

Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Support Program

Final Narrative Report



Project ID

P2P Project number	23
Project Title	The Evaluation Database Enhancement Project
Project Managed by	VOPE I: Palestinian Evaluation Association (PEA) VOPE II: Jordan Development Evaluation Association (EvalJordan) Managing Partner: Economic and Social Development Center (ESDC)
Date of this report	30/04/2015
Focus of the Project	<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
#1	Palestinian Evaluation Association (PEA)	Palestine / MENA
#2	Jordan Development Evaluation Association (EvalJordan)	Jordan / MENA

Project start date	30/10/2014
Project end date	30/04/2015

Contact person(s) for this project

VOPE	Contact Person Names	Email addresses
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EvalJordan	Amjad Attar (President)	amjad_attar@hotmail.com
EvalJordan	Abeer Hakouz (member)	abeerhakouz@yahoo.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).

The project aimed to enhance the first global evaluation database [website: www.evaluationdatabase.com], which was initially developed by the PEA, and to promote and enhance cooperation between members of the newly founded sister VOPEs, PEA and EvalJordan. The project also aimed to strengthen the evaluation capacities of members of the two VOPEs and enhance the “evaluation environment” in both countries through building and improving the available data and knowledge on evaluation.

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

2.a. Please comment on degree of achievement:¹

Most of the planned activities were carried out successfully, including:

- Enhancing the evaluation database website and improving its features and design based on the recommendations of members of both VOPEs. This was achieved through hiring a professional website designer who originally designed the website before the project started. Several team members worked closely with the designer translating the overall team recommendations and enhancing the website features and options
- Holding a two-day joint workshop in Amman, Jordan during January 2015 with the participation of 14 members from PEA and EvalJordan. The participants of the workshop approved an action plan for the project and agreed on the responsibilities for each team member or group of members. Additionally, during the workshop the two VOPEs also agreed to establish a permanent working group, which is planned to continue after the project has ended
- Holding two workshops in Palestine including launching the website, one in February and another in April, 2015 with the participation of members of the PEA from both the West Bank and Gaza Strip

Despite this success, a few important planned activities have not been achieved, including:

- Adding all contents to the website (i.e. evaluation reports, journal articles, etc.). While much contents have been collected and gathered by all team members from the two VOPEs, it was difficult to add these contents to the website because it was under revision and programming needed time before we can upload all contents. This will be done after the project has ended as the website is now up and running
- It was unfortunate that team members from EvalJordan were not able to visit Palestine to hold the second joint planned workshop due to visa complications. Moreover, EvalJordan was not able to hold a launching event before the end of the project date in Jordan

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

As mentioned above, most of project activities were implemented as planned except for the second joint workshop and launching event in Jordan. There was no other changes on the planned activities.

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

- We became even surer that the networking approach, especially between the two VOPEs, is an essential aspect for the further development of evaluation and building the evaluation capacity in Palestine and Jordan. Our networking approach has included face-to-face meetings and communication through emails, Skype calls, etc. but we also utilised a Dropbox folder where we share the different documents, resources and data to be used in the website. Collective work through networking has arguably increased members' capacity in evaluation through exchanging the evaluation knowledge and resources amongst members and those who are working in the evaluation field in the two countries. This was very rare before the project.
- The time period dedicated to the P2P project is very limited and despite that we asked for a one month no cost extension, there was not enough time to implement some of the planned activities. Moreover, several delays have been experienced during the life of the project caused by the late signing and approval of the agreement and the difficult political and security situation in the region afterwards.
- It proved very difficult to work with a managing partner. For some good intentions on the managing partner side, which are related to transparency and assuring the best financial

¹ Please limit your responses to this and other questions to no more than 500 words each.

measures, many difficulties were faced by the project team to implement some of the activities due to inflexibility and short life of the project. Indeed the project team is returning some of the funds to the IOCE although it is much needed now but due to the limitation of time and procedures the project team just could not use these funds. If to apply again for P2P funding, it seems to us that it is much better not to have a managing partner at all, or not apply in the first place for such funding because so much efforts are spent from members go wasted unfortunately given the inflexible and difficult setting.

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

Members of the two VOPEs are eager to continue the significant cooperation initiated during the project and to strengthen the network we already started. One important way to achieve this is seen through enhancing the database, which both VOPEs believe it is much needed in Palestine, Jordan and globally. But, we also intend to continue creating more resources and opportunities for enhancing the evaluation capacity and culture in both Palestine and Jordan. Furthermore, the two VOPEs will continue to invest in the joint coordination group recently established and perhaps find more funding to jointly work on issues of concern to the two VOPEs, e.g. member capacity building. In fact, we decided to conduct a needs assessment study to define needs in this area and to determine the suitable interventions during our future work.

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

VOPE 1+2	PEA and EvalJordan	
Aspect of capacity	Check as appropriate	Please provide evidence of the change
Extent of shared vision and motivation within the VOPE Board	X	The project has allowed for creating sustainable ways of communication between the two VOPE board members and opportunities to share ideas and perspectives. It also created common interests and motivations for development of evaluation in Palestine and Jordan
Extent of translation of the VOPE Board vision into VOPE strategic documents and communication materials		
Attractiveness of the VOPE Board vision to regular VOPE members	X	PEA and EvalJordan members were much involved in all aspects of the project and became much more aware of the vision of the two VOPEs and hence many expressed that they are now much more knowledgeable and committed to these visions
Extent of specialized knowledge and skills of VOPE Board members and paid staff in the areas related to VOPE management	X	Regular and Board members of the two VOPEs have gained important skills and knowledge related to the management of such joint project. They played important roles in planning, data collection, implementing the different activities and communicating with the evaluation communities in both countries
Extent of translation of this knowledge into operational documentation (e.g. policies, annual work plans)	X	Joint work plan and the website
Strengths of social connections between VOPE Board members and between Board members and paid staff	X	Project activities have significantly increased cooperation and connections among regular and Board members of each VOPE and with regular and board members of the sister VOPE. Most members are now frequently cooperating and communicating through different tools that did not exist before. Additionally, several members have reported jointly working on several evaluation projects and frequently

		communicating through Skype and sharing resources through the shared Dropbox folder
Number and strength of social connections between VOPE Board and regular VOPE members	X	While it is difficult to count social connections or scientifically assess their strength without implementing a systematic study, it is obvious that the project has achieved important steps in this regard and Board and regular members of both VOPEs have strengthened such connections among themselves and with regular and board members of the other VOPE. This can be seen in the several events and meetings that are still taking place
Number and strength of social connections with stakeholders outside VOPE	X	A good number of connections were established with members of the civil society organizations and governmental representatives from different ministries in both countries. These individuals have been engaged in the project activities through participating in the different workshops and meetings that were held as part of the project
Number and strength of social connections with other VOPEs		
Gender and equity dimension		
Extent to which equity and gender equality principles are part of shared vision of VOPE leaders	X	From the start and even before the P2P grant, the two VOPEs' leaderships agreed on the main principles related to equity and gender equality, which are seen as essential to the two VOPEs' visions and missions
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	X	Although no scientific study was conducted to prove this, we argue that the knowledge in the field of equity and gender has significantly increased during the project as many of these issues were frequently discussed between all attending members of the two VOPEs
Extent to which this knowledge in the field of equity and gender is translated into VOPE operational documentation		

Please save with P2P# in file name, then send via email attachment to IOCE@earthlink.net

Once approved by EvalPartners, the report will be posted on the IOCE website.