

Guidelines for Eval Partners VOPE Case Studies

Please note that the authors are being invited to provide the case studies on a voluntary basis. No honorarium or whatsoever financial contribution will be disbursed. The book will be treated as a public good, distributed free of charge to main international conferences, and made available free of charge on the internet. The maximum length of an article should be 4,000 to 5,000 words.

Country: **Philippines**

VOPE Name: **Monitoring and Evaluation Network Philippines (M&E Net, Phil.)**

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Title: **A Community of Practice for M&E: The Philippine Experience**

Background:

In the Philippines, M&E efforts on public sector concerns are undertaken by various government units and development partners often independently. It was then perceived that M&E units and practitioners would benefit from interaction and collaboration in terms of learning and knowledge sharing. In 2009, the NEDA contemplated the creation of an M&E network with the following objectives:

- Venue for dissemination of discussion of evaluation findings;
- Serve as platform for purposive collection of M&E findings on particular themes;
- Foster exchange of views among M&E practitioners on various aspects of M&E;
- Generate policy agenda for action from M&E experiences, findings and recommendations;
- Develop a culture of results orientation among M&E units and practitioners; and,
- Strengthen and broaden the M&E capacities of participants.

Through the initiative of NEDA and support of UNICEF, the **M&E Net, Phil.** was created. Preliminary activities for establishing the Network started in 2010 and formal launching was held in November 2011.

At the initial stage, a series of organizational and technical working group (TWG) meetings were held involving NEDA officials (former and current), academicians, civil society organizations (CSOs), local government units (LGUs), private practitioners (consultants). Succeeding meetings

were likewise attended by officials from the national government agencies (NGAs) and development partners (DPs). A core/advisory group (with 22 volunteer members) was formed and crafted the mission and vision of the Network as well as identified the activities to be undertaken by the Network.

The first M&E Network forum was held from 7-8 November 2011 wherein the Network was formally launched. The Project Monitoring Staff (PMS) of NEDA serves as the interim Secretariat of the Network.

Strategy and Implementation:

The **M&E Net, Phil.** intends to contribute to:

- Strengthening an enabling environment supportive of evaluation.

The Network is envisioned to contribute to the country's M&E capacity development providing a venue for exchange of ideas, experiences and lessons among evaluation stakeholders (e.g. evaluators, users of evaluation outputs, policymakers).

During the first M&E Network forum, a session was dedicated in presenting the government's evaluation systems from various perspectives (oversight agencies, implementing agencies, local government, statistical agencies).

- Developing/strengthening a sustainable strategy to enhance individual capacities to conduct credible and useful evaluations.

The Network intends to continue partnership with various institutions to deliver trainings, as well as organize workshops and webinars on evaluation.

Through the Network Secretariat, evaluation trainings (e.g., ex-post evaluation, evaluation in development) were conducted with the intention of increasing the evaluation capacity of various practitioners.

- Strengthening equity-focused and gender-sensitive evaluation systems and evaluations.

The Network values the involvement of various sectors of the society. The active participation of all sectors is highly advocated with the intention of raising awareness regarding issues consistent with the country's development agenda.

The Network is envisioned to strengthen the culture of evaluation in the country. The Network's website is also designed to allow for sharing, discussion and debates on M&E initiatives and international practices.

Bottlenecks/Challenges:

Challenges of the Network include resource mobilization, continuous promotion of the Network, and sustainability (membership, permanent secretariat, MIS, etc.)

Progress and Results:

To date, the following are the accomplishments of the Network:

- Conduct of the first M&E Network forum;
- Conduct of evaluation capacity- building seminars/workshops (e.g. Sharing of Sri Lanka's Experience on Monitoring and Evaluation Network ; Training Workshop on Evaluation in Development: How to Design, Conduct, Manage and Use Evaluation);
- Attendance to capacity building conferences (e.g. Workshop on Evaluation and Evaluation Systems Building in Myanmar); and,
- Creation of a website configured to allow for sharing, discussion and debates on M&E initiatives.

Key Enabling Factors:

The following were the recognized strengths of the Network which are expected to contribute to the achievement of the Network's objectives:

- Network is government-led and balanced by civil society organizations and private practitioners' participation;
- Network members characterized with rich M&E experience; and,
- Active participation of implementing agencies of the government, development partners, and international M&E organizations.

Innovations and Lessons Learned:

Broad-based membership is crucial to ensure that the initiatives of the Network would be sustained.

Next Steps:

The following are the upcoming activities of the Network:

- The second annual forum of the Network is set in the fourth quarter of 2012, with the theme *Evaluation Policy: A Gateway to Improved Performance and Accountability*. The Forum aims to: (1) advocate the value of measuring performance and success in development interventions; (2) generate a dialogue on the relevance of mainstreaming an equity approach to data management and dissemination; and, (3) discuss the relevance of a national evaluation policy framework.
- Continued partnership with various institutions to deliver capacity building initiatives such as trainings, workshops and webinars on evaluation.
- A compendium of the materials utilized in the first **M&E Net, Phil.** Forum is being

prepared for dissemination and sharing to M&E practitioners.

- The Network's website will be further enhanced to allow uploading of various evaluation-related materials (e.g. evaluation guidelines, evaluation findings, case studies) by the members.
- Continued participation in international conferences such as the *Eval Partners International Forum*.

Thank you. Please send your responses to these questions in the form of your draft case study to JimRugh@mindspring.com, EvalPartners Coordinator.