

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

I. Basic profile information

1. Name and acronym of organization (VOPE)	Ghana Monitoring and Evaluation Forum (GMEF)
2. Geographic scope of organization	National (Ghana)
3. Contact Details	Name of main contact person: Mrs Dede Bedu-Addo (Coordinator) E-address: gmefforum@gmail.com Postal address: PMB 180, KIA, Accra, Ghana Telephone: 00233 (0) 277 534204/ (0) 262 534204 (Coordinator) VOPE website: http://www.ghmeforum.org
4. a. Current formal/ registered membership – numbers of individuals, by their affiliation (if known; please at least give total) 4. b. Informal membership (persons on your mailing list)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government officials NGOs/CSOs and their staff Academics Private sector (consultants and private businessmen/women) <p>a. Total official membership: 80 registered members b. Total informal membership: over 150 members in informal network</p>
5. Year VOPE was founded	2008
6. Current status (identify which)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legally recognized by government
7. Information about growth: evolution of the number of members or financial resources in the last 5 years.	Growth of members from 15 to over 150 members in informal network
8. Purpose and mission of VOPE	<p>PURPOSE: To meet the need for evidence-based decision-making through the promotion of open dialogue around M&E issues with a view to positively influencing the development opportunities of our time with new insights, perspectives and tools</p> <p>MISSION: To promote and enable the use of Monitoring and Evaluation in programme implementation and policy planning through activities</p>
9. Current strategy and emphasis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise regular forums for discussion of and advocacy for the use of evidence-based decision making in development. Develop and disseminate an e-newsletter to share relevant M&E information on the GMEF website. Maintain a web-based Repository for Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) information and data Organize workshops for beginner, intermediate, and advanced training on the fundamentals of Monitoring and Evaluation. Establish linkages and network with local and international M&E institutions/associations that provide continuing M&E educational opportunities.
10. Organizational capacity: Please describe your governance structure, leadership, services provided, finances, human resources, linkages with other organizations, etc.	<p>Governance structure/leadership: 10 - member Steering Committee comprising a core group of stakeholders, a Coordinator from the steering group and an Administrator.</p> <p>Services provided: regular forums, e-newsletter, web-based Repository, (planned) training for government M&E officials and NGOs/CSOs, dissemination of M&E information on website including job and study opportunities.</p> <p>Finances: Payment of membership dues just beginning, have received funding and material resources from UNICEF, Ernst & Young, the World Bank, STAR-Ghana, UNDP, UNFPA, ISSER (University of Ghana) and Africa Leadership Initiative</p> <p>Linkages with other organizations: Member of AfrEA, Steering Group members and other members have links with other organizations and this is used to forge GMEF relationships</p>
11. Means of communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website

with members, e.g. newsletter, listserv, publication, website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web-based repository • A few publications in the local newspapers and on website • E-newsletter
12. Past events (e.g. during past year)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 19, 2011 – Forum on "M&E and Social Accountability in the CSO sector in Ghana". • December 14, 2011 – Forum on "Gender and Social Inclusion in M&E" • August 15, 2012 - Forum on "Conflict Management in Elections" • Regular updates of website with M&E information • Maintenance of web-based repository • A few publications in the local newspapers and on website • 3 e-newsletters developed and disseminated
13. Forthcoming key events/ conferences – dates, location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 2012: M&E workshop for STAR-Ghana Grant Partners (NGOs/CSOs), Accra • September 2012: M&E workshop for selected staff of Policy Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Departments (PPMED) of Government Ministries, Accra • Mid October – Mid November: Maiden Forum in Tamale, Northern region, Ghana • Mid October – Mid November: Accra Evaluation Experts' Seminar/International Conference Accra. • October: Quarterly Forum, Accra • January 2013: Quarterly Forum, Accra • March 2013: Quarterly Forum, Accra
14. Name and e-address of person submitting this information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dede Bedu-Addo Email: abedums@gmail.com • Stephen Ampem-Darko Email: stepamd@gmail.com
15. Date of this update	31 st August, 2012

II. Experience with Evaluation Capacity Building

<p>1. Background: 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 The Ghana Monitoring and Evaluation Forum (GMEF) was established in 2008 by a group of M&E experts who recognised the need for evidence-based decision-making through the promotion of open dialogue around M&E issues. With the support of ISSER, the first few meetings were ad hoc and geared towards creating the space for open dialogue</p> <p>1.2 Ten members on Steering Committee</p> <p>1.3 The immense knowledge and experiences in M&E among the professionals/experts in GMEF and their dedicated support</p> <p>1.4 Financial and full-time human resources for management of the Secretariat</p>
2. Organizational motivation: What were/are the driving forces of the VOPE and its historical development?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated and experienced Steering Committee members • Regular donor support; although the process can be rather cumbersome eventually it does pay off.
3. Evaluation Capacity Building: What has your VOPE done to promote evaluation (M&E) capacity?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular forums to share information, tools and experiences in M&E.
<p>4. Context / target entities: 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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical capacities to <i>supply</i> quality evaluations, partnering with experts, local universities and others to provide training for government officials, NGO and CSO staff • Enhancing the enabling environment for evaluation in Ghana by strengthening the <i>demand</i> for and use of evaluations by policy makers

<p><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&E systems, etc.</p>	<p>through the open dialogue and advocacy in forums;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influencing governmental policies related to evaluation, evaluation designs and implementation of M&E systems, etc. through training of government officials as well as NGO and CSO staff who work with them. • Strengthening the organizational capacity of GMEF to deliver on its mission and build the technical capacities of her members
<p>5. Public accountability: 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>Yes. Apart from the forum on "M&E and Social Accountability in the CSO sector in Ghana", we have also looked at M&E related to the public sector. In previous years, we have had forums where government officials working on agriculture, health and education (including Parliamentarians) have been called upon to provide some 'account' of government M&E activities in their sectors. CSOs have also used the space to hold government accountable for some of her programs and advocate for necessary reforms in M&E systems.</p>
<p>6. More specifically, what are some of the key themes for which you advocate? For example, are you promoting issues related to cultural sensitivity, equity, social justice, empowerment, transformation, gender, environment, poverty? If so, please describe or attach relevant documents.</p>	<p>Our forums have focused on the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social justice and equity • Empowerment, including economic empowerment • Gender • Transformation • Poverty and participation • National development including sub-themes like conflict management in national elections, M&E in the private sector
<p>7. Methods: Experiences in strengthening skills of individual members, by (for example):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • organizing workshops led by local experts; • organizing webinars with international speakers; • designing and delivering e-learning programmes; • administering mentoring programmes; etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presently, looking at organizing workshops led by local experts • Also planning to organizing webinars with local and international speakers
<p>8. Standards: Has your VOPE developed professional standards/ ethical codes/ competencies (or adheres to those developed by others)? If so, please provide documentation.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>9. Job opportunities: Do you share employment/ consultancy opportunities with evaluators on your database?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>10. Progress and results: What progress has been achieved so far in any of the above or other domains? What are expected and unexpected results achieved?</p>	<p>So far we have done very well with the forums and expect that the planned training will also be successful.</p>

<p>11. Lessons learned: Recommendations/ tips to others for good practices on how to organize and sustain VOPEs like yours.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping a lot of contact with members to tap into their expertise and relevant contacts/relationships is key to success • Having a very committed secretariat, even if volunteer and/or part-time, is critical • Building and strengthening a strong reputation and links with the donor community or development partners is a strong boost when the resource base is weak
<p>12. Next steps: What does your organization plan to do next?</p>	<p>Implement planned activities below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 2012: M&E workshop for STAR-Ghana Grant Partners, Accra • September 2012: M&E workshop for selected staff of Policy Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Departments (PPMED) of Government Ministries, Accra • Mid October – Mid November 2012: Maiden Forum in Tamale, Northern region, Ghana • Mid October – Mid November 2012: Accra Evaluation Experts' Seminar/International Conference Accra. • October 2012: Quarterly Forum, Accra • January 2013: Quarterly Forum, Accra • March 2013: Quarterly Forum, Accra
<p>13. Willing to share with other VOPEs? 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. Presentations and materials from our training workshops and forums. We would be happy to share advice on how to make things work, lessons learned and experiences. We would also be interesting in sharing (and receiving) resources including M&E experts.</p>
<p>14. Suggestions: What ideas do you have for what should be included in activities of the EvalPartners Initiative?</p>	<p>It would be good if the initiative could help members link up, share resources, network more effectively and support each other.</p>
<p>15. Want to be actively involved? Does your VOPE want to be actively involved in EvalPartners? If so, in what ways?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sharing of ideas and experiences • sharing of documentation • participation in conferences, training and networking initiatives • updates of websites of your information