

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

I. Basic profile information

Please type your responses in the right column. Save Word document with name of your VOPE in title. Send completed document to IOCE@earthlink.net

1. Name and acronym of organization (VOPE)	Tanzania Evaluation Association (TanEA)
2. Geographic scope of organization	National: Tanzania
3. Contact Details	Name of main contact person: E-address: Djax Sanga Biria Postal address: P.O.Box 106268 Telephone: 255787037992 VOPE website URL: www.tanea.or.tz
4. Current membership – numbers of individuals, by their affiliation(<i>if known; please at least give total</i>)	Government: 20 NGOs/CSOs: 42 Academia: 5 Private sector (consultants):10 Other: International agencies 3 Total membership:80
5. Year VOPE was founded	In June 2006 but formally registered in 2009
6. Current status (identify which)	Legally recognized by government as a local national NGO/Association
7. Information about growth: evolution of the number of members or financial resources in the last 5 years.	We started with 20 members and now we have 80 members. We have been receiving funds from UNDP and we are currently negotiating with UNICEF to get funds for the year 2012/2013. Also we have written another proposal as we are planning to look for additional potential funders.
8. Purpose and mission of VOPE	TanEA is an evaluation association of professionals committed to the continuous quality improvement of the monitoring and evaluation profession in Tanzania through development, promotion and good ethics so as to ensure evaluation contributes positively to sustainable development.
9. Current strategy and emphasis	(a) Promote useful evaluations that support development in Tanzania (b) Encourage the development and publication of high quality evaluation practice, research and theory development based on Tanzania experience and expertise. (c) To advocate the Government of Tanzania to create and maintain an appropriate regulatory framework for M&E in Tanzania. (d) Advance capacity building in professional monitoring and evaluation in Tanzania. (e) Facilitate networking and information sharing on evaluation in Tanzania and other parts of the world. (f) Remain an strategic reference centre for evaluation information relevant to all circumstances of Tanzania. (g) Promote and share Tanzanian evaluation expertise and experience at relevant national, regional and international forums and events
10. Organizational capacity: Please describe your governance structure, leadership, services provided, finances, human resources, linkages with other organizations, etc.	TanEA ORGANIZATIONAL CHART  <pre> graph TD AGM[AGM] --- Board[Board of Directors] Board --- Steering[Steering Committee] </pre>

11.Means of communication with members , e.g. newsletter, listserv, publication, website	Mainly e-mail and phone but we are arranging to update the website because through the website we can communicate through groups and chats.
12.Past events (e.g. during past year)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Conference Titled: “Monitoring and Evaluation as Accountability tool for Local Government Authorities (LGAs) in Eradicating Poverty: Do the LGAs have the required capacity?” 23 – 24 June, 2011 • TanEA Strategic planning 2012-2014 document formulation • Establishment of the TanEA Resource Centre • Printed two books titled: <i>Result Based Management Manual</i> (in Kiswahili) and <i>Tanzania Evaluation Guidelines</i> (in English) • Added new members
13.Forthcoming key events/conferences – dates, location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printing and dissemination of TanEA strategic planning document • Add more members • Launching of our website • Engaging TanEA into different partnerships
14.Name and e-address of person submitting this information	Lola Mwansasu Lollaluena3@hotmail.com
15.Date of this update	15 th November 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. Tanzania Evaluation Association (TanEA) is a membership organization of evaluation professionals and practitioners from the public, private, civil society sector and development practitioners working in Tanzania. The association is a result of a series of inspirational conferences on evaluation and development organized by the African Evaluation Association (AfrEA) in 2002, 2004 and 2006.</p> <p>1.1. In June 2006, a Conference which brought together about 35 M&E experts from the public, private and civil society sector in Tanzania was held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. It was during this Conference, a Steering Committee of the Tanzania Evaluation Association was formed. TRACE OD Facilitation and Capacity Building Centre was nominated to be the host and coordinating organisation for all TanEA activities.</p> <p>1.2. Leadership: Nine governing members/Board of Directors</p> <p>1.3. Strengths: Volunteers are in place, M&E experts, legal body (registration), structure; vision, mission, objectives are in place, TanEA is accountable to the government and target group (members), collaborators/funders/partners, Has M&E materials (resource center), has an office in a hosting organization (TRACE), has trust, has a big room for expansion/potential to growth; open organization, membership (governance), ability to solicit funding, ability to organize forums, and gender sensitive</p> <p>1.4. Challenges: Limited source of funding now that we don't receive funds from UNDP; no own office space (TRACE is still hosting TanEA), lack of full time staff and overworking the technical advisory committee; some departments/sections within the structures are not filled, lack of intervention programs, donor dependency, low publicity & communication, inadequate accountability on the part of members, lack of code of conduct, TanEA not aggressive enough on M&E in the country (advocacy).</p>
2. Organizational	Lack of forum where the evaluation practitioners can air their thoughts and

<p>motivation: What were/are the driving forces of the VOPE and its historical development?</p>	<p>exchange experiences</p>
<p>3. Evaluation Capacity Building: What has your VOPE done to promote evaluation (M&E) capacity?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four national conferences on issues related to M&E have been conducted between 2008 and 2011 – one conference per annum • Results-Based Management (RBM) manual and Tanzania Evaluation Guidelines have been developed and circulated to various stakeholders • Attended EES 10th International Conference in Helsinki, Finland • Have influenced formation of M&E desks in Government Ministries.
<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 <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>4.1. Private sector consultants, academicians and M&E Practitioners</p> <p>4.2. NGOs/CSOs</p> <p>4.3. Government Institutions and international agencies</p>
<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</p> <p>We did a very big conference last year which brought together all evaluation professionals and practitioners from the Government, public, private, civil society sector and development practitioners working in Tanzania the theme of the conference was “Monitoring and Evaluation as Accountability tool for Local Government Authority in Eradicating Poverty: Do the LGAs have the required capacity”</p> <p>Main points mentioned as to why this conference was in place were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is high demand for M&E in Tanzania and that TanEA has been very active in bringing M&E practitioners together, provide standards for M&E systems that provide the “do” and “don’ts” and enable M&E practitioners to operate from a common platform. • To enable M&E practitioners work as a team rather than to work in isolation • To emphasize on effective M&E through having empirical data and the need for change in knowledge, attitudes, behavior and mind-set of people so as to give M&E what it real deserves in poverty reduction and sustainable development.
<p>6. More specifically, what are some of the key themes for which you advocate? For example, are you</p>	<p>So far we have been promoting good governance and accountability in the local government and poverty through organizing conference on national development processes – MKUKUTA/MKUZA</p>

<p>promoting issues related to cultural sensitivity, equity, social justice, empowerment, transformation, gender, environment, poverty? If so, please describe or attach relevant documents.</p>	
<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. 	<p>As of now we only organize conferences led by local experts and communicate with members through emails by giving them different updates on issues related to Monitoring and Evaluation nationally and worldwide.</p>
<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>Yes we prepared Tanzania Evaluation guidelines: This guideline for evaluation is an attempt to come up with a systemic approach to designing and managing evaluation of development initiatives with a focus on results rather than implementation-focused M&E system. Apparently, more importance is attached to the programme/project approach in pursuing developmental goals, hence, a systematic monitoring and evaluation approach is called for in order to be able to effectively monitor and evaluate development projects/ programmes and use evaluation to generate lessons for improving future development actions. The guidelines aims to strengthen national evaluation standards and capacity through establishing common principles in carrying out evaluation activities, building national evaluation mechanisms where they exist, and utilising existing M&E systems.</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>Some of our members have been involved in different consultancy work advertised by us from different sources</p>
<p>11. Lessons learned: Recommendations/ tips to others for good practices on how to organize and sustain VOPEs like yours.</p>	<p>Members have to be willing to contribute to some of the conference costs e.g. per diem and transport. Many professionals have that sense of belongingness; they only need to be mobilized. Sharing of information and group discussions through e-mails is a big motivating factor to many members (many people with professional questions easily getting answers under such discussion groups). So far we have not set up an official discussion group but we are planning to do so once our website will be stabilized.</p>
<p>12. Next steps: What does your organization plan to do next?</p>	<p>Implement what is in our Strategic Plan document. Hire a permanent staff to run the organisation.</p>
<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>The most daunting task is lobbying the government to take M&E seriously in its work. Though contexts differ from one country to the other we would like to get experiences from others how they engage with governments. In Tanzania we have developed a Result-Based Management manual and the Tanzania Evaluation Guidelines. We would like to share such documents with other peers and assess their efficacy, usability and relevance and get feedback thereof.</p>

<p>14. Suggestions: What ideas do you have for what should be included in activities of the EvalPartners Initiative?</p>	<p>Facilitating sharing of experiences in different countries, organizing discussion groups, organizing conferences and scholarships, linking to possible funding opportunities</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 In experience sharing through sharing conference reports, attending meetings and study visits</p>
<p>16. Would you be willing to write up a case study providing more detailed analysis of your VOPE's experiences?¹</p>	<p>Yes, so far we prepared one paper on the Challenges of accounting for CSOs contribution in country's development at the just ended EES 10th Conference that was held in Finland in September 2012.</p>

¹Again: If you already have documentation describing the 'story' of your organization, we would appreciate your sharing it with us (IOCE members).