



**Evaluation Week**  
Semaine de l'évaluation  
**2022**

Session title: Key challenges facing African people and the continent and the role of evaluation in tackling them

## About this session

### Aim

The African Development Bank (AfDB) Development Evaluation Week 2022 opening session aims to set the tone and focus of the Evaluation Week. In the context of the AfDB developing its new Ten-Year Strategy 2023-2032, the session will highlight the need to design sustainable interventions that have a long-lasting impact on Africa's resilience and ability to tackle key challenges facing the continent. It shall discuss the importance of evaluation and its role in informing the next generation of policies and interventions.

### Background and context

As African countries emerge from the disruption, trauma, and economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, they face the challenge of steering their development in a new and different reality. The pandemic had a far-reaching effect on African economies, and although economic growth has rebounded quickly, the pandemic pushed some 26 million more Africans into poverty in 2020.


At the same time, sharp reductions in remittances, tourism, and foreign direct investment have resulted in wider fiscal deficits, increased indebtedness, and depleted foreign currency reserves. At the very moment when Africa needs to build back better after the pandemic, its public finances are heavily constrained.

The continent has many infrastructure needs, such as in the energy sector, where 600 million Africans still live without access to electricity. Furthermore, declining agricultural productivity has aggravated persistent rural poverty and food insecurity on the continent. At current trends, net food imports are likely to increase to over \$100 billion by 2025, although Africa holds 60% of the world's remaining arable land.

The COVID-19 pandemic has flagged the continent's profound under-investments in health preparedness. Moreover, Africa's high population growth means that the rising demand for health care services outstrips the capacity of existing health infrastructure and other systems. Furthermore, while the continent's population boom presents

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significant opportunities to harness the demographic dividend of a large workforce, they, especially the continent's youth, need jobs.

This year, the AfDB is developing its next Ten-Year Strategy (TYS 2.0, 2023-2032), setting out the strategic directions for the continent and the Bank. The strategy aims to position the Bank to use its strengths and support countries in tackling Africa's key challenges.

Within such a challenging context and financial constraints, designing policies, strategies, and interventions that are sustainable and have a lasting impact on the continent and its resilience, must be based on evidence of what has worked, what hasn't, and why.

### **What to expect from the session**

This session will set the tone and focus of the Evaluation Week. Following the opening remarks and presentation, a panel discussion shall look at evidence-based policy, strategy, and program designs that tackle the key development challenges facing Africa in a sustainable way and helps build Africa's resilience to them.

In particular, the panel shall examine the role of evaluation in ensuring that interventions have a lasting impact and include long-term solutions to building the continent's resilience and ability to tackle the key issues it faces, particularly those the AfDB's next Ten-Year Strategy will focus on.

### **Session details:**

Date: 28 September 2022

Time: 14:00 – 16:00 GMT

Location: Virtual via online Zoom session

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# Session Program

Time	Intervention	Role	Person
14:00	Welcome remarks	Speaker	Karen Rot-Münstermann, Evaluator General, AfDB
14:10	Opening remarks (on behalf of Akinwumi Adesina, President, AfDB)	Speaker	Simon Mizrahi, Vice President (Acting), Technology and Corporate Services, AfDB
14:25	Keynote presentation: The challenges facing Africa and its people	Presenter	Walter Odhiambo, Lead Strategy Advisor, Corporate Strategy and Policy, AfDB
14:35	Introduction to the panel session	Moderator	Niels Breyer, Executive Director & Chair of the Committee for Operations and Development Effectiveness, AfDB
14:40	Panel discussion on the role of evaluation in tackling Africa's challenges.	Panelist	Walter Odhiambo
		Panelist	Hon. Jérémie Adomahou, Member of Parliament of Benin and APNODE Chairman
		Panelist	Fatema Sumar, Executive Director of the Center for International Development, Harvard Kennedy School.
		Panelist	Yéo Nahoua, Chief of Staff, Ministry of Planning and Development, Côte d'Ivoire
15:20	Q&A		All
15:55	Wrap-up and close	Moderator	Niels Breyer

For more information about AfDB Development Evaluation week, please visit: <https://idev.afdb.org/en/afdb-evaluation-week-2022>

