



# Annual General Meeting

Presented by

Mokgophana Ramasobana (Chair)

Cara Hartley (Deputy Chair)

Ayanda Mtanyana (Treasurer)

21<sup>st</sup> October 2021

# Presentation Outline

Setting the scene

Vision and Mission of SAMEA

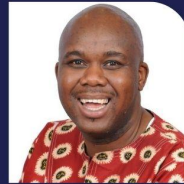
Theory of change

Key milestones

Lessons learnt

# Current Board of Directors

## BOARD UPDATE



Chair  
Mokgophana Ramasobana



Treasurer  
Ayanda Mtanyana



Deputy Chair  
Cara Hartley



Desiree Jason



Kemedi Kgaphola



Prof Ian Goldman



Tikwiza Silubonde



Prof Babette Rabie



Dr Takunda Chirau



Eleanor Hazell

# Setting the scene – Political Economy

## Global lens

- Developed and developing worlds
- Crises - Global warming, COVID-19 pandemic, widening wealth disparities and exclusions
- Thriving Capitalism - seen through fight for military and economic dominance, unequal quality and distribution of vaccines

## South Africa

- Widening inequality, unemployment and poverty scales (haves and have nots)
- Decrease in public trust (corruption, political sloganeering, racial tensions etc)
- A bleeding fiscus
- High Demand for service delivery
- Professionalizing the public service (meritocracy, depoliticization etc)

Be purpose-driven: To live a purpose that supersedes the challenges of the times

## Vision

Monitoring and evaluation is widely recognised in South Africa as a **profession and discipline essential to development**, and practiced and used in a manner that **adds significant value to effective, sustainable development** in South Africa.

## Mission

SAMEA will cultivate a **vibrant community** that **supports, guides and strengthens the development of monitoring and evaluation** in South Africa as an important **discipline, profession and instrument for empowerment and accountability**.

## To lead ethically and effectively:

### Values

#### 1. Integrity

To act ethically, honestly, in good faith and best interest of the organisation.

#### 2. Competence

To make informed decisions based on evidence, knowledge and skill, due care and diligence.

#### 3. Responsibility

To take collective responsibility to provide strategic direction and manage the implementation of programmes.

#### 4. Accountability

To be answerable for the execution of their responsibility to the Board and membership.

#### 5. Fairness

To take a fair and inclusive approach to address issues of equity and social justice, consciously act against any form of social prejudice and discrimination.

#### 6. Transparency

To be open and transparent in exercising their duties.

The above values are drawn and adapted from –

*“Principle 1: Governing Body should lead ethically and effectively” in the King IV Code of Corporate Governance (2016)*

# Theory of Change

## DRAFT THEORY OF CHANGE

**WIDER IMPACT**

DEVELOPMENT  
CREATING POSITIVE  
FUTURES

**SAMEA'S IMPACT**

M&E INFLUENCING THEORY & PRACTICE OF SUSTAINABLE & EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT (SERVICES, PROGRAMMES, POLICIES, ETC) IN SA, 'WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE LOCALLY'

(SOUTH) AFRICAN M&E THEORY & PRACTICE RECOGNISED & INFLUENCING INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE 'WE ARE THOUGHT LEADERS INTERNATIONALLY'

**MEDIUM TERM OUTCOMES** (changes in behaviour & performance)

M&E RECOGNISED BY GOVT & CIVIL SOCIETY AS AN IMPORTANT DISCIPLINE, PROFESSION & INSTRUMENT

INDICATOR: FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR M&E

IMPROVED M&E CULTURE FOR LEARNING & ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

IMPROVED M&E PRACTICE

M&E MORE SYSTEMATISED AS STANDARD PART OF PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

SA M&E EXPERIENCE BEING SOUGHT IN TEACHING, RESEARCH & PRACTICE

**SHORT TERM OUTCOMES** (changes in systems & capacity)

INCREASED CAPACITY & PROFESSIONALISM TO PRACTICE M&E AND USE M&E EVIDENCE

INCREASED AWARENESS OF & DEMAND FOR M&E AS A DISCIPLINE AND THE PRODUCTS OF M&E EVIDENCE

BROADER DIVERSE GROUP OF M&E PRACTITIONERS (EMERGING EVALUATORS)

SENSE OF M&E AND SAMEA AS A PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

RELEVANT METHODOLOGIES & MODELS BEING PROVIDED FOR eg. RAPID DATA/EVIDENCE TO INFORM DECISION MAKING (NOTABLY DURING TIMES OF CRISIS), FOR MAE, ETC

STEERING THE AGENDA FOR FUTURE M&E RESEARCH

EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS AMONG DIVERSE ORGANISATIONS TO SUPPORT M&E WORK

## Governance, Finance and Administration portfolio (Cara, Ayanda & Mokgophana)

- **Growing capacity of the secretariat:** Appointment of a new SAMEEA Coordinator and Emerging Evaluators Programme coordinator
- **Strategic focus on partnerships:** New partnerships with the NSG, UN agencies (UNICEF,WFP, UNFPA,FAO,ILO etc) and exciting developments with several others (ZENEX,DPME,CLEAR-AA,NASCEE, JET, **the NSG** etc).
- Participated in the **Public Service Dialogue** focusing on performance management organized by **DPSA, & Unisa M&E Policy Launch**
- **Building continuity of resourcing:** Implementing two major non-conference projects in financial partnership with others: Our **EE programme** and the **Hackathon**.
- **Strengthening our expression of strategic intent:**
  - Strategic Plan
  - Development of a SAMEEA Theory of Change
  - Intentional about partners full participation during our strat plan
- **Ensuring a continuity of well-equipped Board members:** Improving on induction and encouraging members to run



# Membership Services, Advocacy and Communication portfolio (Eleanor, Kemedi, Ian)

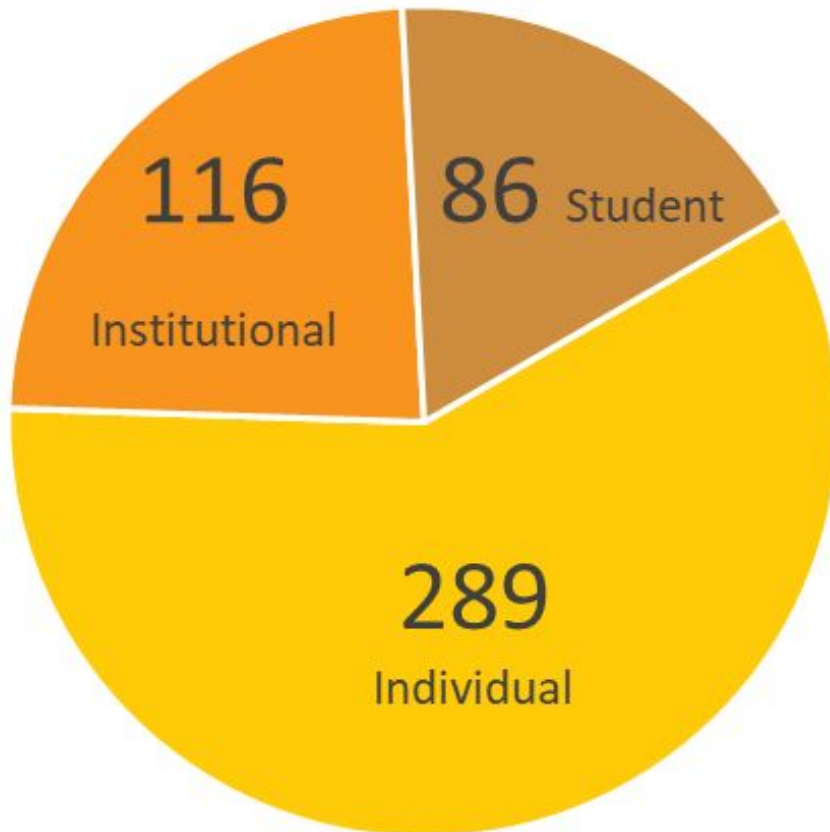
- Commencing a comprehensive **SAMEA review** (offerings, membership services & communication) which will inform a review of SAMEA's offerings & membership options;
- **Membership**
  - Steady at (+/- 450-500 despite 2021 being a nonconference year);
  - Growth in the number of institutional members.
- **Communications**
  - 2x SAMEA newsletters in 2021 (one further planned for October);
  - Website updates: EE and evaluation hackathon pages;
  - Enhanced Twitter presence.
- **Advocacy with government**
  - development of a concept note with root cause analysis and identification of practical ways forward, which informed SAMEA's work in 2021 in a crosscutting manner.
  - Involvement of DPME, DSD, DBE and Presidential Climate Change Commission in various teams in the evaluation hackathon.
- **Regional chapters** - collaboration with the KZN MEL network: launch as a SAMEA regional network.



# Membership Statistics

Membership stats as at 19 October 2021

Membership Type



■ Individual membership plan

■ Institutional membership plan

■ Student membership plan

Total: 491



# Our Institutional Members



**planning, monitoring & evaluation**

Department:  
Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**World Food Programme**



Centers for Learning on Evaluation and Results

**ANGLOPHONE AFRICA**



**civilian secretariat for police service**

Department:  
Civilian Secretariat for Police Service  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**social development**

Department:  
Social Development  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



higher education & training  
Department:  
Higher Education and Training  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



**NATIONAL LOTTERIES COMMISSION**

a member of **the dti** group



**JET EDUCATION SERVICES**  
THINK EDUCATION. THINK JET.



**women**

Department:  
Women  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## Co-creation portfolio (Ian, Eleanor & Takunda)

- **New portfolio** – seeking to apply co-creation in SAMEA’s work, and through specific co-creation activities:
- **Priority – hackathon** – running 8-22 October so still live during AGM, >100 participants, from CSOs, gov, EEs
- **Partners:** UNICEF, NASCEE, DPME, JET
- **8 teams, 8 topics** in 4 themes:
  - addressing systemic crises facing SA (developing criteria and guidelines for environmental sustainability, equity)
  - **M&E during times of crisis (virtual M&E, rapid evaluations)**
  - Developing approaches to M&E rooted in African knowledge systems (underlying concepts; case studies)
  - Other practical applications of M&E - Development of an Evaluation Evidence Map
- **Products** developed in hackathon and then refined afterwards, seek to build on this and apply them in 2022

## Emerging Evaluators (Tikwiza & Kemedi)

Area	Activity	Date
Outreach to EEs	Presentations delivered to 7 Universities: University of Pretoria, WITS, University of Johannesburg, Rhodes, Nelson Mandela University, and Stellenbosch University	February to August 2021
Partnerships/Internship Programme	SAMEA and DPME EE collaboration	Ongoing
	SAMEA partnership with WFP, UNICEF, CLEAR AA	June 2021
Mentorship/Internship Programme	EE Programme Launch	June 2021
	EE Programme Coordinator Recruited	August 2021
Facilitate EE Networks/increase participation of EEs in platforms	Through ZENEX, SAMEA sponsored EEs to attend the 2021 Workshops	June 2021
	EE participation in youth workshop organised by the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities	July 2021

# Delivered webinars

Speaker	Title	Date	Attendees
Nompumelelo Nzimande & Prof Hangwelani Magidimisha-Chipungu	Rapid Assessment on the Impact Of COVID-19 On Grade 12 Learners Receiving Social Protection Intervention	July to Sep 2021	88 registrations, 28 attendees,
Dr Kobena Hanson, African Development Bank.	Technological Innovation in a Changing World: Rethinking Evaluation in Africa		73 registrations
Liesel de Waal, M&ESURE Research and Evaluation	Exploring the impact of the global pandemic on evaluation designs		27 attendees

## Capacity Building Workshops (Desiree, Cara, Babette, Tikwiza & Ayanda)

- Considering the pandemic, the board decided to host the 2021 Capacity Building Workshops via an online platform.
- **Purpose of the workshops** is to enhance the knowledge, skills & capabilities of M&E practitioners & emerging evaluators; professionalization of M&E practice; strengthen M&E development and the community of practice.
- **Theme:** *Monitoring & Evaluation in the Context of Global Crises*
- Workshops were informed by a **Training Needs Analysis exercise**.
- Event was successful with **13** facilitators with diverse knowledge & skills; hosting **13** sessions; in attendance were **53** Registered SAMEA members; **37** Non-SAMEA; 92 EEs (incl. students) who received scholarships; EEs received **data** to the value R229/person.
- **Key output** produced a 2021 Online Capacity Building Workshops Analysis Report

# Research, Learning & Partnerships portfolio (Babette, Eleanor & Ian)

- 2021 Strategic plan: interest in a **shared M&E research agenda**
- **Evidence map** to identify M&E research gaps later identified as a precursor to the M&E research agenda.
- **NRF funding proposal** submitted for three components: (**Not awarded**)
  - Component 1: Collaborative design of an M&E Evidence map (see Hackathon)
  - Component 2: Encourage M&E scholars to focus research on priority areas through NRF bursaries.
  - Component 3: Databases of evaluations on the SAMEA website (in progress).
- **October Hackathon** includes M&E evidence map as topic. Key priorities of the Hackathon team:
  - Identify *parameters* of the evidence map, *classify studies* in an existing database on these parameters, *propose a way forward* to continue work on the M&E evidence map.
- **DPME** indicated interest in **collaboration** on an M&E evidence map from 2022 onwards (and happening in hackathon).

# Lessons learnt!!!!

- In January, the Board set out **ambitious goals** for not just **1 but 3 years**.
- We have **levelled up** in terms of the **strategic & innovative work** within the M&E sector and have **made good progress**.
- The work has **definitely stretched** our capacity (a recurring theme across our mid-term reflection sessions). Both board members & secretariat capacity was **and continues to be tested**.
- The **decision to postpone the conference** provided space to pursue other initiatives with partners – this has paid off in terms of a more **diverse funding base and larger range of initiatives** implemented this year.
- A larger secretariat & portfolio of work requires a stronger **institutional foundation** – organisational policies can no longer be ad hoc and require investment.
- We also recognised the need to invest in expectation management, clear and open communication, maintaining a collegial atmosphere and **frank conversations about challenges**.
- **Institutional memory** is being rebuilt and we need to prioritise Knowledge Management to safeguard this



## AGM'S noting

- ❑ Expand the EXCO by creating an Operations portfolio – setting up internal systems (financial and operational policies)
- ❑ Coopting additional board members based on their skills sets or strategic partnerships
- ❑ Setting up additional committees comprising of the wider SAMEA members
- ❑ Pipeline of the future Board members AND augers well towards the sustainability of the board