



## EVALS DGs INSIGHT 3:

### SDGs IMPLEMENTATION LANDSCAPE: VOPES AND NETWORKS

**PURPOSE:** This INSIGHT describes the global SDGs implementation landscape, showing how individual evaluators and Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs) can navigate and create relationships with the different groups involved in the evaluation of the SDGs. It expands on information in [INSIGHT 1](#) which introduced complexity of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and emphasized **national ownership** of implementation, follow-up and review processes, and [INSIGHT 2](#) which explained the importance of **relationships** among the national governments, parliamentarians, and a wide variety of relevant stakeholders.

#### GLOBAL SDGs IMPLEMENTATION LANDSCAPE:

##### 1. ABOUT VOPES

The SDGs implementation landscape is complex as it requires both global vision and local action. Consequently, evaluation practitioners from government, academia, multilateral and non-governmental organizations - individually or in Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs) – need to operate at regional and national levels. VOPEs include all kinds of groups interested in advancing evaluation as a profession. At present, over 45 international development agencies, regional evaluation networks, foundations, NGOs and others are engaged in the promotion of evaluation of SDGs implementation.

A global evaluation partnership called EvalPartners was launched in 2012 by the IOCE and UNICEF to build and strengthen VOPE networks and relationships. EvalPartners has since created a powerful global VOPE community able to effectively influence policy makers, public opinion and other key stakeholders to ensure evidence based country policies and the incorporation of considerations of equity and effectiveness in SDG implementation.

In 2016, in parallel with the launch of the SDGs, [EvalPartners](#) prepared the [EvalAgenda 2020](#) through a global participatory process. The EvalAgenda 2020 was followed in 2017 by a Bishkek Statement that focuses on strengthening partnerships between the evaluation sector and other SDGs actors.

### Chiang Mai Declaration

#### CIVIL SOCIETY WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP FOR BETTER EVALUATION

‘Since the early 1990s, the number of VOPEs has increased globally, from a handful to about 135 in 2012’. And at present, an international mapping has found a total of existing 158 VOPEs.

‘Realizing the great potential and expertise represented by this growth, we commit ourselves to cooperating to further enhance the capacity of Civil Society Organizations – notably Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation, especially nascent and emergent ones – to contribute to local, national and global sustainable development processes through evaluation.’

‘We commit ourselves to working together to achieve the following changes:

- VOPEs are stronger
- VOPEs are more influential
- VOPEs develop sustainable strategies to enhance the evaluation skills, knowledge and capacities of their members and of evaluators more widely, to manage and conduct credible and useful evaluations.’

Source: [Chiang Mai Declaration](#), Thailand, December 2012

## 2. VOPE CORE VALUES AND PRIORITIES

The Chiang Mai Declaration signed by EvalPartners members in December 2012 established **three core values for all VOPEs**, namely:

1. **Equity:** the quality of being fair and impartial
2. **Social justice:** justice in terms of the distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society
3. **Gender equity:** fairness of treatment for women and men.

VOPEs also have the following **five priorities**:

1. Facilitate partnerships to strengthen capacities
2. Develop institutional capacity toolkit to ensure engagement
3. Generate new operation knowledge to be shared
4. Develop and implement advocacy strategies
5. Promote equity-focused and gender-responsive evaluation.



## 3. HOW TO NAVIGATE AND CONNECT

VOPEs and NETWORKS	
Individual evaluators can join VOPEs and/or connect with EvalPartners and its 5 networks shown in the box above.	
VOPEs: groups of evaluators who contribute to advance the professionalization of evaluation and support the evaluation of the SDGs implementation through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancing regional, national, institutional, and organizational evaluation capacity</li> <li>• Engaging regional and national partners, including government officials, parliamentarians, evaluation specialists, and practitioners</li> <li>• Contributing to the knowledge and information sharing processes among all EvalPartner networks</li> <li>• Enhancing capacity of members and of evaluators; improving skills, competencies, and creativity.</li> </ul>	
EvalPartners (largest VOPE): an interactive platform to share knowledge on evaluation including of the SDGs. It has 5 networks :	
1	<a href="#">EVALSDGs</a> : Sharing knowledge on country-led M&E systems of SDGs implementation worldwide
2	<a href="#">EvalGender+</a> : Promoting the demand, supply and use of equity focused and gender equality responsive evaluations
3	<a href="#">EvalYouth</a> : Promotes Young and Emerging Evaluators (YEE), including young women
4	EvalIndigenous: Advancing and amplifying the contribution of indigenous evaluation to global evaluation practice
5	<a href="#">Global Parliamentarian Forum for Evaluation</a> : Advances the enabling environment for nationally owned, transparent, systematic and standard evaluation processes in line with the principles of 'No one left behind' and National Evaluation Policies.

### KEY LESSONS:

- Over 45 international development agencies, regional evaluation networks, foundations, NGOs and others are engaged to promote the evaluation of the SDGs implementation.
- VOPEs effectively influence policy makers, public opinion and other key stakeholders to make sure that country policies are based on evidence and incorporate considerations of equity and effectiveness.
- VOPEs share the core values of equity, social justice and gender equity.

### About EVALSDGs INSIGHTS

EVALSDGs is a global network formed to add value and learning to the SDGs, as well as support processes to integrate evaluation into global and national SDGs review systems. EVALSDGs Guidance Group is a sub-group of EVALSDGs made up of evaluators ready to walk with you to support the evaluation of the 17 SDGs which is complex and requires strong collaborations and partnerships. It provides INSIGHT, trainings materials, and information on opportunities to strengthen the global and national evaluation capacity. It shares good cookies around the impact and sustainability of the SDGs and tells you which competencies you need. EVALSDGs INSIGHTS are short, light and easy to digest notes on topics related to evaluation and the SDGs. They present ideas and new information, and stimulate thinking to strengthen evaluation capacity.

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