

# IOCE EvalPartners profile survey of Voluntary Organizations of Professional Evaluators (VOPEs)

## I. Basic profile information

<b>1. Name and acronym of organization (VOPE)</b>	<b>The African Evaluation Association, AfrEA</b>
<b>2. Geographic scope of organization</b> <i>(See typology in right column; highlight appropriate level, delete others)</i>	<b>Regional: Africa</b>
<b>3. Contact Details</b>	Name of main contact person: Nermine Wally (President) E-address: <a href="mailto:nerminewally@gmail.com">nerminewally@gmail.com</a> or <a href="mailto:afreainfo@gmail.com">afreainfo@gmail.com</a> Postal address: C/O Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, P.O. Box LG 73, Legon-Accra Email: <a href="mailto:afrea.info@gmail.com">afrea.info@gmail.com</a> Telephone: Tel: : +233-30-7032706 VOPE website URL: under construction (formally <a href="http://www.afrea.org">www.afrea.org</a> , temporary host <a href="http://www.devinfolive.info/afreaportal">www.devinfolive.info/afreaportal</a> )
<b>4. Current membership –</b> numbers of individuals, by their affiliation <i>(if known; please at least give total)</i>	Government: NGOs/CSOs: <b>12 paid African VOPEs</b> Academics: n/a Private sector (consultants): 158 individuals Other: 3 (non African International organizations, foundations and societies) <b>Total membership: 173 paid members</b>
<b>5. Year VOPE was founded</b>	<b>1999</b>
<b>6. Current status</b> (identify which)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legally recognized by government, registered as not for profit company in Accra, Ghana</li> </ul>
<b>7. Information about growth:</b> evolution of the number of members or financial resources in the last 5 years.	<p>AfrEA was founded in 1999 and formally incorporated in 2009 under the Companies Code of Ghana 1963 (Act 179). It is a membership based organization open to:</p> <p>(i) Individual members (ii) Country Association Members (iii) Institutional and/or Corporate Members such as International Organizations, duly registered and recognized local and international NGOs, Foundations, Private companies, after they have paid the required registration fees and are committed to paying dues as members. (iv) Special libraries/organizations desiring to become supporters of the aims and ideals of the Association</p> <p>AfrEA depends on membership fees and financial grants and contributions from its partners and friends.</p>
<b>8. Purpose and mission of VOPE</b>	<p><b>From AfrEA Strategic document 2010-2015:</b></p> <p>AfrEA will work in collaboration with universities and other training institutions and initiatives on the continent and elsewhere to enhance and improve the skills and capacities of evaluators throughout Africa through short courses, long-term continuing education training as well as graduate and post-graduate programmes.</p>

	<p>AfrEA will contribute to strengthening a culture of accountability and evaluation in public and community service by supporting the development and growth of national evaluation associations that will be active in encouraging good quality evaluations and better use of monitoring and evaluation information in government, and among development partners and NGOs.</p> <p>AfrEA will work with research institutes and think tanks on the continent to generate, store and share knowledge on development in Africa through developing and supporting research agendas to evaluate policy as well as strategic intervention initiatives throughout Africa.</p> <p>AfrEA will encourage and support members, evaluation practitioners and researchers to document, store and share their stories, research and work (especially grey literature) in Africa through the AfrEA knowledge tools that include its journal, website and social networking activities, as well as through communities of practice and special interest groups convened through or by AfrEA.</p>
<p>9. Current strategy and emphasis</p>	<p>The priority areas of action over the next five years 2010-2015 have been identified as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Growing AfrEA and strengthening its primary mandate.</li> <li>2. Building evaluation capacity in Africa.</li> <li>3. Increasing demand for, and use of, quality evaluations in Africa.</li> <li>4. Generating, storing and sharing knowledge on development in Africa.</li> </ol>
<p><b>10. Organizational capacity:</b> Please describe your governance structure, leadership, services provided, finances, human resources, linkages with other organizations, etc.</p>	<p>The African Evaluation Association (AfrEA) is a non-governmental organization registered in Accra, Ghana in 2009 under the Companies Code, 1963 (Act 179). Management is the responsibility of a Board of Directors. Board membership consists of eight members usually elected during General Assembly meetings, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Executive Council (3) consisting of the president, secretary and treasurer</li> <li>- Board Directors (4) representing countries of the continent,</li> <li>- Board Director (1) representing corporate and international organization members of AfrEA.</li> </ul> <p><b>AfrEA Council</b> The AfrEA Council comprises national association members, including key officers of national evaluation associations and organizes special interest groups.</p> <p><b>AfrEA General Assembly</b> All individual and group members as well as national associations constitute the General Assembly.</p> <p><b>AfrEA Task Teams</b> Functions and operations in addition to the responsibilities of the Executive Board are currently structured around eight task teams (TTs). Each task team is led by a Board Director and includes 2–5 individual members effectively making the entire board an executive one.</p>

	<p><b>AfrEA Secretariat</b></p> <p>A permanent and autonomous Secretariat commenced operations in Accra in August 2010, hosted by the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon. The Secretariat is currently run by a manager, who is AfrEA's only full time staff member. The intention is that at the end of the current plan period 2015, the Secretariat will have grown sufficiently to manage all the activities and functions currently shouldered by the Board and task teams. Members will however continue to be active in committees.</p>
<b>11. Means of communication with members</b> , e.g. newsletter, listserv, publication, website	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) AfrEA Yahoo list-server <a href="mailto:afrea@yahoo.com">afrea@yahoo.com</a></li> <li>2) AfrEA no periodic newsletter/bulletin</li> <li>3) AfrEA website</li> </ol>
<b>12. Past events</b> (e.g. during past year)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) 6<sup>th</sup> AfrEA International Conference, Rights and Responsibility in Development Evaluation, Accra, Ghana, January, 2012</li> <li>2) Participation in Journées Béninoises d'Evaluation, June, 2012-07-20</li> <li>3) Participation in Journées Nigériennes d'Evaluation</li> </ol>
<b>13. Forthcoming key events/ conferences</b> – dates, location	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Participation to Moroccan Evaluation Week, October, 2012</li> <li>2) Launch of the African Evaluation Journal, October, 2012</li> <li>3) Launch of EvalMentors with SQEP, AfrEA, CES, Beirut, 2012</li> </ol>
<b>14. Name and e-address of person submitting this information</b>	Nermine Wally, 7 <sup>th</sup> AfrEA President <a href="mailto:nerminewally@gmail.com">nerminewally@gmail.com</a> or <a href="mailto:afreainfo@gmail.com">afreainfo@gmail.com</a>
<b>15. Date of this update</b>	20, July, 2012

## II. Experience with Evaluation Capacity Building

<p><b>1. Background:</b> Please provide a brief history of the formation of this organization (VOPE).</p> <p>1.1 Who were/are the key players?</p> <p>1.2 How many members do you have on your governing board/ committee?</p> <p>1.3 What are the main existing strengths that your VOPE is trying to capitalize on?</p> <p>1.4 What are the main challenges that your VOPE is trying to address?</p>	<p>1.1 <b>AfrEA</b> was founded in 1999 in response to a growing demand for information sharing, advocacy and advanced capacity building in evaluation in Africa. It is an umbrella organisation for more than 20 national M&amp;E associations and networks in Africa, and a resource for individuals in countries where national bodies do not exist. <b>AfrEA</b> works with the national networks and interested partners on the continent and worldwide to develop a strong African evaluation community. Among others it has held five continent-wide conferences, the fifth and most recent one took place in Egypt in March/April 2009, and has facilitated the development of African Evaluation Guidelines to enhance the quality and utility of evaluation on the continent.</p> <p>1.2 The AfrEA board is composed of 9 individuals who representative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 President</li> <li>- 1 Treasurer</li> <li>- 1 Secretary</li> <li>- 5 Members representing Regional parts of Africa (North, South, East, West and Central Africa),</li> <li>- 1 Institutional Member representing all institutions partners with a recognized membership,</li> </ul>
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<p><b>2. Organizational motivation:</b> What were/are the driving forces of the VOPE and its historical development?</p>	
<p><b>3. Evaluation Capacity Building:</b> What has your VOPE done to promote evaluation (M&amp;E) capacity?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The development of the African Evaluation Guidelines, 2002</li> <li>- Increase the visibility and engagement of African national evaluation associations and networks through biannual international conferences, workshops and presentations</li> <li>-</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Context / target entities:</b> More specifically, who are the persons or institutions your organization seeks to influence (to strengthen evaluation capacity)? For example:</p> <p>4.1 Technical capacities to <i>supply</i> quality evaluations, partnering with experts, local universities or others to provide training for members, etc.;</p> <p>4.2 Strengthening VOPE organizational capacity itself;</p> <p>4.3 Enhancing the enabling environment for evaluation, including strengthening the <i>demand</i> for and use of evaluations by policy makers;</p> <p>4.4 Influencing governmental policies related to evaluation, evaluation designs and implementation of M&amp;E systems, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide institutional support to national associations and networks to influence national public policy</li> <li>- Integrate evaluation theory and practice within the African Union programs and regional actions.</li> </ul> <p>4.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Develop a concept note on African consortium of universities to develop joint curriculum, courses, and training in evaluation.</li> <li>b) Launch the African Evaluation Journal, 2013 where African development researchers and evaluators can publish and increase their contribution to the evaluation field.</li> </ul> <p>4.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Participate and provide peer support to emerging national associations through peer recognition and acknowledgement, support to constitution write up, and advice to institutional set up.</li> <li>b) Support national VOPEs capacity by co-hosting AfrEA international biannual conferences in their respective countries, through organizational partnership and joint fundraising work.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Public accountability:</b> Is your VOPE helping to strengthen oversight and transparency of government programs? If so, in what ways? Can you share any success stories of evaluators or others promoting public accountability?</p>	<p>AfrEA has been focusing primarily on national associations preoccupations and issues. However, AfrEA is currently pening up for greater regional involvement through the AU NEPAD different programs, notably the APRM and the evaluation of their developmental programs.</p> <p>Engaging with sister communities of practice such as AfCoP, AGDEN as well as other emerging ones</p>
<p><b>6. More specifically, what are some of the key themes for which you advocate?</b> For example, are you promoting issues related to cultural sensitivity, equity, social justice, empowerment,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rigorous evaluation theory and practice that feed into the good governance of African governments</li> <li>- Strong national evaluation associations and networks who advocate for better development programmes</li> <li>- An evaluation theory and practice that is locally sensitive and that focuses primarily on African developmental demands and needs</li> </ul>

<p>transformation, gender, environment, poverty? If so, please describe or attach relevant documents.</p>	
<p><b>7. Methods:</b> Experiences in strengthening skills of individual members, by (for example):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• organizing workshops led by local experts;</li> <li>• organizing webinars with international speakers;</li> <li>• designing and delivering e-learning programmes;</li> <li>• administering mentoring programmes; etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AfrEA does not hold preference or adherence to specific methods. As a pan African organization, it recognizes the continental diversity of development practice, and the rich contribution of the scientific and indigenous field to evaluation theory and practice. AfrEA provides a safe and neutral platform where African evaluators could bring forth their experience, practice, concerns and issues to the front line.</li> <li>- AfrEA seeks to bring emerging practices and new methods emerging from the continent to the front line of the international community of evaluators.</li> </ul>
<p><b>8. Standards:</b> Has your VOPE developed professional standards/ ethical codes/ competencies (or adheres to those developed by others)? If so, please provide documentation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The fourth draft of the African Evaluation Guidelines, 2002</li> <li>- Contribution to the IOCE joint statement on Impact, 2011</li> </ul>
<p><b>9. Job opportunities:</b> Do you share employment/ consultancy opportunities with evaluators on your database?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Yes, through yahoo group <a href="mailto:afrea@yahoogroups.com">afrea@yahoogroups.com</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>10. Progress and results:</b> What progress has been achieved so far in any of the above or other domains? What are expected and unexpected results achieved?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased membership from African evaluation associations/networks and individuals</li> <li>- Regular biannual conferences, well attended by Africans and international evaluators</li> <li>-</li> </ul>
<p><b>11. Lessons learned:</b> Recommendations/ tips to others for good practices on how to organize and sustain VOPEs like yours.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Institutional set up matters! For a VOPE, whether regional or national need to have the minimum institutional set up that will allow it to advance its mission. The institutional set up entails a clear mission, a well articulated communications strategy, and well informed membership base.</li> </ul>
<p><b>12. Next steps:</b> What does your organization plan to do next?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AfrEA's priority is to work firmly through its 4 strategic areas, with a focus on national VOPEs engagement.</li> <li>- AfrEA's next priority is to situate itself with key supranational organizations at the continental level, such as the AU, AMU: Arab Maghreb Union, CEMAC: Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa, CENSAD: Community of Sahel-Saharan States, CEPGL: Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries, COMESA: Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, EAC: East African Community, ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States, ECAS: Economic Community of Central African States, IGAD: Inter-Governmental Authority for Development • IOCE: Indian Ocean Commission, MRU: Mano River Union, SACU: Southern African Customs Union, SADC: Southern African Development Community, WAEMU: West Africa Economic and Monetary Union</li> </ul>

<p><b>13. Willing to share with other VOPEs?</b> For example, would you be interested in forming peer-to-peer partnerships with one or more other VOPEs to share lessons learned, advise each other? If so, describe what you would be willing to share / advice you would seek.</p>	<p>- Yes</p>
<p><b>14. Suggestions:</b> What ideas do you have for what should be included in activities of the EvalPartners Initiative?</p>	<p>Ensure a balanced and well attended African government participation, and supra-national government participation, notably representatives fro the AU/NEPAD-APRM, ECOWAS, Arab League and COMESA. This will increase the visibility of VOPEs</p>
<p><b>15. Want to be actively involved?</b> Does your VOPE want to be actively involved in EvalPartners? If so, in what ways?</p>	<p>AfrEA is already actively engaged in EvalPartners and member of the Management Group.</p>