

# UGANDA EVALUATION ASSOCIATION

## I. Basic profile information

<b>1. Name and acronym of organization (VOPE)</b>	<b>Uganda Evaluation Association (UEA)</b>
<b>2. Geographic scope of organization</b>	National: <b>Uganda</b>
<b>3. Contact Details</b>	Name of main contact person: Mrs. Margaret Kakande E-address: <a href="mailto:margaret.kakande@finance.go.ug">margaret.kakande@finance.go.ug</a> ; mkakande@hotmail.com Postal address: P.O Box 8147 Kampala Telephone: Mob: +256-772735055 Office Tel: +256-414-235055 VOPE website URL: <a href="http://www.ugandaevaluationassociation.org">www.ugandaevaluationassociation.org</a>
<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: 25 NGOs/CSOs: 10 Academics: 10 Private sector (consultants): 5 Other: <b>a. Total official membership: 50</b> <b>b. Total informal membership: 170</b>
<b>5. Year VOPE was founded</b>	2001
<b>6. Current status (identify which)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Charter and bylaws adopted</li> </ul>
<b>7. Information about growth: evolution of the number of members or financial resources in the last 5 years.</b>	During past 5 years, the membership had remained at around 40 members with only about 5 that were paid up. Since 2012, the number has grown exponentially to 220 members with about 50 paid up. The association has not got any financial assistance in the last 5 years.
<b>8. Purpose and mission of VOPE</b>	The mission is <i>“to promote the practice, use, quality and ethics of Monitoring &amp; Evaluation in Uganda’s development process”</i> . The vision is <i>“to be the leading professional evaluation association in Uganda”</i> .
<b>9. Current strategy and emphasis</b>	The current strategy revolves around building capacity of individuals, firms and organizations in monitoring and evaluation through formal and informal training; facilitating sharing and exchanging of up to date literature, methods, procedures and practical evaluation frameworks among evaluators and promoting professionalism in evaluation by defining standards and guidelines to evaluation practice.
<b>10. Organizational capacity:</b> Please describe your governance structure, leadership, services provided, finances, human resources, linkages with other organizations, etc.	<p>The General Assembly is the supreme organ. The structure includes a Board of Trustees as the policy making organ, the Executive Committee that manages the day to day activities and the Secretariat that implements the programmes. Presently, the UEA is led by the President who is assisted by the General Secretary and an Administrator residing at the Secretariat. The only source of finance is membership annual subscription fees. The Association has only one officer, the UEA Administrator.</p> <p>The UEA is affiliated to the Uganda Christian University (UCU) through a five year memorandum of association. UCU hosts the UEA Secretariat. The UEA also has informal linkages with Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development that facilitates some of the key activities and events and has paid up subscription fees for its staff to be members. The UEA is also loosely affiliated to the Uganda Office of the Prime Minister which is in charge of M&amp;E in Uganda. UEA has representatives at the Evaluation Committees of OPM.</p>
<b>11. Means of communication with members, e.g. newsletter, listserv, publication, website</b>	List serve, meetings, website.
<b>12. Past events (e.g. during past year)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of Uganda Evaluation Standards (in draft).</li> <li>UEA Stall to show case available literature at the Uganda Evaluation Week 2013.</li> <li>Meeting with the President of the UK Evaluation Society.</li> <li>Dissemination of literature and evaluation events around the world to members.</li> </ol>
<b>13. Forthcoming key events/conferences – dates,</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launch of Uganda Evaluation Standards – July 2013-06-06</li> <li>Public Dialogue involving AFREA representative in East African sub-</li> </ol>

location	region 3. Evaluation information sharing seminars 4. Training events
<b>14. Name and e-address of person submitting this information</b>	Mrs. Rosetti Nabbumba Nayenga UEA General Secretary <a href="mailto:rnabbumba@gmail.com">rnabbumba@gmail.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:rosetti.nabbumba@finance.go.ug">rosetti.nabbumba@finance.go.ug</a> Mob: +256-772487225; Tel: +256-414-235055
<b>15. Date of this update</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> June 2013

## 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 The Uganda Evaluation Association (UEA) was formed in May 2001 and registered in 2002 as a professional evaluation association and national chapter of the African Evaluation Association (Afrea). The association was first hosted by the Uganda National Council of Science and Technology (UNCST) which was also building its monitoring and evaluation capacity at the time. The process was spearheaded by the Executive Director of UNCST Dr. Z.M. Nyira and one of the officers Mr. Ismail Barugahare who continues to be an active member of UEA. The steering committee that established the UEA in 2002 comprised of Mr. Ismail Barugahare as the National Coordinator, Mr. Chris Opondo from the African Highlands Ecoregional Programme, Dr. Sophy Musana from NARO, Dr. Edward Mukooyo from the Ministry of Health, Ms. Susan Kasedde from UNICEF and Mrs. Margaret Kakande Head Poverty Monitoring and Analysis Unit MFPED. Dr. Z. Nyiira was an advisor to the group. The committee was joined in 2004 by Mrs. Rosetti Nabbumba Nayenga.</p> <p>1.2 The Board is not functional presently. The Executive Committee is functional with the President and General Secretary of UEA.</p> <p>1.3 The UEA enjoys the benefit of a large pool of monitoring and evaluation experts in the country, both in Government and other non-state organisations. Some UEA members work in influential Government institutions where some support is leveraged in terms of operational logistics and space and capacity building efforts.</p> <p>1.4 The main challenges are: low capacity among members in evaluation methodologies and practices; lack of standards to guide evaluation work in the country; lack of consistent sources of finances to fund Association activities, pay salaries for staff and equip the UEA Secretariat; outdated legal documents and the need to improve governance structures.</p>
<p><b>2. Organizational motivation:</b> What were/are the driving forces of the VOPE and its historical development?</p>	<p>The motivation to form UEA stemmed from the need to form a national chapter of the African Evaluation Association (Afrea) to improve evaluation capacity in Uganda. The need to develop a critical mass of professional evaluators in the country who can undertake evaluations is a major driving force. Also, the long term goal is to develop an accreditation system for evaluators in Uganda as a means of professionalising the evaluation practice.</p>
<p><b>3. Evaluation Capacity Building:</b> What has your VOPE done to promote evaluation (M&amp;E) capacity?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Sharing of information and news on evaluation methodologies and pieces of work.</li> <li>2) Inviting professional evaluators to speak to our members and share the methods being used in ongoing evaluations.</li> <li>3) Encouraging members to enroll for professional courses and degrees in Evaluation</li> <li>4) Seconding members to short term training courses on M&amp;E, Impact evaluation.</li> </ol>

<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>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Training institutions including Makerere University, Uganda Christian University (UCU) and Uganda Management Institute (UMI) to provide short and long term training to members; to undertake joint research projects and disseminate the findings and also to participate in developing and enforcing the Uganda Evaluation standards.</li> <li>2) UEA Secretariat based at UCU to become fully operational to support members in accessing M&amp;E literature and training.</li> <li>3) Office of the Prime Minister which is mandated to strengthen M&amp;E systems and capacity in the country. Working with OPM would enable UEA to influence ongoing evaluations and to strengthen capacity of members through involvement in Government sponsored evaluations.</li> <li>4) Donor agencies that could support UEA in furthering its objectives of professionalizing the evaluation practice in Uganda.</li> </ol>
<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>The UEA in strengthening transparency indirectly through its members who are working in various Government and non-Government organizations whose efforts are geared towards increased accountability. For example, some of the members work in Parliament, Budget Monitoring and Accountability Unit, Human Rights Advocacy NGOs, Office of the Prime Minister.</p> <p>A successful example is from 20 members of UEA from the Budget Monitoring and Accountability Unit of Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development that have been monitoring several infrastructure and social sectors since 2008/09. Their findings have led to investigations and action on corrupt cases; improving on management of public finances and enhanced delivery of social services.</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, transformation, gender, environment, poverty? If so, please describe or attach relevant documents.</p>	<p>Presently, the UEA has not yet gone into advocacy work. Individual efforts by members within their respective work stations have tended to focus on empowerment, gender and equity budgeting, poverty eradication, agricultural transformation and human rights.</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>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) UEA has organized workshops for members that are facilitated by local and/or international experts.</li> <li>2) Members have been seconded to working committees on evaluation at the Uganda Office of the Prime Minister.</li> <li>3) Members have been seconded to short term training courses on monitoring and evaluation.</li> <li>4) Sharing of information on ongoing evaluation works worldwide, including available opportunities for training.</li> </ol>
<p><b>8. Standards:</b> Has your VOPE developed professional standards/ ethical codes/</p>	<p>The UEA is in the process of developing the Uganda Evaluation Standards which are currently in draft form. It is planned that they will be ready for use</p>

competencies (or adheres to those developed by others)? If so, please provide documentation.	at the end of July 2013. The process of developing the standards commenced at the end of 2012, with guidance from the Office of the Prime Minister.
<b>9. Job opportunities:</b> Do you share employment/ consultancy opportunities with evaluators on your database?	Yes, employment and consultancy opportunities are shared through the UEA list serve. In a few cases, employers or evaluation commissioners call UEA management to propose names of evaluators for certain pieces of work. The adverts are shared on the list serve.
<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?	There is no mechanism at UEA to track progress and results from all the information disseminated with regard to employment opportunities. The expected result is that members apply and get some of the consultancies.
<b>11. Lessons learned:</b> Recommendations/ tips to others for good practices on how to organize and sustain VOPEs like yours.	
<b>12. Next steps:</b> What does your organization plan to do next?	The organisation has prepared a five year plan to guide actions in the short to medium term. The focus in the short term is on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Finalising and disseminating the Uganda Evaluation Standards</li> <li>2) Training members in evaluation methodologies through meetings, workshops and seminars and short courses</li> <li>3) Seeking partnerships with other institutions to facilitate the achievement of UEA goals</li> <li>4) Strengthening institutional and organisational capacity</li> <li>5) Holding the Annual General Meeting to select leaders and review some of the legal documents</li> <li>6) Updating website and producing brochures</li> <li>7) Improving financial accountability systems</li> </ol>
<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.	UEA is greatly interested in partnering with other VOPEs to share experiences. UEA can share experiences in evaluation practices. It would seek advice on good governance of voluntary associations, financing modalities, holding of national and international conferences and how to enhance organisational capacity.
<b>14. Suggestions:</b> What ideas do you have for what should be included in activities of the EvalPartners Initiative?	Sharing literature on evaluation practices, methods. Conferences and seminars to help the VOPEs network Exchange visits Short courses
<b>15. Want to be actively involved?</b> Does your VOPE want to be actively involved in EvalPartners? If so, in what ways?	UEA is greatly inspired by EvalPartners and would like to be involved in all activities that promote the growth of the institution from a professional and organisational perspective.
16. Would you be willing to write up a case study providing more detailed analysis of your VOPE's experiences?	Yes but only on experiences gathered up to date.