

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

## I. Basic profile information

1. Name and acronym of organization (VOPE)	<b>Africa Gender and Development Evaluators Network (AGDEN)</b>
2. Geographic scope of organization	Regional: <b>Africa</b>
3. Contact Details	Name of main contact person: <b>Enid Kahuma Kaabunga</b> E-address: <a href="mailto:ekaabunga@gmail.com">ekaabunga@gmail.com</a> Postal address: <b>14285 0800, Nairobi, Kenya</b> Telephone: + <b>254 721 797016</b> VOPE website URL: <a href="http://www.agden.org">www.agden.org</a>
4. Current membership – numbers of individuals, by their affiliation (if known; please at least give total)	Government: <b>11 members</b> NGOs/CSOs: <b>16 members</b> Academics: <b>2 students</b> Private sector (consultants): <b>32</b> Other: <b>33 members</b> <b>Total membership: 94</b>
5. Year VOPE was founded	2002
6. Current status (identify which)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charter and by laws adopted</li> </ul>
7. Information about growth: evolution of the number of members or financial resources in the last 5 years.	AGDEN has evolved from a handful of members present during formation to a formidable group of 94 individual members. The resource base is also growing with a current annual budget of \$ 150,000.
8. Purpose and mission of VOPE	The <b>Vision</b> of AGDEN is to be a Network of excellence and innovation in Gender & Human Rights Responsive development evaluation. AGDEN has a mission to influence M&E development practice to make it Human Rights based and gender responsive.
9. Current strategy and emphasis	Capacity building-Much emphasis here Supporting innovation Increasing membership and expanding resource base Development of evaluation resources and products
10. Organizational capacity: Please describe your governance structure, leadership, services provided, finances, human resources, linkages with other organizations, etc.	AGDEN has a board / Steering committee consisting of nine (9) members representing Southern Africa, Francophone Africa, Anglophone Africa, East Africa and the youth. Efforts are being made to ensure representation of the North Africa Region in the board. The board is led by a chairperson. <b>AGDEN provides the following services;</b> -Training and capacity building in rights based and gender responsive Monitoring and Evaluation -Commissioned gender responsive evaluations -Research in Human Rights & Gender Equality M&E -Development of training material/development for endangering M&E -Public discussions the roles and responsibilities of M&E practitioners in policy making and policy implementation  AGDEN has a secretariat in Nairobi that is responsible for coordinating all the projects and membership activities. It is run by a staff of three people. AGDEN members also support implementation of activities by offering skills and expertise required in various projects. The secretariat operates on an approximate budget of <b>\$ 150,000</b> annually.
11. Means of communication with members, e.g. newsletter, listserv, publication, website	Newsletters, member list serves, social media (face book, twitter and linked in accounts) website.
12. Past events (e.g. during past	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic planning workshop for members</li> </ul>

year)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity building training of Members in Anglophone region</li> <li>Participation in the African Evaluation Association (AfrEA)</li> <li>Participation in the South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association(SAMEA)</li> <li>Participation in American Evaluation Association (AEA)</li> </ul>
<b>13. Forthcoming key events/ conferences – dates, location</b>	Capacity building workshops for members; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>August 2012-Burkina Faso</li> <li>September 2012- Nairobi</li> </ul>
<b>14. Name and e-address of person submitting this information</b>	Enid Kahuma Kaabunga <a href="mailto:ekaabunga@gmail.com">ekaabunga@gmail.com</a>
<b>15. Date of this update</b>	10/05 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>1.1. The African Gender and Development Evaluators Network (AGDEN) was established in 2002 by the African Evaluators Association (AfrEA) and UNIFEM (now UN Women). It is a bilingual Special Interest Group of the African Evaluation</p> <p>1.2. There are 9 members on the AGDEN board who include the Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Francophone secretary, Anglophone secretary, and a representative each for East Africa, South Africa, Anglophone West Africa, and francophone West Africa</p> <p>1.3. The current membership is diverse with representation from diverse sectors. This diversity of skills and expertise in gender, human rights and monitoring and evaluation is one of the key strengths that AGDEN is capitalizing on. AGDEN aims to strengthen the effectiveness and gender responsiveness of development programmes and projects to human rights Association, and has a vision of being a centre of excellence in providing human rights based and gender responsive development evaluations in the African region.</p> <p>1.4. One of the challenges that the VOPE is working towards addressing is the fact that the members are distributed around the African region and globally which makes communication, collaboration, and participation of members a challenge. However, with the evolving nature of communication, it is hoped that this challenge will be addressed.</p>
<p><b>2. Organizational motivation:</b> What were/are the driving forces of the VOPE and its historical development?</p>	<p>AGDEN was formed to close the gap in development evaluation by ensuring that programs are addressing gender and human rights issues. The following shows the historical development of AGDEN</p> <p>2002-Formation</p> <p>2003-2005-Membership recruitment, formulation of policies and by laws</p> <p>2005- Beginning of capacity building programs</p> <p>2007- Setting up of the secretariat in Nairobi and continued implementation of capacity building programs</p> <p>2008-todate-Funding for multiyear projects</p>
<p><b>3. Evaluation Capacity Building:</b> What has your VOPE done to promote evaluation (M&amp;E) capacity?</p>	<p>Since 2005, AGDEN has organized workshops and roundtable discussions on rights based M&amp;E for no fewer than 60 individuals on the role and responsibility of M&amp;E practitioners in policy making and implementation. To date this remains the core mandate of the network</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</p>	<p>4.1 Capacity for gender and human rights responsive monitoring and evaluation – evaluation, gender and human rights practitioners in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civil society organizations</li> <li>UN bodies</li> <li>Government</li> <li>Bilateral agencies</li> </ul> <p>4.2 Strengthen the capacity of AGDEN membership to conduct evaluations that are responsive to gender and human rights</p> <p>4.3 Strengthen the demand for evaluations that are responsive to gender and</p>

<p>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>	<p>human rights from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy makers</li> <li>• Donor agencies</li> </ul>
<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>This is planned, but has not been implemented yet.</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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social justice</li> <li>• Gender equality</li> <li>• Capacity building</li> <li>• Human rights</li> </ul>
<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>	<p>AGDEN has organized various workshops in the African region including the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training Monitoring &amp; Evaluation Practitioners &amp; Specialist on new Aid modalities and the Paris Declaration</li> <li>• Assessment of M&amp;E Capacity Strengthening Mechanisms For Development Evaluation In Sub-Saharan Africa Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria and Sierra Leone.</li> <li>• Promoting Gender and Rights Based Monitoring and Evaluation in Development Practice</li> <li>• Building Gender and Rights Responsive Monitoring and Evaluation Capacity</li> <li>• AGDEN also supports an online community of practice by evaluation practitioners by running and moderating discussions on different evaluation issues in relation to human rights and gender equality</li> <li>• AGDEN has developed a training toolkit in integrating gender and human rights in development evaluation which the network uses in the regional trainings.</li> </ul>
<p><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.</p>	<p>AGDEN adheres to, and advocates for the use of AfrEA guiding principles for the quality of evaluations</p> <p>.</p>
<p><b>9. Job opportunities:</b> Do you share employment/ consultancy opportunities with evaluators on your database?</p>	<p>AGDEN always shares opportunities with all members through the listserve</p>
<p><b>10. Progress and results:</b> What progress has been achieved so far in any of the above or other</p>	<p>AGDEN has developed a training toolkit on gender and human rights responsive Monitoring and Evaluation, which it uses for its training.</p> <p>AGDEN is receiving increasing demand to conduct this training</p>

domains? What are expected and unexpected results achieved?	
<b>11. Lessons learned:</b> Recommendations/ tips to others for good practices on how to organize and sustain VOPEs like yours.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is important to maintain communication with members and engage them in activities</li> <li>• Continuously strive to strengthen the capacity of network members</li> </ul>
<b>12. Next steps:</b> What does your organization plan to do next?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand the network, especially in francophone countries</li> <li>• Engage with women in decision making positions, and women at the grassroots to ensure that gender and human rights are applied to all development efforts</li> <li>• Conduct research on the application of gender and human rights in development programming</li> </ul>
<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.	<p>Yes we would</p> <p>We would seek advice on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bridging the gap between research and policy</li> <li>• Resource mobilization for networks</li> <li>• Membership retention strategies</li> </ul>
<b>14. Suggestions:</b> What ideas do you have for what should be included in activities of the EvalPartners Initiative?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilities for information sharing</li> <li>• Activities that increase the focus on quality evaluation standards and practices</li> </ul>
<b>15. Want to be actively involved?</b> Does your VOPE want to be actively involved in EvalPartners? If so, in what ways?	<p>Yes it does</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By sharing our lessons and best practices</li> <li>• Participating in dialogue on integrating gender and human rights in M&amp;E</li> <li>• Sharing/conducting research among evaluation practitioners</li> </ul>