Supporting and strengthening national M&E capacities at the institutional and individual levels is critical to building an accountable, capable, and resilient M&E systems that is enabled to produce better development outcomes. Collaborative partnerships are at the heart of the Centre for Learning on Evaluations and Results-Anglophone Africa (CLEAR-AA), an implementing partner of the Global Evaluation Initiative (GEI)

Since its establishment in 2011, CLEAR-AA has delivered over fifty short courses on M&E, and Results Based Management, with participants drawn from over fifteen African countries as well as Europe, East Asia and the Melanesia. These capacity-building initiatives have benefitted individuals from both the public and civil society sectors. Collaborating with our partners such as Deval (German), WFP, UNICEF-East and Southern Regional Office (ESARO), MasterCard Foundation, Ford Foundation, Helvetas (Switzerland), Ifad, GIMPA in Ghana and KSG in Kenya has provided rich learnings on key contributing factors for successful outcomes and relationships. The contexts and complexities vary, placing a spotlight on Adaptive management, one of the fundamental principles needed in our era of poly-crisis and uncertainties.

In addition to training public officials in Lesotho, Kenya, eSwatini, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda, CLEAR-AA boasts an annual flagship programme called Development Evaluation Training in Africa (DETA) which draws participants from over 10 countries in Africa working in government and non-government institutions. CLEAR-AA through its collaboration with the Ministry of Development Planning-Lesotho, successfully co-created evaluation guidelines for Lesotho’s public sector. The purpose of these guidelines is to provide practical recommendations on how the Government of Lesotho could undertake good quality evaluations and effectively manage their commissioned evaluations.

Objective: The session seeks to share learnings, highlight experiences across countries for peer learning, and further collaborations that continuously build an evaluation culture across the public sector with the aim of better development outcomes. These critical reflections on partnerships, adaptive management, shared learnings and experiences could be useful for, not just African countries, but the global South in general.