



Mike
Leslie

PERSONAL DETAILS

Date of Birth:	3 June 1983
Languages:	English (Excellent)
Prof. membership:	South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association No. 586132001987
Years' Experience:	15 years
Countries worked in:	South Africa

CONTACT INFO

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ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

- Postgraduate Diploma in Monitoring and Evaluation, Stellenbosch University, South Africa, 2011
- MPhil in Community and Development (Cum Laude), Stellenbosch University, South Africa, 2010
- BA Humanities (Cum Laude), Stellenbosch University, South Africa, 2006

FIELD OF SPECIALISATION

Mike is the Managing Director of PDG and an M&E systems expert with extensive public sector experience in South Africa across local, provincial and national government. He has contributed to the development of the National Evaluation System as an evaluator and M&E system development specialist through successive projects over more than a decade. His expertise includes evaluation approaches, designs and methodologies as well as customised M&E system design and consolidation in public sector environments. He has developed and delivered accredited modules on public sector evaluation for Stellenbosch University and facilitated for the Development Evaluation Training Programme for Africa at the University of Witwatersrand.

WORK EXPERIENCE

September 2023 – present

PDG, Cape Town, South Africa

Managing Director and Monitoring & Evaluation Practice Area co-lead

December 2012 – August 2016 & September 2016 – August 2023

PDG, Cape Town, South Africa

Consultant and then Director and Monitoring & Evaluation Practice Area lead

May 2011 – November 2012

Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PwC) Advisory, East London, South Africa
M&E Consultant

Work experience prior to 2011 available on request.

KEY PROJECTS

2024–present, Specialised M&E technical assistance in local government planning, budgeting and reporting reforms, National Treasury Serving as the project lead and technical advisor to the Intergovernmental Relations Division of National Treasury to support the institutionalisation of a long-term reform initiative through Municipal Financial Management Act (MFMA) Circular No. 88 in metropolitan municipalities. This includes metro support assistance, governance and institutionalisation technical advisory services, indicator crafting and implementation technical assistance as well as strategic management advisory support. It also entails support for change management and institutionalisation of the reform which will culminate in an update to the Planning and Performance Management Regulations of the Municipal Systems Act of 2001.

2024–present, Indicator technical assistance for M&E of the Just Energy Transition Implementation Plan (JET IP), The Presidency, Republic of South Africa Serving as the project lead and technical advisor to the JET IP Programme Management Unit (PMU). This work entailed indicator development and reporting tool development for a set of indicators derived from the JET IP Theory of Change. This includes the compilation of baselines, development of milestones and development of core indicators, including a reporting tool. This work was undertaken through the African Climate Foundation for the JET IP PMU in the Presidency.

2020–2025, Evaluation expert advisor to the Provincial Data Office, Western Cape Department of the Premier Served as an expert advisor on evaluation projects for the Western Cape Government. This included conducting and facilitating various rapid evaluations of flagship provincial initiatives like the Western Cape Provincial Safety Plan, the Western Cape COVID-19 Hotspot Strategy, the Problem Driven-Iterative Adaptation Methodology Pilot, and the Provincial Policy, Planning and Budgeting Process, among others. This has also included technical advisory support for design elements of the Western Cape Government's Growth 4 Jobs Strategy and the Provincial Strategic Planning Framework 2025-2030.

2024, M&E technical assistance for Cape Town's Energy Strategy 2050, City of Cape Town Served as an M&E technical advisor to the City of Cape Town for the development of an M&E framework as part of the Performance Management Plan of the City's Energy Strategy 2050. This entailed facilitated support developing a Theory of Change for Energy Strategy 2050 and indicator development. The project was managed by Pegasys with PDG providing M&E technical support.

2019–2021 and 2021– 2024, M&E technical assistance for the Cities Support Programme (CSP), National Treasury Served as a technical advisor to National Treasury to provide M&E specialist support for planning, budgeting and reporting reforms initiated through Municipal Financial Management Act (MFMA) Circular No. 88 in metropolitan municipalities. This included development and iteration of a set of a standardised indicators for local government and the establishment sector technical working groups to refine and resolve planning and reporting challenges.

2023–2024, M&E technical assistance for the MEL Framework for Just Transition in South Africa, Presidential Climate Commission and the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency Served as an M&E systems expert for the development of an MEL framework in collaboration with partners from Sustainable Energy Africa and key M&E stakeholders across the public sector. The project entailed the development of an overarching Theory of Change, logical framework and extensive domestic and international consultations benchmarking good practice on Just Transition tracking.

2019–2021 and 2021–2024, Technical advisor to support institutionalisation of the implementation of Local Government indicators, Department of Cooperative Governance Served as a technical advisor to the Department of Cooperative governance to provide M&E specialist support for the institutionalisation of local government indicators. The project expanded upon and complemented the work of National Treasury to embed a differentiated, standardised indicator set applicable to all municipalities in South Africa. The project entailed

template development, reporting analysis and advice, training and capacity building support for the piloting of the indicators ahead of the update to the Planning and Performance Management Regulations of the Municipal Systems Act of 2001.

2023-2024, Evaluation lead and project manager for the Evaluation of the Witzenberg PALS project, Western Cape Department of Agriculture Serving as the evaluation lead and project manager for an implementation and outcome evaluation of a private sector land reform initiative known as the Partners in Agri-Land Solutions (PALS) in the Witzenberg Municipal area. The evaluation employed a mixed-methods approach to collect data from land reform beneficiaries, private farmers and key public sector stakeholders to arrive at findings and recommendations related to the intersection of public and private land reform initiatives in the Western Cape and across the country.

2023-2024, M&E systems expert for the M&E Framework of the National Skills Fund, National Skills Fund Served as an M&E Systems expert, in partnership with Urban-Econ Nikela, advising on the design and development of an M&E Framework for the National Skills Fund. Responsibilities have also included planning and implementing a series of skills transfer initiatives that closely follow the process of the M&E Framework development.

2012-2018 and 2022 Assessment of Government Evaluations Rounds 1-5- Department of Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation: Co-developed and revised an evaluation quality assessment system aligned to DPME's Standards for evaluation in government. Moderated quality assessments of evaluations conducted from 2006-present and contributed to the development of an online Evaluation Management Information System (EMIS) and guidelines. Took over project lead and management responsibilities for quality assessments in the 3rd-5th rounds.

Additional project experience prior to 2020 available on request

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

LESLIE, M., EVERETT, M., GOLDMAN, I., JACOB, C., MOODLEY, N. & PODEMS, D. BENEY, T., 2015. Developing evaluation standards and assessing evaluation quality. African Evaluation Journal 3(1), No. 112, 13 pages.

GOLDMAN, I., JACOB, C., KOLA, N., LESLIE, M., MAPHALLA, R. & MOODLEY, N. 2013. Quality assessment of government evaluations in South Africa – some initial findings. 4th Biennial South African Monitoring & Evaluation Association Conference, September 2013, Sandton, Johannesburg. Awarded Best Conference Paper.

WILDSCHUT, L. & LESLIE, M. 2025 (**forthcoming**) Evaluation in South Africa. Chapter in the Evaluation Globe-Africa Country Profiles.

SELECT COURSE FACILITATION AND LECTURING

Evaluation in the public sector: Policy analysis, performance management and government reforms 2019-2024- Course facilitator as part of the MPhil in Monitoring & Evaluation Methods at Stellenbosch University

Developed content, facilitated and assessed papers as part of the compulsory course module for the Master's programme in Monitoring & Evaluation Methods (NQF Level 9) at Stellenbosch University since 2023. Facilitated the module as an elective from 2019-2022.

Evaluation in the public sector: Policy analysis, performance management and government reforms 2019-2022- Course facilitator as part of the MPhil in Monitoring & Evaluation Methods at Stellenbosch University

Developed additional content, facilitated and assessed papers as part of an elective module for the Master's programme in Monitoring & Evaluation Methods (NQF Level 9) at Stellenbosch University since September 2019.

Development Evaluation Training Programme for Africa (DETPA) Course facilitator- M&E Planning and management 2017-2018 Facilitated and delivered modules for the Centre for Learning on Evaluation and Results-Anglophone Africa (CLEAR-AA) through the University of Witwatersrand in August of 2017 and 2018 as part of the M&E planning and management course.