

Tanzania Evaluation Association



Reinvigorating TanEA for Promoting Evidence Based Policy
Decisions and 2015 International Year of Evaluation

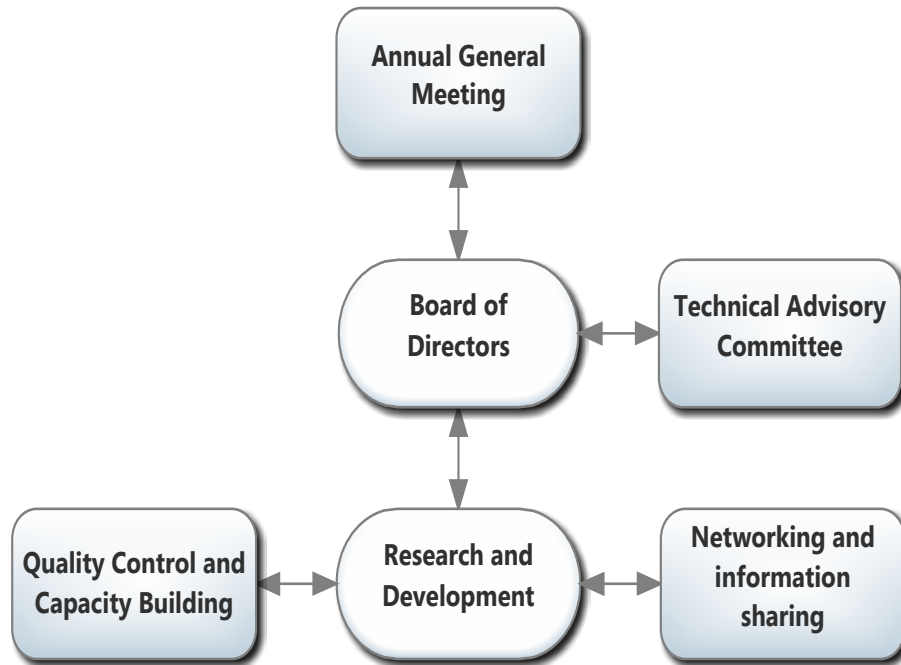
Position Paper Presented by the Steering Committee of the Tanzania
Evaluation Association (TanEA)

1. INTRODUCTION

Tanzania Evaluation Association (TanEA) which was established in 2006 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. TanEA received its registration from the government in January 2009 formalizing itself as an association. As per the constitution of TanEA, the following are the objectives:

- 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 as strategic reference center for evaluation information to all circumstances of Tanzania
- g. Promote and share Tanzania evaluation expertise and experience at relevant national, regional and international forums and events.

The association is registered with Number OONG 2883 under the Non-Governmental Organization Act. It has 70 individual Members designated as founders, joining, ex-official, individual or honorary members. It also has 10 corporate members. The TanEA constitution provides the leadership and governance structure comprising of the Annual General Meeting, Board of Directors, Secretariat, with its quality control and capacity building team, Research and development team, and Networking & information sharing team. Below is the diagrammatic presentation of the organisation structure of TANEA.



In 2011, to improve the overall coordination and function of the association, the association conducted a strategic planning process toward the development of the TanEA Strategic Plan 2012-2014. The association has also played a key role in strengthening the capacity and standardization of the profession with the development of a Results-Based Management manual and Tanzania Evaluation Guidelines for stakeholders. The guidelines and tools are key reference material for practitioners. The challenge facing the association is wider dissemination and sensitization of different practitioners on the availability and use of the tools.

TanEA has evolved from the overarching global agenda on sustainable development and governance by evaluation. This is a new policy style where integration and multi level governance are the major guiding principles. At this interface, evaluation becomes an important tool for legitimization, moderation, learning and accountability to achieve sustainable development.

2. HIGHLIGHTS OF TANEA ACHIEVEMENTS

From inception, TaNEA has been able to achieve the following milestones

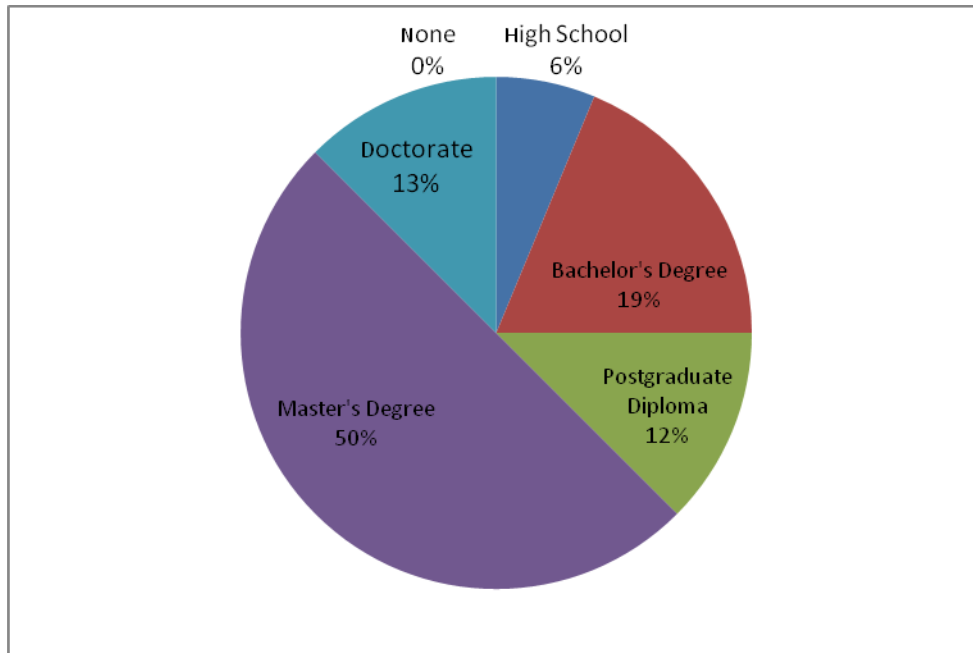
- ✓ Facilitating the registration and setting-up of management structures to govern activities and finances of the association
- ✓ Preparation and updating of evaluation guidelines for Tanzania save for dissemination and sensitization.
- ✓ Facilitated knowledge and information sharing through conferences that brought together a wide range of stakeholders.
- ✓ Enhanced member recruitment (over 70 members registered)
- ✓ Conducted research and surveys on the state of affairs in as far as monitoring and evaluation is concerned in the country
- ✓ Sensitized the general public on the importance of monitoring and evaluation for sustainable development???
- ✓ Advocated for establishment of M&E units in the public, private and civil society sectors
- ✓ Advocated for establishment of M&E courses in various institutions of learning
- ✓ Strengthening TanEA as an organisation and the capacities of its members through various means including establishment of a Resource Centre
- ✓ Publication of a result based manual a version which is in Swahili
- ✓ Development of TANEA website
- ✓ Establishment of a resource centre based at TRACE

3. RESULTS OF THE SURVEY FOR THE NEED OF EVALUATION

To establish the need for the practice of evaluation, the association conducted a survey in 2008 to obtain a baseline information regarding among other things, the need for the evaluation practice in the country, who are the users evaluation information, who are the members and the level of customer satisfaction. Below is the summary of the findings.

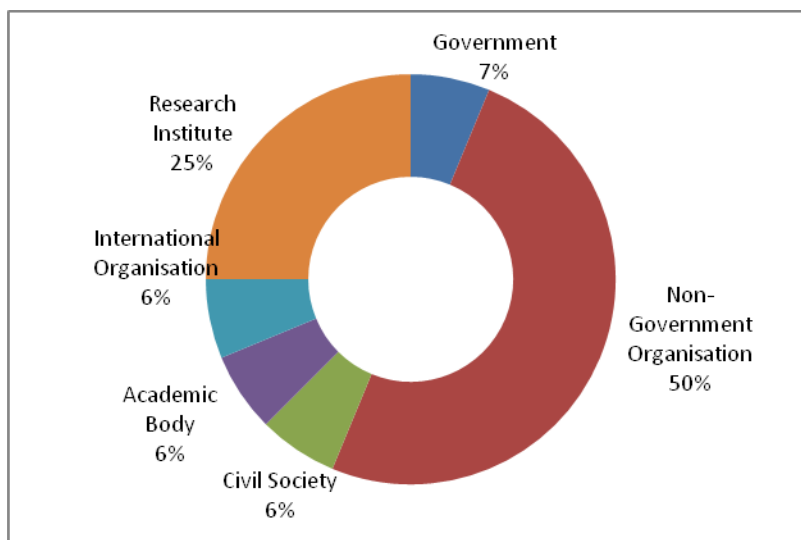
- **Education level of TaNEA members**

Education levels of the TaNEA individual members was surveyed to gauge the level of education. It was noted that majority of respondents (63%) have a Master's degree or Doctorate. Below is a diagram representing the information from the survey.



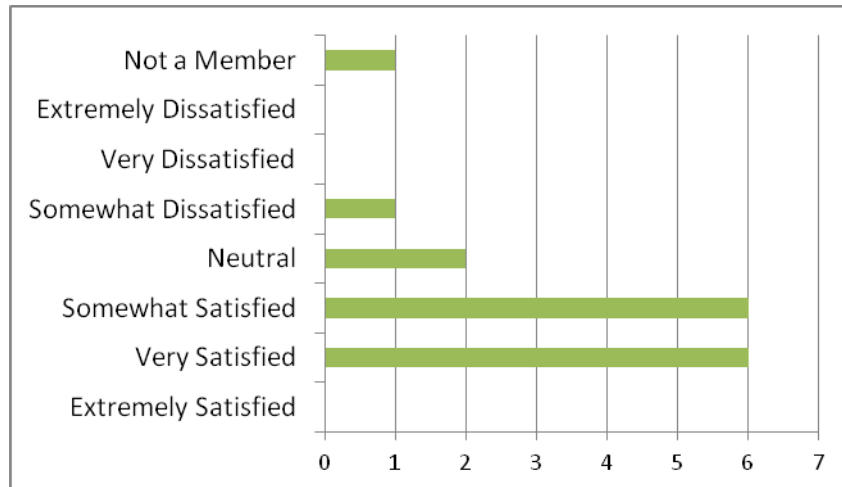
- **Organizational profile of TaNEA members**

Members of the TaNEA were profiled to determine who comes from where. This was necessary in order to factor in the requirements of the members when it comes to design evaluation products and services. From the survey it happened that majority of respondents work for NGOs (50%) followed by Research Institutes (25%).



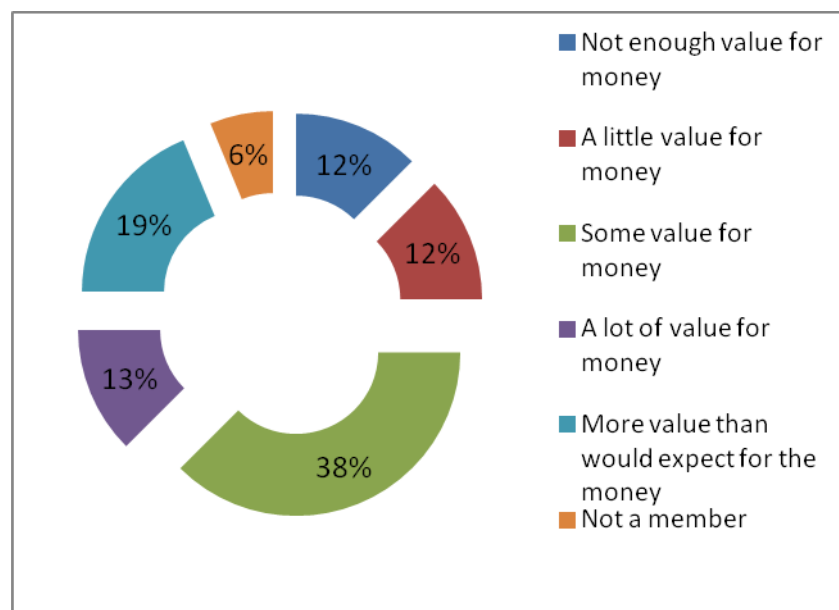
- **Membership satisfaction**

Satisfaction level of members was surveyed and the majority of respondents said they are somewhat satisfied and some said they are very satisfied with their experience of being members of TanEA.



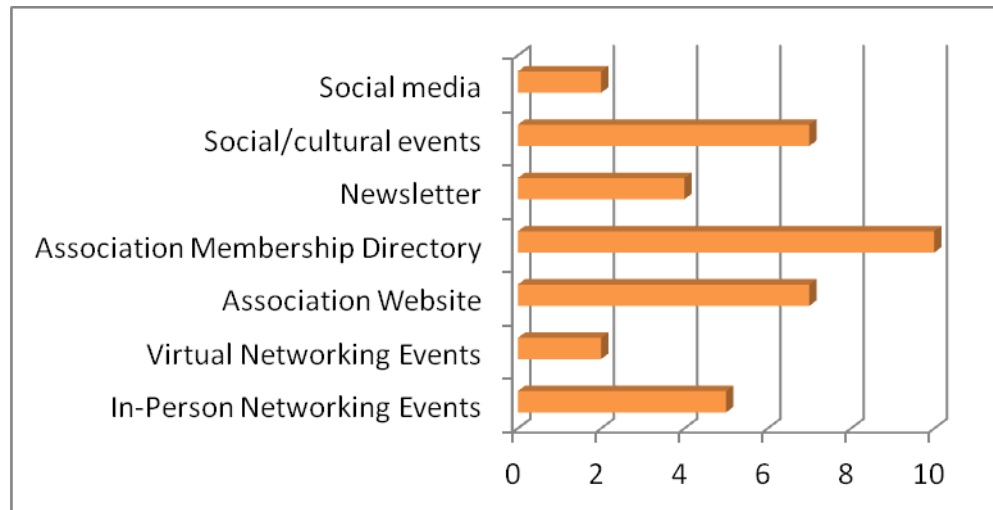
- **Value for money**

When members were asked whether they do get value for money from the services of TaNEA, 69% of respondents found their membership to have some more or a lot of value for money than they were expecting.



- **Preferred method of networking**

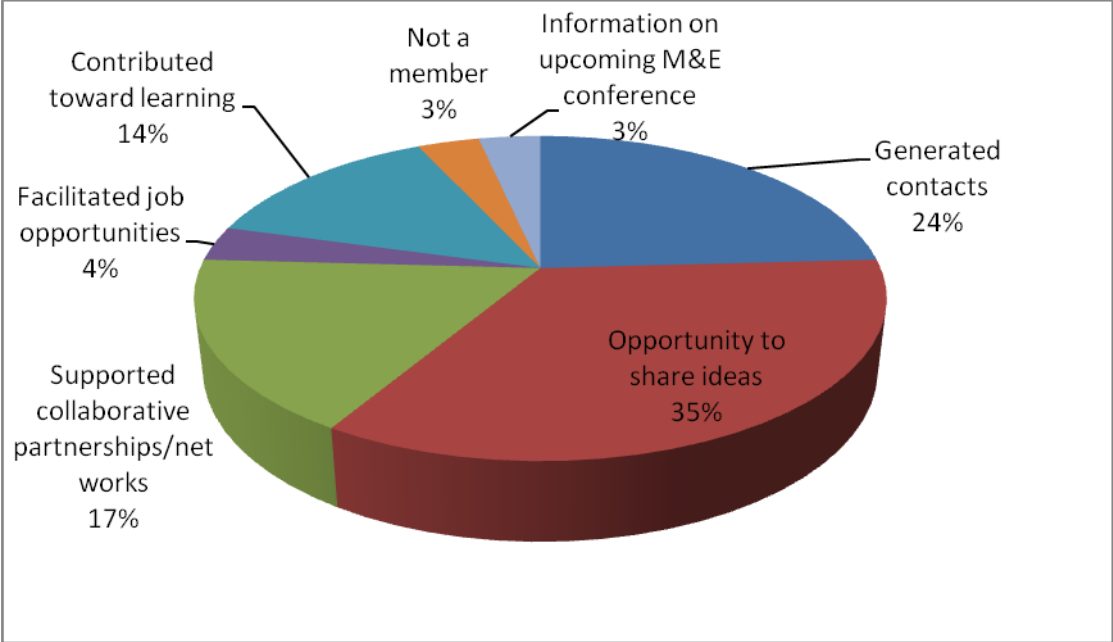
When asked on the preferred method of communicating and networking, the majority of respondents preferred reaching out to other members through an association membership directory followed by through an association website and through social/cultural events.



Following the African Evaluation Association meeting in Yaoundé, 2014, the networking will be extended to the Parliamentarians Committees for Evaluation.

- **Contribution of TaNEA to members**

Members were also asked what opportunities do they see in TaNEA and 35% of respondents saw the major contribution of TanEA being the provision of a forum for sharing ideas and in generating contacts within the evaluation profession (24%).



4. RESOLUTION FROM THE AFREA MEETING HELD IN YAOUNDÉ IN FEBRUARY 2014

Dedication for the 2015 International Year of Evaluation

The 2013 Sao Paulo, International Evaluation conference declared year 2015 to be designated the “International Year of Evaluation” with the objective to strengthen global efforts for demand and use of evaluation to inform public policy decisions. Following the Sao Paul spirit, the 7th African Evaluation Association (AfrEA) international conference joined to declare the year 2015 as the international evaluation year. This was considered important for evaluation because the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will be culminated and replaced by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In view of that, it’s important that national as well as global policies and programmes on MDGs be informed on their performance outcomes for generating evidence for the succeeding SDGs.

The 2015 international year of evaluation is led by EvalPartners, which is a global partnership movement comprising of Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs), UN agencies- UNEG, UN-Women, UNICEF, OECD/DAC, USAID, Governments, and Civil Society Organizations.

Several international and national evaluation organizations, the UN agencies and Governments have joined global efforts to declare Evaluation Year. Tanzania Evaluation Association (TanEA) is equally determined to recognize the designated International Evaluation Year by practically reinvigorating its mandate for promoting the use of evaluations to inform public policies and implementation of development programmes in the country.

5. RESOLUTION OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

TaNEA Steering Committee met on 2nd April 2014 to discuss on how to follow up the strategies laid out in the last conference on reinvigorating and bringing back TaNEA to vibrancy. Discussions then followed on the challenges and opportunities head of us and how to revive TanEA and move forward in order to fulfill the dreams of the association and its members. The following were the recommendations of the Steering Committee:-

- Use the 2015 Evaluation Year theme as an opportunity to revamp the association in addition to advocate for supporting the 2015 Evaluation year by:

A: Planning for a National M&E Week

The evaluation week will bring together M&E practitioners, policy makers, and civil societies with the objective of sharing practical experiences, best practices and institutionalizing evaluation in the government. The Evaluation Week will provide an avenue for the national support to the 2015 International Evaluation Year. The evaluation week will cover the following issues:

1. Institutionalising supply and demand: Roles and responsibilities on evaluation in government, civil society and other stakeholders
2. Sowing the seeds: Training and education for evaluation skills and knowledge
3. Strengthening quality and common practices: Policies, standards and guidelines
4. Ongoing learning and capacity building: Communities of practice and peer review systems
5. Contributing to change: Methods and good practices for influential evaluations

Participants

The participants will include policy makers, evaluation experts, academic researchers and M&E technocrats in the government, private sectors, and development partners.

- Pre-conference training / workshop
 - Key note speeches by senior Government representatives, and evaluation experts
 - Presentations by evaluation practitioners and researchers
- o Inviting evaluation practitioners, papers for:- Reviving TanEA, Mobilizing support for the Evaluation year 2015

B: Plan for an official inauguration of the Evaluation year 2015; to be done by a National official. This official should be a person who can push the agenda ahead to the Parliament level.

- Contacting other Steering Committee members and keep inviting them to the planned Steering Committee meetings; so that they are responsive to issues of TanEA. Efforts should be on winning them back and also bringing in new people who have passion with Monitoring & Evaluation work in Tanzania. This joint team should be the core of the governing structure for TanEA as it used to be before having the TanEA Board of Directors in place.

- Revive all members of TanEA and mainly the active members; reviving the Tanzania Evaluation Network
- To review TanEA documents. These include (but not limited to) the constitution, the Strategic Plan and the results of the survey on the need of evaluation practices in Tanzania. All these should be circulated to the Steering Committee members. Mr. Biria agreed to circulate the documents to all members who attended the meeting.
- Put in place a “Working Committee” of few people from the Steering Committee who will build up a “Position Paper” along the following structure:
- It was also recommended to have an appointment with UNICEF to see possibility of further assistance in order to realize the vision stated earlier. The steering committee appreciates the passion and interest of UNICEF in monitoring and evaluation practice in the country.

6. PROPOSITION CASE

The Problem Statement

One of the Tanzania Evaluation Association objectives is to “promote and share Tanzania evaluation expertise and experience at relevant national, regional and international forums and events”. The association failed to represent in the last AfrEA conference held in Yaounde Cameroon, 2014. Eventually, there was leadership vacuum to spearhead the preparations or mobilization of member’s participation. The consequences for the non-participation in the AfrEA activities are immense including; detached from the global efforts to promote the use of evaluation to inform public policies, non- voting or being voted in the regional evaluation association representation and AfrEA positions, and non-visibility of Tanzania in supporting the 2015 International Year of Evaluation.

The Objective:

TANEA is seeking assistance from various interested parties with a motive of advocating to the Tanzania Government to declare 2015 International Evaluation Year as well. The aim is to localize the international theme and replicate the global initiatives in Tanzania.

The specific objectives are to:

1. TANEA being the vehicle and change agent be revived so as to be visible in the development of informed policies in the country.
2. Support the 2015 International Year for Evaluation (EvalYear) by way of replicating global initiatives and activities locally.
3. Solicit support to re-build evaluation practices in Tanzania
4. Plan activities for the 2015 International Year of Evaluation at national level

Proposed Activities for Tanzania 2015 EvalYear Advocacy Campaign?

The objective of designating 2015 as the International Year of Evaluation is to advocate and promote evaluation and evidence-based policy making at international, regional, national and local levels (<http://mymande.org/evalyear>). For Tanzania to join global efforts to declare the AvalYear, the following activities and strategies are proposed at a high level at this initial stage;

1. National M&E Week
2. Advocacy for the 2015 EvalYear through various campaigns
3. Targeting Participants: TanEA members, government staff, Civil Society, Development partners, Academic institutions, and interested public.
4. Targeting Sponsors: Government, Development Partners representatives: World Bank, UNDP, UNICEF
5. Invite Paper presentations on the International 2015 EvalYear
6. Official inauguration of Tanzania joining declaration of the 2015 EvalYear (Permanent Secretary, President's Office, Planning Commission)
7. Key note address: Focusing on African experience on Building National Monitoring and Evaluation frameworks
8. Key note address: Tanzania Parliamentary involvement in fostering Evaluation Policy development.
9. Regional representatives: Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, South Africa to present Case Studies on M&E experiences and practices.
10. M&E training workshops as part of capacity strengthening efforts for TanEA members, government staff, Civil Society and interested public.

These proposed activities of which more details are provided in Annex 1 are still at a high level. This proposal is meant to excite and stimulate expression of interest from interested parties to participate in making the Year 2015 the year of Evaluation.

ANNEX 1

Category A: Call for Papers for strengthening the demand for and use of evaluation to inform policy making in Tanzania.

Innovative ideas and or researched papers for promoting evaluation and informed policy development in the country should form a core activity in the planning for the international evaluation year. Invited papers from interested researchers and practitioners in a wide spectrum of Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs), non-governmental organizations, government, academics, development partners. Thematically, the papers' focus should be on;

- Advocacy and awareness creation on the International Evaluation Year
- Strengthening the use of Evaluation in Tanzania policy making process
- Institutionalizing evaluation in the national policies and programmes
- Engagement of Parliamentarians in strengthening an enabling environment for evaluation
- Creating and strengthening evaluation of public policies.

Category B: Strengthening the Tanzania Evaluation Association Management

- Capacity building- Training of M&E
- Establish a Task-force for the International Evaluation Year

Category C: Strengthening the Tanzania Participation in the Regional / AfrEA

- Engaging Parliamentarians and policy makers in strengthening evaluation for informed policies
- Peer-to-Peer involvement (Regional representatives: Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, South Africa to present Case Studies on M&E experiences and practices)

Category D: Working with Government, Donors and other stakeholders

Invite the Government responsible Ministry, Development partners in the declaration of the 2015 International Evaluation Year. Pre-meetings for gaining their support will be necessary.