

## **EES 2024 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP**

**TITLE:** Harnessing Real-Time Evaluation (RTE) to Navigate Complexity

**FACILITATOR:** Scott G. Chaplowe, International Evaluation Academy (IEAc)

**TARGET LEVEL:** Suitable for all levels

### **RATIONALE:**

The current global polycrisis, marked by complex and interconnected challenges facing the world today, has pushed the boundaries of conventional evaluation methodologies to respond to the volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity (VUCA) that characterize the contexts (evaluands) where interventions are delivered and evaluated. With the increasing frequency and magnitude of global disruption, the demand for and use of evaluation that can provide timely, actionable learning that affect programs and other interventions as they occur has increased.

**Real-time evaluation (RTE)** is part of a family of complexity-adaptive evaluation methods that provide immediate feedback to inform implementation and strategic decision making. While RTE has a humanitarian heritage, it is increasingly being used across sectors to inform agile decision-making and adaptive management to navigate uncertainty, ensuring interventions remain relevant, realistic, and impactful.

### **WORKSHOP PURPOSE:**

**This workshop will provide an overview of RTE, discussing its benefits and limitations, when it is appropriate, and how to plan, commission, and conduct RTE so you can incorporate it into your evaluation toolbox.** It is appropriate for those considering RTE as an evaluator, evaluation commissioner, and evaluation manager.

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

By the end of the course, participants will understand...

- What is RTE, and how it intersects with other forms of rapid evaluation and real-time learning
- RTE's humanitarian roots and the drivers for its uptake in non-humanitarian sectors and program areas
- Benefits and limitations of RTE
- When RTE is or is not appropriate
- Key considerations for commissioning, planning, managing, and conducting RTE
- Who to include in the composition of a RTE team
- Data collection methods for RTE
- Real-time reporting and communication methods to support RTE use

### **DELIVERY METHODS:**

The workshop will combine mini-presentations on key concepts with active learning techniques to enhance critical thinking and peer-to-peer learning, drawing on participants' experiences and real-life applications. Interactive activities, including scenario-based exercises, will be used in pairs, small groups, and plenary sessions to foster discussion, problem-solving, brainstorming, and reflection. Practical examples and tools will be provided.

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### **INDICATIVE SCHEDULE:**

The lesson plan will be structured around the following topics, progressively build upon each other to reinforce coherent learning:

1. **Course Introduction**
2. **What is RTE (and RTL)?**
3. **Key Drivers for Uptake of RTEs**
4. **RTE Uses**
5. **RTE Planning & Commissioning**

6. **RTE Team Composition**
7. **RTE Methodologies**
8. **RTE Reporting**
9. **RTE Troubleshooting**
10. **Course Closure**

### **HANDOUT MATERIAL**

Handouts, available electronically as PDFs to save paper, include:

1. Workshop slides
2. RTE Uses handout
3. RTE Rapid Evaluation Techniques handout
4. RTE Reporting Mediums handout
5. RTE Troubleshooting (problems and solutions) handout
6. RTE Recommended Resources List handout