



Wilton Park

## Programme

# From COVID-19 to climate change: transformational evaluations for global crises

Tuesday 2 June 2020 (1400–1530 BST) | WP1783V1

In this time of deep international uncertainty around the consequences of COVID-19, it is essential to grab the golden opportunity to inspire systems change and the large scale transformation that is needed for our societies and economies to tackle the longer term problem of climate change while preventing a recurrence of crises like COVID-19.

Behind these crises is our accelerating destructive interaction with the environment. COVID-19 and many similar diseases would not have passed on to humans if it were not for reduced habitats, biodiversity loss, and destructive food cycles and interactions with wild animals. *Not* tackling climate change dramatically increases the risk of new pandemics and other environment-related disasters. While an unpredictable crisis caused by a pandemic led to world-wide action in just a few months, the many more severe risks from the climate crisis have not led to similar concerted action. This must change.

While the world has agreed to work towards the transformative Sustainable Development Goals, progress has been much too slow. We now have an opportunity to ensure that the response to COVID-19 is truly transformative at national, transnational and global scales. This urgently requires worldwide commitment to potential solutions such as food beyond meat, green energy solutions, restarting the air industry and global mobility in sustainable ways, and timely evidence that can help navigate uncertainty and inform options and trade-offs.

The discussion will have a global focus. It will be of great relevance to COP-26, reflecting on global responsibilities rather than on a particular part of the world. It will discuss how evaluation could and should play a role in understanding large systems change and transformation, in exploring future scenarios that move in the direction of a sustainable and better future for our societies and economies, and our interaction with nature. We will explore how international evidence and experiences may support and learn from national and local evaluation capacities and transformational efforts.

### Objective:

To draw from the experience with COVID-19 to inspire concerted action in support of the transformations needed to address climate change and the crucial role of evaluation in providing immediately useful evidence, insight and learning.

In partnership with IDEAS (International Development Evaluation Association) and SDG Transformations Forum

In association with gLOCAL Evaluation Week



## Welcome and introduction

### **Robin Hart**

Programme Director, Wilton Park

## Introductory speakers:

### **Alison Evans**

Director-General, Evaluation, the World Bank Group

This introduction will highlight the critical importance of evaluation for tackling today's global challenges. With its focus on evidence and learning, evaluation can help guide us through the economic, social, and environmental transformations that will be needed to address the climate crisis. Through systematic evaluation we can learn what is working and why, which is a vital foundation for policies that support change. As the challenges we face become ever more complex, crossing boundaries as well as disciplines, evaluation will have to embrace both established and innovative practices, and draw broadly on existing and new evidence to adapt past solutions to confront future problems.

### **Zenda Ofir**

Acting President, IDEAS and Co-Lead Steward, SDG Transformations Forum

It is important to consider the implications for evaluation of dynamical rather than static change, and of trajectories towards transformation; amidst unfolding crises, transformations by definition start as journeys from old paradigms. We have to deal with 'first principles' such as interdependencies, catalytic action, co-evolution and tipping points, and understand more about the groupings and societies that have to benefit from the interventions under evaluation. This means shifting focus from "impact" to more thoughtful assessments of "design" and "implementation".

## Discussions introduced by:

### **Rob D. van den Berg**

Professor, King's College London and Past President of IDEAS

## With contributions from:

### **Oscar Garcia**

Director of Independent Evaluation Office, United Nations Development Programme

### **Silvia Salinas Mulder**

President of International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE)

### **Ali Sheikh**

Former CEO of LEAD Pakistan

### **Adeline Sibanda**

Co-Chair EvalPartners; Managing Consultant, ADESIM Developments and Past President of IOCE

**This is an open conversation and will be recorded for promotional use**