



## Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Support Program

### Final Narrative Report

#### Project ID

P2P Project number	# 31
Project Title:	Needs Assessment for Creating Networks Technical Team CoE, South Asia
Project Managed by:	Karon Shaiva
Date of this report	15 <sup>th</sup> May (Extended Deadline)
Focus of the Project: (check all that apply)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy for enabling environment for evaluation
	<input type="checkbox"/> Academic courses in evaluation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strengthening VOPE institutional capacity
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual members' evaluation capacities
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity to promote equity-focused and gender-sensitive evaluation

VOPEs involved:	Name and acronym of VOPE	Country/Region	Legal Status
#1	Community of Evaluators, Bangladesh	Bangladesh	Limited Company ACT
#2	Evaluation Association of Bhutan (EAB)	Bhutan	Not registered
#3	Evaluation Community, India	India	Not registered
#4	Community of Evaluators, Nepal	Nepal	Non-Government Organization
#5	Sri Lanka Evaluation Association (SLEvA)	Sri Lanka	Non-Government Organization

Project start date	10 <sup>th</sup> December
Project end date	30 <sup>th</sup> April (Extended Deadline)

#### Contact person(s) for this project

VOPE	Contact Person Names	Email addresses
Community of Evaluators, Bangladesh	Mr. Bhabatosh Nath	bhabatoshnath@gmail.com
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Evaluation Community, India	Ms. Rashmi Aggarwal	rashmi_agrawal56@rediffmail.com
Community of Evaluators, Nepal	Mr. Ramesh Tuladhar	r.tula1950@gmail.com
Sri Lanka Evaluation Association (SLEvA)	Mr. Kulasabanathan Romeshun	romeshun@gmail.com

1. What was the purpose of the project? What did the project plan to achieve and how? (Brief description of the project, max 100 words).

Needs assessment will be conducted to determine the requirement of VOPEs and action points for improvement of quality and practice of evaluation by these VOPE members. Specifically, the needs assessment exercise will determine how a regional network like CoE-SA can work most effectively with country associations like CoE-Nepal, CoE-Bangladesh, Evaluation Association of Bhutan, CoE-Afghanistan, Sri Lanka Evaluation Association (SLEvA) and CoE-Pakistan to enhance knowledge sharing and decrease duplication.

2. Did the project achieve what it planned to achieve? Yes, fully / ~~partially~~ / ~~unfortunately, no~~.

2.a. Please comment on degree of achievement:<sup>1</sup>

We got inputs from over 100 VOPE members, and we got a very precise understanding of the current status and needs of VOPE in south Asian region, as we utilized a three pronged approach of Online survey, personal interview and physical/online focussed group discussion.

We conducted FGD and in-depth personal interviews to get insights and develop the action plan for national VOPEs<sup>2</sup>.

3. Was the project implemented as planned? If there were changes in the planned activities, why they were necessary?

Overall the project was implemented as per plan, but there were minor glitches faced by us especially regarding number of response from the national VOPE members. To tackle this problem we had to bring down the sample size of the survey to only *active members* instead on total *registered members*.

4. What are the main lessons learned from the experience of this project that you would like to share with other VOPEs?

Based on the individual member survey following are the key insights<sup>3</sup>

1. We need to have very clear value proposition for VOPE members
2. VOPE general body needs to be involved in decision making and not just the board to promote participatory decision making
3. Stronger social connections beyond emailers needs to be created with VOPE members and VOPE board
4. Fund raising plan (either framework or project based) needs to be developed and followed by national VOPEs
5. Gender and equity focus should be given priority in National VOPE mission for it be implemented on ground and not just stay in principle

5. Are there plans to continue or expand collaboration started under the project? If so, please describe.

Based on the individual member survey following are the key action points<sup>4</sup>

1. Create a report for dissemination to the VOPE and their members
2. Present the final report in Evaluation Conclave 2015
3. Create an action plan to meet the needs of the VOPE and their members on the below mentioned points:
  - a) Fund raising and resource mobilization for operations of VOPEs
  - b) Resource person exchange for Evaluation capacity development
  - c) Capacity building and training programs developed for members
  - d) Engage with Policy makers
  - e) Development of collaborative projects for field building

6. Please reflect on what aspects of the capacity of the participating VOPEs have changed as a result of project implementation,

This is a participatory consultative process which encouraged / stimulated thinking and self-assessment of the capacities of the participating National VOPEs by themselves. As such, it was helpful for VOPEs to think in terms of enhancing their capacities by incorporating specific strategies in their action plans. The reflection session was appreciated as being helpful for them to assess their own capacities by discussing among themselves. Stimulating reflective thinking was the immediate outcome of the Project.

Below are the VOPE findings.

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<sup>2, 3 & 4</sup> A detailed study report of Members Survey study will be released at the Evaluation Conclave 2015

<b>Community of Evaluators, Bangladesh (COEB)</b>		
<b>Aspect of capacity</b>	<b>Check as appropriate</b>	<b>Please provide evidence of the change</b>
Extent of shared vision and motivation within the VOPE Board	✓	In the FGD the COEB Board members has demonstrated strong consensus on the vision and mission of the VOPE
Extent of translation of the VOPE Board vision into VOPE strategic documents and communication materials	✓	COEB has provided mission and vision statements
Attractiveness of the VOPE Board vision to regular VOPE members		
Extent of specialized knowledge and skills of VOPE Board members and paid staff in the areas related to VOPE management	✓	As per the survey findings approximately 100% of COEB board members have experience ranging from 6-15+ years. However COEB doesn't have any paid members.
Extent of translation of this knowledge into operational documentation (e.g. policies, annual work plans)	✓	
Strengths of social connections between VOPE Board members and between Board members and paid staff	✓	COEB board members have moderate social connections and know each other through their professional and personal contacts as well. Source of Information Focused Group Discussion.
Number and strength of social connections between VOPE Board and regular VOPE members		
Number and strength of social connections with stakeholders outside VOPE	✓	Moderate to good due to strong social connection of COEB board members. Source of Information Focused Group Discussion.
Number and strength of social connections with other VOPEs	✓	Very good as COEB is working with EAB (Bhutan) and COEN (Nepal) on a study of MRE which demonstrates very good social connections with other VOPEs.
<b>Gender and equity dimension</b>		
Extent to which equity and gender equality principles are part of shared vision of VOPE leaders	✓	Not covered adequately in the shared vision and mixed perception observed during the FGD.
Extent to which equity and gender equality principles are articulated and integrated into VOPE strategic documents and communication materials	✓	As per the survey findings approximately 33% of board members are female and no documentation available which has a focus on gender issues.
Extent of knowledge of VOPE Board members and paid staff in the field of equity and gender		
Extent to which this knowledge in the field of equity and gender is translated into VOPE operational documentation	✓	Gender and equity focused evaluation has not been translated in the VOPE operational documentation.

<b>Evaluation Association of Bhutan (EAB)</b>		
<b>Aspect of capacity</b>	<b>Check as appropriate</b>	<b>Please provide evidence of the change</b>
Extent of shared vision and motivation within the VOPE Board	✓	In the FGD the EAB leaders demonstrated strong consensus on the vision and mission of the VOPE
Extent of translation of the VOPE Board vision into VOPE strategic documents and communication materials	✓	EAB has provided mission and vision statements
Attractiveness of the VOPE Board vision to regular VOPE members		
Extent of specialized knowledge and skills of VOPE Board members and paid staff in the areas related to VOPE management	✓	As per the survey findings approximately 43% of EAB board members have experience ranging from 6-15 years. However EAB doesn't have any paid members.
Extent of translation of this knowledge into operational documentation (e.g. policies, annual work plans)		
Strengths of social connections between VOPE Board members and between Board members and paid staff	✓	EAB board members have strong social connections and know each other through their professional and personal contacts as well. Source of Information Focused Group Discussion.
Number and strength of social connections between VOPE Board and regular VOPE members		
Number and strength of social connections with stakeholders outside VOPE	✓	Strong mostly due to involvement of different in organizations in the board. Source of Information Focused Group Discussion.
Number and strength of social connections with other VOPEs	✓	Very good as EAB is working with COEN (Nepal) and COEB (Bangladesh) on a study of MRE which demonstrates very good social connections with other VOPEs.
<b>Gender and equity dimension</b>		
Extent to which equity and gender equality principles are part of shared vision of VOPE leaders	✓	Not covered adequately in the shared vision however was considered as an important point in the FGD.
Extent to which equity and gender equality principles are articulated and integrated into VOPE strategic documents and communication materials	✓	As per the survey findings approximately 50% of board members are female and no documentation available which has a focus on gender issues. However strong female presentation is a very positive sign for involvement in equity and gender equality principles.
Extent of knowledge of VOPE Board members and paid staff in the field of equity and gender		
Extent to which this knowledge in the field of equity and gender is translated into VOPE operational documentation	✓	Gender and equity focused evaluation has not been translated in the VOPE operational documentation. And only one respondent was specialized on Gender and women empowerment

<b>Evaluation Community, India</b>		
<b>Aspect of capacity</b>	<b>Check as appropriate</b>	<b>Please provide evidence of the change</b>
Extent of shared vision and motivation within the VOPE Board	✓	In the FGD proposed representatives has demonstrated strong consensus on the vision and mission of the proposed VOPE
Extent of translation of the VOPE Board vision into VOPE strategic documents and communication materials	✓	VOPE has provided mission and vision statements
Attractiveness of the VOPE Board vision to regular VOPE members		
Extent of specialized knowledge and skills of VOPE Board members and paid staff in the areas related to VOPE management	✓	As per the survey findings approximately 86% of VOPE board members have experience ranging from 6-15+ years. However the proposed VOPE doesn't have any paid members.
Extent of translation of this knowledge into operational documentation (e.g. policies, annual work plans)		
Strengths of social connections between VOPE Board members and between Board members and paid staff	✓	Proposed leaders have strong social connections and know each other through their professional and personal contacts as well. Source of Information Focused Group Discussion.
Number and strength of social connections between VOPE Board and regular VOPE members		
Number and strength of social connections with stakeholders outside VOPE	✓	Strong social connection with government and large institutions involved in M&E
Number and strength of social connections with other VOPEs	✓	Very good as most of the respondents are from CoE, SA which has been working with other National VOPEs for last 4-5 years.
<b>Gender and equity dimension</b>		
Extent to which equity and gender equality principles are part of shared vision of VOPE leaders	✓	Not covered adequately in the shared vision however was considered as an important point in the FGD.
Extent to which equity and gender equality principles are articulated and integrated into VOPE strategic documents and communication materials		
Extent of knowledge of VOPE Board members and paid staff in the field of equity and gender		
Extent to which this knowledge in the field of equity and gender is translated into VOPE operational documentation	✓	No documentation available, however in the survey 29% of the respondent were specialized on Gender and women empowerment

<b>Community of Evaluators, Nepal (COEN)</b>		
<b>Aspect of capacity</b>	<b>Check as appropriate</b>	<b>Please provide evidence of the change</b>
Extent of shared vision and motivation within the VOPE Board	✓	In the FGD the VOPE Board members has demonstrated strong consensus on the vision and mission of the VOPE
Extent of translation of the VOPE Board vision into VOPE strategic documents and communication materials	✓	VOPE has provided mission and vision statements
Attractiveness of the VOPE Board vision to regular VOPE members		
Extent of specialized knowledge and skills of VOPE Board members and paid staff in the areas related to VOPE management	✓	As per the survey findings approximately 88% of COEN board members have experience ranging from 6-15 years. However COEN doesn't have any paid members.
Extent of translation of this knowledge into operational documentation (e.g. policies, annual work plans)		
Strengths of social connections between VOPE Board members and between Board members and paid staff	✓	COEN board members have strong social connections and know each other through their professional and personal contacts as well. Source of Information Focused Group Discussion.
Number and strength of social connections between VOPE Board and regular VOPE members		
Number and strength of social connections with stakeholders outside VOPE	✓	Weak mostly due to bureaucracy in the government system. Source of Information Focused Group Discussion.
Number and strength of social connections with other VOPEs	✓	Very good as COEN is working with EAB (Bhutan) and COEB (Bangladesh) on a study of MRE which demonstrates very good social connections with other VOPEs.
<b>Gender and equity dimension</b>		
Extent to which equity and gender equality principles are part of shared vision of VOPE leaders	✓	Not covered adequately in the shared vision however was considered as an important point in the FGD.
Extent to which equity and gender equality principles are articulated and integrated into VOPE strategic documents and communication materials	✓	As per the survey findings approximately 22% of board members are female and no documentation available which has a focus on gender issues.
Extent of knowledge of VOPE Board members and paid staff in the field of equity and gender		
Extent to which this knowledge in the field of equity and gender is translated into VOPE operational documentation	✓	Gender and equity focused evaluation has not been translated in the VOPE operational documentation. As per the survey only one respondent was specialized on Gender and women empowerment

<b>Sri Lanka Evaluation Association (SLEvA)</b>		
<b>Aspect of capacity</b>	<b>Check as appropriate</b>	<b>Please provide evidence of the change</b>
Extent of shared vision and motivation within the VOPE Board	✓	In the FGD the SLEvA Board members has demonstrated strong consensus on the vision and mission of the SLEvA
Extent of translation of the VOPE Board vision into VOPE strategic documents and communication materials	✓	VOPE has provided mission and vision statements
Attractiveness of the VOPE Board vision to regular VOPE members		
Extent of specialized knowledge and skills of VOPE Board members and paid staff in the areas related to VOPE management	✓	As per the survey findings approximately 70% of SLEvA board members have experience ranging from 6-15 years. However SLEvA has one paid staff who is well versed with VOPE management.
Extent of translation of this knowledge into operational documentation (e.g. policies, annual work plans)	✓	SLEvA has a strict code of conduct and strong membership referral and application process
Strengths of social connections between VOPE Board members and between Board members and paid staff	✓	SLEvA board members have strong social connections and know each other through their profession and personal contact as well. Source of Information Focused Group Discussion.
Number and strength of social connections between VOPE Board and regular VOPE members		
Number and strength of social connections with stakeholders outside VOPE	✓	Very strong with government as they are in process of drafting National evaluation policy
Number and strength of social connections with other VOPEs	✓	Very strong as board members are involved with multiple institution across the world. They have also collaborated with other stakeholders for events and other projects.
<b>Gender and equity dimension</b>		
Extent to which equity and gender equality principles are part of shared vision of VOPE leaders	✓	Not covered in the shared vision however was considered as an important point in the FGD.
Extent to which equity and gender equality principles are articulated and integrated into VOPE strategic documents and communication materials	✓	As per the sample survey findings approximately 40% of members are female and no documentation available which has a focus on gender issues.
Extent of knowledge of VOPE Board members and paid staff in the field of equity and gender		
Extent to which this knowledge in the field of equity and gender is translated into VOPE operational documentation	✓	Gender and equity focused evaluation has not been translated in the VOPE operational documentation. And only one respondent was specialized on Gender and women empowerment

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