

# 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>Yemen Evaluation Society (YES)</b>
<b>2. Geographic scope of organization</b>	National: <b>Yemen</b>
<b>3. Contact Details</b>	Name of main contact person: Lamis Al-Iryani / Khalid Mohey E-address: <a href="mailto:lamis@sfd-yemen.org">lamis@sfd-yemen.org</a> , <a href="mailto:tareqy@sfd-yemen.org">tareqy@sfd-yemen.org</a> Postal address: P.O. Box 15485, Sana'a, Yemen Telephone: +967 733706552 VOPE website URL:
<b>4. a. Current formal/ registered membership – numbers of individuals, by their affiliation (if known; please at least give total)</b> <b>4. b. Informal membership (persons on your mailing list)</b>	Government: NGOs/CSOs: CSO Academics: Private sector (consultants): Other: <b>a. Total official membership:</b> ____ <b>b. Total informal membership:</b> over 100 people who signed up are interested to be part of this society
<b>5. Year VOPE was founded</b>	2007
<b>6. Current status (identify which)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informal network</li> </ul>
<b>7. Information about growth:</b> evolution of the number of members or financial resources in the last 5 years.	The group came together following a training provided in 2007. The training was supported by the Social Fund for Development (the main government development agency in Yemen, which is funded by more than 16 regional and international donors). The group started with 42 members then grow to reach 132 as of 2010.
<b>8. Purpose and mission of VOPE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raising capacities in the area of evaluation and social research within Yemen;</li> <li>• Promoting the use of evaluation findings in policy formulation and development planning.</li> <li>• Promote increasing the accountability of the Yemeni public sector</li> </ul>
<b>9. Current strategy and emphasis</b>	The network was suspended for a while, a meeting will take place on 8 August, 2012
<b>10. Organizational capacity:</b> Please describe your governance structure, leadership, services provided, finances, human resources, linkages with other organizations, etc.	A preparation committee was formed in order to proceed with the formation of the association.
<b>11. Means of communication with members,</b> e.g. newsletter, listserv, publication, website	Face to face and listserv
<b>12. Past events</b> (e.g. during past year)	Last event was held in April 2010 and the most recent one was on 8 August 2012
<b>13. Forthcoming key events/ conferences – dates, location</b>	20 September 2012 to formulate a plan of activities
<b>14. Name and e-address of person submitting this information</b>	Lamis Al-Iryani <a href="mailto:lamis@sfd-yemen.org">lamis@sfd-yemen.org</a> , <a href="mailto:laliryani@yahoo.com">laliryani@yahoo.com</a>
<b>15. Date of this update</b>	August 9, 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>Yemen Social Fund initiated a series of training sessions and workshops to raise capacities in M&amp;E at the national level. Following the first training, the idea of forming Yemen Evaluation Society came up. About 43 professionals showed interest in such gathering and perceived its importance. Seven people were chosen to pursue the formation of such society, and at the same time the Social Fund continued to host occasional meetings with experts, as well as workshops and seminars. The last meeting for this network was organized in July 2010 and hosted by Ministry of Planning with support from UNICEF Yemen, but the official launch of the society had not taken place yet.</p> <p>The political crisis of late 2010 and the events of 2011 complicated the situation. However the Social Fund hosted an event on 8 August to present findings of an SFD evaluation work and took the opportunity to invite the members of the Society to revive the network. Currently the number of members is 132.</p> <p>The strength of the Society is that a member can benefit of the support of the (SFD). Another benefit is from the Yemen Women Union who offered to host the Yemen Evaluation Society (a regulation requirement to form a society is to have an office space). Challenges consist of busy members who do not have the time to promote this structure. It depends on a few members from the Social Fund and a member from the Ministry of Planning who are willing to continue to nourish such organization. Some donor/development agencies from both UNICEF and DFID who were committed to support such structure left the Yemeni office of their organizations. Also policy makers who were supporters (champions) of this initiative left their offices as a result of the recent political change in the country.</p> <p>In our recent meeting on 8 August, it was agreed to meet again with those interested to develop a plan of events and to search for possible donors to fund the activities, initially agreed for 20 Sept, 2012</p>
<p><b>2. Organizational motivation:</b> What were/are the driving forces of the VOPE and its historical development?</p>	<p>Members from the Social Fund for Development are the driving force, and they are motivated by the desire of having a community of evaluators that will not only help SFD in its evaluation work but also increase learning and accountability at the national level. Also there are members who are interested in increasing their capacities in evaluation particularly those working as consultants</p>
<p><b>3. Evaluation Capacity Building:</b> What has your VOPE done to promote evaluation (M&amp;E) capacity?</p>	<p>Between 2007 and 2009, SFD Organized three training events provided at no cost to about 132 professionals. Several seminars and meetings were hosted to discuss evaluation issues.</p>
<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</p>	<p>The target entities including local consultants, CSOs, university researchers and government M&amp;E personnel and policy makers. Most of the efforts were directed to introduce and increase evaluation capacities. Most of the training was conducted by international and regional consultants. Presentations were made to policy makers to promote the importance of evaluation in public sector.</p>

policies related to evaluation, evaluation designs and implementation of M&E systems, etc.	
<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?	This is an objective but has not yet materialized
<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, transformation, gender, environment, poverty? If so, please describe or attach relevant documents.	Not yet materialized, though there were discussions of establishing a community of practice in social development, etc
<b>7. Methods:</b> Experiences in strengthening skills of individual members, by (for example): <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>	Organizing training in M&E
<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.	Not yet
<b>9. Job opportunities:</b> Do you share employment/ consultancy opportunities with evaluators on your database?	Not yet
<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?	Introducing a culture of objective/scientific evaluation is an achievement by itself. Hopefully if a plan of activities is developed for this informal society and donors are identified to increase the capacities and practices of evaluation
<b>11. Lessons learned:</b> Recommendations/ tips to others for good practices on how to organize and sustain VOPEs like yours.	I do not have many lessons to share with others, but in our case, it took at least a few committed people and a donor organization (in our case like SFD), as it is not possible to sustain it based on just voluntary efforts
<b>12. Next steps:</b> What does your organization plan to do next?	To develop an action plan for a set of events as well as to formalize the society
<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	For the time being is how to organize, how to sustain such a network, etc

<p>you would be willing to share / advice you would seek.</p>	
<p><b>14. Suggestions:</b> What ideas do you have for what should be included in activities of the EvalPartners Initiative?</p>	<p>I am not in the position to suggest something yet. I will forward the My M&amp;E website, and maybe in the future and after using such resources be able to suggest something</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>I believe so and it is more to share knowledge and good practices as well as to benefit from the online training</p>