closing session: Cara Hartley (Conference Chair)







# **EXHIBITIONS**

SAMEA secured the participation of six conference exhibitors.

The exhibitors were: CLEAR-AA, Khulisa, NSG, World Vision, Twende Mbele and Southern Hemisphere.

















## **EVENTS**

On Wednesday evening, 21st September, Southern Hemisphere hosted a networking event.

• Let's Collaborate event: Games and conversation starters were hosted at the pool area of the Hilton Sandton.

On Thursday evening, 22nd September, MasterCard Foundation and CLEAR-AA hosted the following events:

- The African Authors Night & Evaluation Book Raffle hosted by Prof Donna Podems and Dr Mark Abrahams at the Faces Lounge & Bar, Hilton Sandton. Refreshments were sponsored by MasterCard Foundation.
- An Emerging Evaluator Networking Event was hosted by CLEAR-AA at the pool area of the Hilton Sandton.

















# TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATION

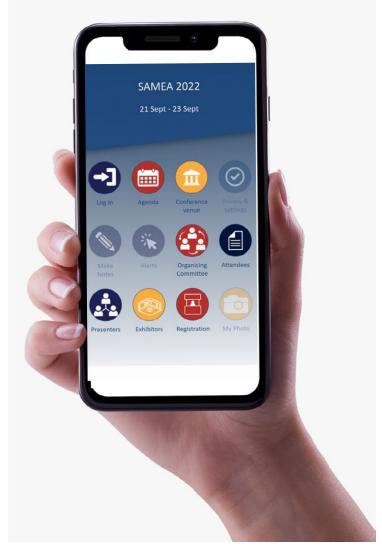
#### **Events Air**

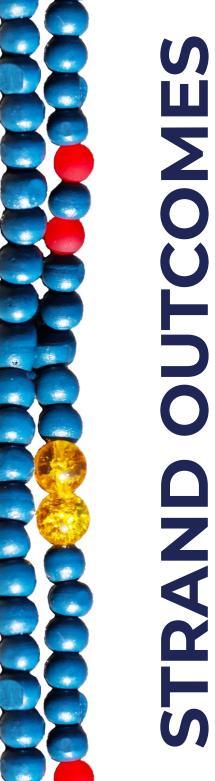
Acloud-based events software solution – Events Air, was used for registration of both the online and in-person participation, as well as the abstract and speaker management.

#### **Mobile App**

The attendee benefits of a mobile app ensures easier access to information about the event, even when you are offline.

The easy-to-use mobile app, known as the Event App, contained information about the daily conference programme, conference speakers and discussions. It also served as a navigation guide and provided real time updates regarding changes to the daily agenda, as well as an efficient networking tool for delegates to interact with other participants.





# OUTCOMES

**Pre-conference** 

Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation to address Systemic Crises for a Just Transition

**Made in Africa Evaluation** 

**M&E Evidence for Adaptive Management** 

**Monitoring & Data Management** 

**Tech-Enabled M&E** 

**M&E Capacity Building & Emerging Evaluators** 

#### PRE-CONFERENCE

As part of the Tech-Enabled M&E Strand, Data Innovators and MERL Tech organized 11 virtual pre-conference workshops, which took place on Monday and Tuesday (September 19 and 20).

Topics included: Excel 101, Survey CTO Best Practices for M&E Data Collection, Fundamentals of Data Governance, Text Analytics, Data Communications and Data Visualization, Social Network Analysis, Data Integration, WhatsApp and Chatbots for MERL, Open Data Kit for Beginners, M&E and the Digital Principles, and Open Source MERL Tech. Across all the workshops, we had 1,331 signups, and 789 actual log-ins for the workshops (note that most people signed up for multiple workshops, so this does not represent 789 unique participants). Participants joined from several countries. We are grateful for the support of the Mastercard Foundation, GitHub and CARE, which allowed us to organize the Techenabled MERL strand at SAMEA.

Top 10 Locations By Meeting Participants ▼

1	South Africa		509
2	<b>Kenya</b>	44	
3	Germany	32	
4	United States	27	
5	Zimbabwe	25	
6	India	25	
7	<b>S</b> Ghana	24	
8	■ Nigeria	22	
9	Tanzania	13	
10	Philippines	8	















# STRAND 1: PLANNING, MONITORING & EVALUATION TO ADDRESS SYSTEMIC CRISES FOR A JUST TRANSITION

**Focus:** This strand focused on the transformative role of planning, monitoring and evaluation products and practitioners in promoting just transition, economic and social inclusion and responding to ecosystem breakdown, climate change and biodiversity loss.

Strand summary: From these different streams of discussion, a number of actions were suggested, including:

- · Strengthening the effectiveness of the guidelines
- · Establishing a rubric for the climate/ecosystem's health and transformative equity criteria
- · Refining the guidelines to be clearer on involvement of multiple interest groups in planning and monitoring and evaluation
- · Developing tools to supplement the guidelines to support use
- · Promoting awareness and engagement with the guidelines
- Building awareness around just transition, especially with planning, M&E people, and sharing evidence from evaluations on just transition with broader society
- Engaging with the PCC and new climate funds (\$8,5bn), assisting with development of a M&E system
- Providing support for the inclusion of just transition in government's 2023/24 annual performance plans (APPs), more so for 2024/25 and also for the mid-term strategic framework (MTSF)
- · Identifying possible sets of indicators for climate mitigation, adaptation and ecosystems and their intersection with social dimensions of equity
- · Identifying suitable planning/M&E methodologies that support the flexibility and agility that will be needed to respond to emerging climate and ecosystem crises.

#### STRAND 2: MADE IN AFRICA EVALUATION

**Focus:** The focus on this strand was on indigenous knowledge systems, frameworks, and paradigms that are contextually relevant and fit for purpose for programs, evaluation, and evaluation systems in Africa.

**Strand summary:** During the three days of the conference, MAE proved beyond reasonable doubt that it is here to stay. There was general agreement, enthusiasm and readiness to make MAE the next framework for the monitoring and evaluation of programmes, systems among the many developmental interventions, either for the public or private sector. Key messages and observations that emerged from the conference deliberations:

- Work in IKS and MAE systematically and robustly be undertaken with the realisation that the global north will contest some of the efforts.
- · That African governments fund all MAE activities in order to develop it.
- · Research and databases be established and promoted.
- · Enhance training of evaluators.
- · The south collaborates with the global north in matters of mutual interests.

Short and medium-term action steps for SAMEA and partners over the next 18 months will include:

· Source and fund workshops, project activities and research on MAE and IKS.

One sure way to advance the MAE, mainly from an IKS position is the teaching and training of evaluation courses. Experiences were shared by realities obtained from teaching and learning in universities, where the curriculum was called upon to infuse, create, and provide space for the teaching and learning of MAE. More importantly was the call to view MAE as a possible approach in matters of programming and evaluation.

#### STRAND 3: M&E EVIDENCE FOR ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

**Focus:** This strand brought the M&E community together to think and talk about how M&E evidence can be used for adaptive management during and beyond times of crisis.

**Strand summary:** We opened with Scott Chaplowe, Silva Ferretti and Susanna Morrison-Metois (ALNAP) who shared their perspectives on why M&E needs to adapt and evolve and some ideas as to how it can; delegates were introduced to Monitoring and Evaluation, Real Time Learning and Real Time Evaluation. Next, South African practitioners shared experiences of using rapid evaluation to inform service delivery, build capacity, help organisations adapt and support staff. Sharing of rapid evaluation experiences continued on day 2, with more South African and African examples. Elsewhere, presenters shared insights into the potential of M&E to address critical development challenges in Africa. Later, evidence use and learning in the context of complex programmes and innovative, creative techniques for sharing evaluation findings in real time via blogging were shared. It was a packed day, rounded off with input on institutionalising M&E into organisations/systems and insights on the potential for relational/horizontal leadership approach to build trust and enhance learning. During the closing session of this strand, a key question was posed to participants: What opportunities do you see to transform/strengthen MEL practice to encourage evidence use for improving policy and practice for better results?

Key takeaways from strand 3 included:

- Sharing of new/innovative and useful methods: real time evaluation, real time learning, rapid evaluation and blogging alongside evaluation.
- Showcasing a Made in Africa Evaluation (MAE) approach and model(s) for undertaking rapid evaluation. A hybrid model for undertaking evaluation (whereby an evaluation facilitator supports an internal/external team) has the potential to build the capacity of emerging evaluators and the evaluand/organisation.
- Need for greater inclusion from the programme design phase which offers the promise of better, more relevant programmes and M&E.
- · Democratize evaluation outputs and make them more accessible and engaging "an evaluation is not a report".
- Prioritise (and measure) collaboration and partnerships, acknowledge complexity, consider the relationship between the evaluand and the wider world.
- · Organisational culture needs to shift.
- · Need for greater emphasis on learning.

#### STRAND 4: MONITORING & DATA MANAGEMENT

**Focus:** The aims of this strand were to explore and enhance data management and the use of this secondary data in our African context.

**Strand summary:** The strand started with discussions on data management in times of crisis. We found that there were numerous experiences in terms of crisis management and response to COVID-19 in South Africa. There are many opportunities to collect this experience of data management systems of disasters and emergencies to better respond in the future, especially if we think about what was discussed in strand 1.

- · The discussion on day 2 moved to give space and opportunity to share about methods and practice.
- There was great enthusiasm to learn from each other, especially on what was happening in terms of outcomes of African evaluations, which was linked to the whole concept of Made in Africa Evaluation.
- The presentations shared, demonstrated that there are many exciting approaches being adapted for and done on the continent by African evaluators.
- · The strand ended off thinking about "where to from here?".
- $\cdot$  We spoke about having all this evaluation data and lessons from the field (in Africa!).
- · The conversation is now about how to share the evaluations and use them so we can all learn from them.
- We had a panel discussion on where to publish it (African Evaluation Journal and African Evaluation Database), talking about the International Evaluation Academy and thinking about how we can transition and transform M&E as we move into the digital space and with all data privacy considerations.

#### STRAND 5: TECH-ENABLED M&E

**Focus:** The ICT-enabled M&E stream focused on sharing challenges and good practice related to the responsible integration of digital tools and approaches into M&E.

**Strand summary:** List of key messages and observations that emerged from the strand deliberations were:

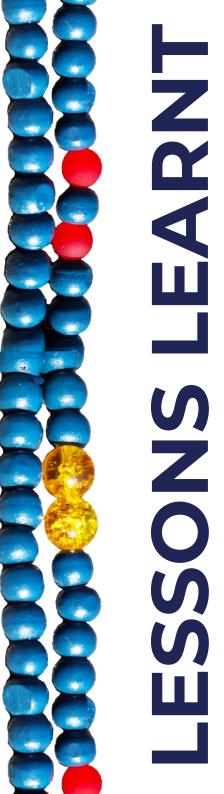
- MERL Tech enthusiasm is growing These sessions were vibrant. Participants desire a space for ongoing discussion on MERL Tech tools for data collection, reporting, sharing and big big data.
- Make responsible data practical Awareness of POPI and GDPR is growing, yet few can articulate clear cases of how to implement responsible data practices. Some participants share organisational data policies and guidelines yet there is low knowledge on these topics.
- Save us from white-elephant tech solutions Basic tech tools remain relevant to MERL practitioners. The need for more advanced solutions is growing, however. Poor design leads to unused 'white elephant' tools. We need more appropriate, user-centred design of MERL Tech.
- Stay ahead of the third wave of MERL Tech MERL practitioners are using first wave (e.g. mobile data collection) and second wave tech (e.g. big data). As the MERL Tech field matures we will see a third wave (e.g. augmented reality, internet of things, satellite imagery). MERL practitioners should be involved to influence and support the development of emerging tech for MERL. For example, framing ethical use of augmented reality for evaluation or responsible satellite imagery use.

#### STRAND 6: M&E CAPACITY BUILDING & EMERGING EVALUATORS

**Focus:** This strand had twofold objectives which were to: (i) bring together M&E practitioners and (ii) build consensus on what works and does not work with M&E capacity building initiatives delivered over the past few years, including lessons drawn from the COVID-19 health crisis.

**Strand summary:** A list of key messages and observations that emerged from the strand deliberations were:

- Develop professional pathways underpinned by SAMEA competencies A professional pathway spelling out the process flow from EEs up until becoming an evaluation expert should be mapped out.
- Harmonise the implementation of internship programmes EEs proposed that the professional pathway guideline should also standardise the implementation of internship programmes. This is meant to avert the temptation to use or exploit EEs as cheap labour.
- Theory versus practice Universities were urged to integrate Made in Africa Evaluation (decolonisation of the education system) as part and parcel of their curriculum offerings. This was purported to be capable of closing the gap between theory and practice of evaluation. Opportunities for EEs to share their M&E experiences should be availed via platforms such as AEJ and blogs.
- An enabling environment Employers were encouraged to subscribe to mentorship programmes as part of their contribution to skills development. This calls for creating an enabling environment for EEs to take up responsibilities but equally be given the space to meaningfully contribute. EEs cautioned that the sector should watch against using them as cheap labour.



**Conference feedback** 

### CONFERENCE FEEDBACK

#### **Hybrid format**

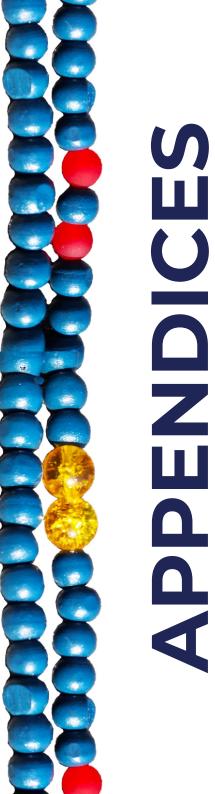
The hybrid format presented both benefits and disadvantages. On the positive side it proved really valuable having renowned/ international speakers who were able to present by Zoom. This was also the first of SAMEA's biennial conferences where participants who could not travel (whether for cost or other reasons), could still be included through virtual attendance of selected sessions. However, feedback from virtual participants indicated the quality of their experience varied from session to session, depending on their connectivity and how the session was being facilitated. In addition, as could be expected, not all the sessions that virtual participants were interested in were selected for streaming. (Virtual participants had access to all plenaries plus a special selection of breakout sessions). Virtual presentation appears to work well and should be a standard feature of future conferences, while more consideration should go into whether and how to incorporate virtual participation.

#### Venue

- · Having session rooms close together worked well, but slightly bigger venues in future will be more efficient.
- · Could do with bigger exhibition space which would allow doing other possibilities (eg creating space for team meetings).
- Have SAMEA board, secretariat and conference team onsite a few days before to familiarise themselves with the venue and session rooms. They should have also received a detailed walk through of venue and key contact persons of the venue.

#### **Strand management**

The Strand Co-ordinators proved to be excellent, and provided great flexibility and support for the workload and tasks at hand.



## **Organising Committee**

**Workshop List** 

**Pre-conference workshops** 

**Conference programme** 

**Conference sponsors** 

**SAMEA volunteers** 

Beads

## **APPENDIX A**

#### **Organising Committee:**

#### Portfolio lead

· Cara Hartley – Conference Chair

#### **Fundraising & Partnerships**

- · Mokgophana Ramasobana
- · Ayanda Mtanyana
- · Ian Goldman
- · Ruth Mojalefa
- · Takunda Chirau

#### **Conference Programme**

- · Babette Rabie Conference Programme Manager
- · Mokgophana Ramasobana
- · Ruth Mojalefa

#### **Co-creation**

- · Ian Goldman
- · Eleanor Hazell
- Moses Mashingaidze

#### **Engage with PCO & Budget**

- · SAMEA Co-ordinator
- Cara Hartley
- Moses Mashingaidze
- · Ayanda Mtanyana
- · Molupe Matsumunyane

#### **Social Events**

- · Cara Hartley
- Eleanor Hazell
- · Mokgophana Ramasobana

#### **Digital Platform & Videography Liaison**

- · Tikwiza Silubonde
- · Ayanda Mtanyana

#### **Communications & Marketing**

- · Ruth Mojalefa
- · Molupe Matsumunyane

## **APPENDIX B**

#### **Strand Co-ordinators:**

#### Strand 1:

- · Ian Goldman (SAMEA)
- Jen Norins (SAMEA)
- Mayeso Zenegeya (UNICEF)

#### Strand 2:

- Takunda Chirau (SAMEA)
- · Umali Saidi
- Fabio Bezerra (UNICEF)

#### Strand 3:

- · Eleanor Hazell (SAMEA)
- Neliswe Dlamini (UNICEF)

#### Strand 4:

· Neliswe Dlamini (UNICEF)

#### Strand 5:

- · Jerusha Govender (Data Innovators)
- · Linda Raftree (MERL Tech)

#### Strand 6:

- · Mokgophana Ramasobana (SAMEA)
- Allister Pillay (UNICEF)
- · Fabio Bezerra (UNICEF)

#### **Transversal Co-ordinators:**

- Moses Mashingaidze (SAMEA)
- · Tikwiza Silubonde (SAMEA)

# **APPENDIX C**

## **Pre-conference workshops:**

Date	Time	Workshop Sessions	Facilitators	Strand
19 September 2022	09:00am-11:00am	Workshop: Excel 101 Register here: https://zoom.us/ meeting/register/tJYrcuqsqj0qH9SiV cXvNP5VguL4KBbsl87C	Ronald Waiswa, Blessing Muvuti, Victor Kiwujja, Kate Mwaura (Polaris Technical Services)	Tech-Enabled M&E
	11:00am-13:00pm	Workshop: SurveyCTO Best Practices for M&E data collection Register here: https:// zoomus/meeting/register/ tiltce2ooTguEtRatGsdkDSnaO_ Ep4ylYruS	Marta Costa and Mofya Phiri (SurveyCTO)	Tech-Enabled M&E
	14:00pm-16:00pm	Workshop: Fundamentals of data governance for M&E Register here: https://zoom.us/ meeting/register/tJlvce2qpjlqE9wVv RdWhJztKpL8EECJHScd	Mark Irura (Independent Consultant); Brian Tshuma (Deme Attorneys); Jerusha Govender (Data Innovators); Linda Raftree (MERL Tech), Desiree Jason (DSD, SA)	Tech-Enabled M&E
	16:00pm- 18:00pm	Workshop: Text Analytics working group Register here: https://zoom.us/ meeting/register/tJV/Ice2spj8qEtDO DmRzx3CywP6b2o5E1B-1	Jonas Noren (Day Consulting) and Matthew McConnachile (NIRAS)	Tech-Enabled M&E
	16:00pm- 18:00pm	Workshop: Data communications and Data visualisation  Register here: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tlcpdpriwpGNXhuDO5LfrmRgrmJvVJpSn	Jerusha Govender (Data Innovators), Jill Anne Brown and Simran Parwani (Data Visualisation Society)	Tech-Enabled M&E
20 September 2022	09:00am-11:00am	Workshop: Social Network Analysis Register here: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/ tJArcemtrOliE9y2usagoTD6ByJf6l MJaNM4	Teboho Letuka, Jerusha Govender and Amanada Ncube (Data Innovators)	Tech-Enabled M&E
	09:00am-11:00am	Workshop: Data Integration step- by-step Register here: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ wrdO6grD8jGNDdOWASDCFlaLFC nX8yfCXo	Khauta Ntitsane, Tharaga Tovhowani, & Kenneth Matlala (DPME)	Tech-Enabled M&E
	11:00am-13:00pm	Workshop: Using chatbots for MERL Register here: https://zoom.us/ meeting/register/tJArf-6hpzssGdS- pBupykjF2xL7Y9z3EVtr	Pippa Yeats (Turn.io)	Tech-Enabled M&E
	11:00am-13:00pm	Workshop: Open Data Kit for beginners Register here: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJVodOyrqzOoGdStYfxhtJEM2KTpLhAJpV4x	Ronald Waiswa, Blessing Muvuti, Victor Kiwujja, Kate Mwaura (Polaris Technical Services)	Tech-Enabled M&E
	14:00pm-16:00pm	Workshop: M&E and the Digital Principles Framework Register here: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/ tJ/vod/yrqz/0oGdStYfxhtJEM2KTpL hAJpV/4x	Mark Mulobi (Digital Impact Alliance - DIAL)	Tech-Enabled M&E
	16:00pm-17:30pm	Workshop: Open Source MERL Tech Register here: https://zoom.us/ meeting/register/tJEtduyoqzkiHNCs sNyjVbOmUNqm4k7aEF2Q	Stephanie Coker, Bonnie Wolfe, Ronald Munjoma, Mutsa Chinyamakobvu and Shriya Singh (MERL Center - a collaboration between MERL Tech and Git Hub)	Tech-Enabled M&E



# **APPENDIX D**







# **APPENDIX E**

#### **CONFERENCE SPONSORS**

Various types of sponsorship opportunities are available during the conference.

SAMEA wishes to use this opportunity to express its gratitude to the 2022 conference **co-hosts**, the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (**DPME**) and **UNICEF South Africa**.





There were also other financial sponsors namely CARE, CLEAR-AA, SOCIAL IMPACT, MERL Tech.









The funding structure also allowed for **in-kind sponsorships** through workshops and strand coordination. Thanks to the following individuals and organisations for their efforts.

STRAND COORDINATION: KhulisaMS, MERL Tech, Southern Hemisphere







PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP SUPPORT: CLEAR-AA. Data Innovators, MERL Tech







IN-KIND SUPPORT: CLEAR-AA, Data Innovators, Mastercard Foundation, MIET Africa, Southern Hemisphere, Twende Mbele, SAMEA Conference Volunteers













## **APPENDIX F**

#### **SAMEA Volunteers**

#### Virtual:

- · SHRIYA SINGH
- · KATHERINE MORSE
- · PETRONELLA NCUBE
- · MASHWESHWE SHAMIAH
- · SIMO ZULU
- · SHEBA MUGAVAZI

#### In-Person:

- · CEDRINA KLOBERIE
- · ROSEMARY TANYARADZWA GONDO
- BONGI DUMA MFUSI
- · MUTSA CHINYAMAKOBVU
- · CONNY MOTLANTHEM









## **APPENDIX G**



21 – 23 September 2022

Hilton Hotel, Sandton, Johannesburg South Africa & Hybrid

In many African cultures, beads are associated with honour, celebration, and life's major milestones. For some, beads link us to those who have gone before us and shaped who we have become as Africans - and our duty toward future generations. When we gather to craft bands, murals, and jewellery using beads, they also come to symbolise creativity, diversity, and inclusion.

The Conference used beads visually in its materials and presented beads as gifts to speakers. Delegates were also invited to decorate their own lanyards with beads. Some special beads were assigned to represent specific segments in the SAMEA community. Delegates thus adorned themselves with symbolic creations that give expression to the values of our unique and vibrant community.



## **Emerging Evaluators**





Younger or older, fresh out of university or making a career shift. Unemployed, studying, volunteering, interning, or thrown into the deep end of M&E at work! If you find M&E to be exciting, powerful, and surprisingly messy - welcime to the club. Bring your diversity, commitment and fresh perspective. Keep swimming!





### **Mentors**



So many of us are here because of a mentor in the M&E space. Formal or informal, whether the relationship is deliberate or organic. You nudge; you inspire; you demystify; you go out of your way to assist. Thank you for giving back!





## **M&E Champions and Pioneers**





Those who innovate, agitate and make us uncomfortable! In your organisations and in the SAMEA community, you show us why the status quo must change, and reveal the ways by which change might be possible. If we are to transform M&E, we need you in our midst. Your advocacy and agitating is appreciated.





## **Public Sector Practitioners**





Working across spheres and systems because they believe in the power of evidence to build a capable, ethical developmental state.





## **SAMEA Founders, Volunteers & Friends**



Those who envisioned this community and gave it life. Those who give their time and energy to lead our board, communities of practice, and to run with new initiatives. Those who advocate for SAMEA wherever they go, and link SAMEA to opportunities and initiatives across the continent and the globe.





## Teachers, Trainers & Capacity Builders





M&E holds such potential - but only if it is practiced well. The need for capacity building is immense and not straightforward. Conditions are not always ideal, yet you persist. Thank you for mapping out pieces of this vast and changing landscape, guiding us - and when needed, pointing out just how far we still need to go! When we're at a crossroads, some of us are lucky enough to remember the words of a great M&E teacher.





# Authors, Researchers & Content Creators





Our ambassadors, sharing the wealth of our local practice on a global stage and bringing back gems in return. Thank you for scouting new terrain. Thank you for interrogating and debating ideas. And by embracing new platforms and formats, thank you for making M&E content increasingly accessible to all.



## **Donors & Aid Organisations**





In many ways the pioneers of M&E. We recognise your investment in African development and in African M&E capacity. Many donors in the SAMEA community share our vision for a contextually rooted, mature M&E practice - and give tangible, flexible support to African practitioners to work out what that should look like. We join hands knowing that humanity's liberation is bound up together.







## Practitioners in NPO & CSI spaces





Setting up systems; seeking solutions; grappling with the complexities of context.

Often witnesses to change - or lack thereof - in people's lived experiences. Keep monitoring and evaluating; keep bringing evidence to the spaces where it can change programmes and ultimately change lives.





## **Contributors of Special Beads**





The beads brought by you to share your unique culture, values and honour with fellow M&E practitioners and conference members





## **Token Beads**





Use your Token Beads to purchase a drink with your food





## **Bright Stars**





Bright stars who are no longer with us. In particular today we honour Sully Gariba and Jabulani Mathe. Over the rest of the conference, please add your tributes to them and any others. Bit.ly/3QWZ64V









