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## **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING PROJECT**

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### **Background**

African Evaluation Association (AfrEA) is a voluntary organization focusing on the promotion of Africa-rooted evaluation theory and practice, including supporting capacity building and learning for evidence-based policy in Africa. AfrEA was founded in 1999 to meet the growing demand for information sharing, advocacy and advanced capacity building in evaluation in Africa. It is an umbrella organization for more than 45 national Monitoring and Evaluation Associations and Networks in Africa. It is a resource for individuals in countries where national bodies do not exist. AfrEA works with the national networks and other key stakeholders, interested partners and institutions on the continent and globally towards the development of a strong African evaluation community and systems. In particular, AfrEA acknowledges and appreciates that evaluation being an emerging discipline and that the culture and practice is still weak in much of the continent, the capacities of her VOPEs are at varying levels: many are still weak while, others remain dormant.

In line with this, AfrEA has partnered with USAID in a pilot project aimed at strengthening its capacity and reinvigorating its membership and community through: 1) supporting the management of a professional association management system, and 2) strengthening its VOPEs by implementing peer-to-peer learning exchanges as well as facilitating three learning forums. The USAID institutional support grant will allow AfrEA to strengthen its membership base and reputation as a credible umbrella organization that can advocate on behalf of its constituents and serve as a catalyst for capacity building and other support needed by its members. The expected outcome is vibrant VOPEs increasingly providing evaluation support services to their members and engaged in national evaluation debates and policy formulations.

### **Purpose**

The learning events, which are peer-to-peer learning exchanges between VOPEs, are intended to strengthen capacities and networks within civil society organisations in the VOPE countries. It will also help AfrEA to develop a database of lessons learnt which will serve as a resource for other VOPEs to use for future projects. AfrEA would like to identify 3 VOPEs who need capacity strengthening and support them in the development of a capacity development plan that will respond to the identified needs of the 3 VOPEs identified through self-assessment. In addition, AfrEA will identify 3 VOPEs with a track record of institutional stability, effective use of evaluation for advocacy and influencing policy and efficient servicing of their members to provide P2P support to three other identified VOPEs lacking such skills.

## **Specific goals**

- Supporting and engaging strong and weak VOPEs to learn from each other through a learning event platform
- Gaining consensus on the capacity development process and opportunities for a harmonized peer-to-peer learning across VOPEs
- Enhancing the capacity of individual VOPE members to improve internal learning and knowledge and skills transfer on relevant M&E systems
- Initiating actions/approach to strengthening linkages between the stakeholders and organizations for sustainable learning developmental goals.

## **Criteria for selection**

There are two groups of VOPEs that will be selected based on the criteria outlined below and which will also be informed by the VOPE track record.

### ***Group 1: Experienced VOPEs***

- Established and registered VOPEs who demonstrate capacity of institutional stability
- Demonstration of experience in conducting peer-to-peer learning and potential mentorship ability for other VOPEs
- VOPEs with the experience to strategically leverage and advocate for an increase in the demand for evaluation.
- VOPEs with demonstrated essential skills and have become an effective advocate for building an enabling environment for evaluation within their countries
- Member of AfrEA with updated financial standing

### ***Group 2: VOPEs with Capacity Strengthening needs***

- Established and registered VOPEs who identify capacity strengthening needs based on a self assessment tool be completed online by shortlisted VOPEs.
- Member of AfrEA with updated financial standing
- VOPEs with demonstrated skills to quickly seize any unplanned advocacy opportunity to build a culture of evaluation with individuals and institutions
- VOPEs with demonstrated essential skills to become an effective advocate for building an enabling environment for evaluation within their countries

## **How to Apply**

Interested VOPEs should submit an expression of interest indicating their suitability for selection to the following emails addresses: [info@afrea.org](mailto:info@afrea.org) with cc to [gifty.volimkarime@afrea.org](mailto:gifty.volimkarime@afrea.org) by May 25, 2016