

The Young and Emerging Evaluators Program (YEE Program)

A concept note for Increasing Evaluation Capacities in Africa



Uganda Evaluation Association (UEA)

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Theodorah Mwolobi
+256779 217644

Victor Kiwujja
+256773 384 364

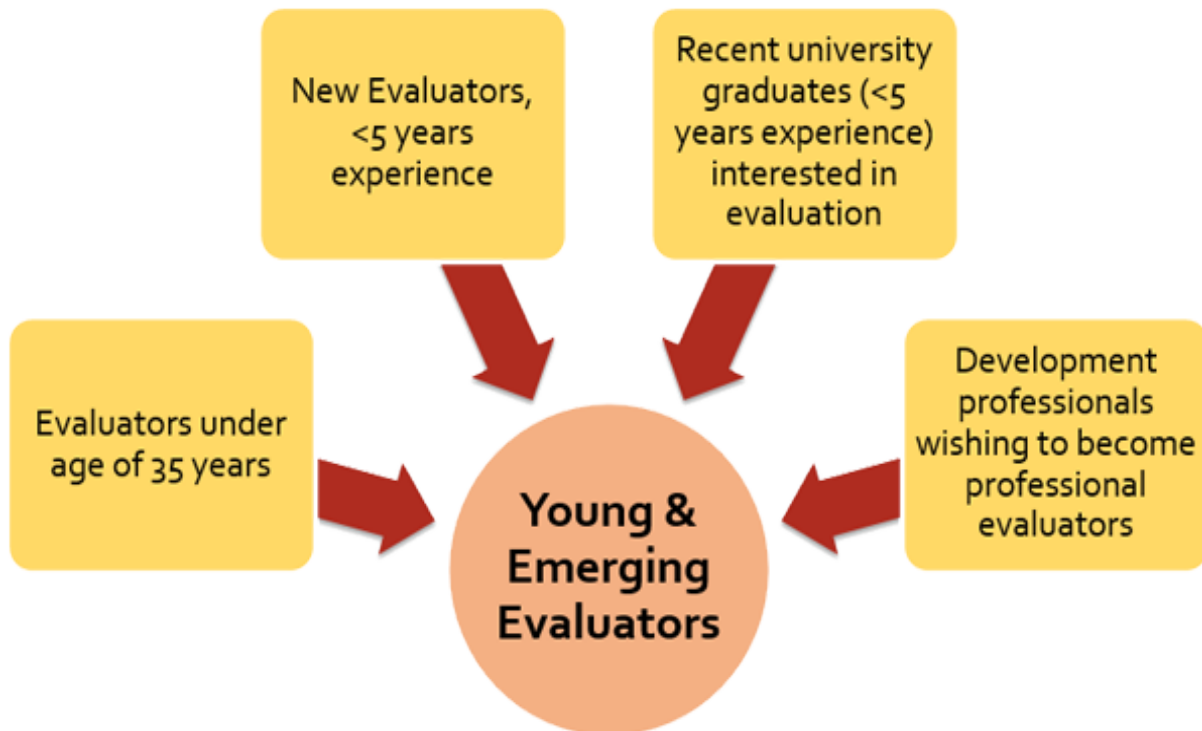
Ronald Waiswa
+256703 098 203

The Young and Emerging Evaluators Program (YEE Program)

“Increasing Evaluation Capacities in Africa”

1.0 Introduction

The YEEs program is an initiative and a movement, where a group young and emerging evaluators will work together to achieve the purposes and objectives as expressed in this concept paper. It will also operate as a network similar to, and under the **aegis** of UEA and other partners. Active members will automatically be members of the core group. Interested members will also be considered as members, with ability to activate their core group membership at any stage. Partnership members may be members who may or may not be active but are involved in specifically as representatives of organizations and networks with a primary view to sharing of information rather than engaging directly in activities. There are formal membership requirements to agree with the stated purpose and objectives as well as the over-arching vision, guidance and code of conduct. Young and Emerging Evaluators (YEEs) must be members of the Uganda Evaluation Association (UEA) who meet at least one of the following criteria:



<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/09/whyyoungpeoplearekeytoachievingthesdgs/>

<https://planinternational.org/blog/2015/08/fivereasonsforwhythesdgsdependonyouthengagement>

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/focussdgs.html>

Evalyouth (July, 2016) A global network to promote engagement, innovation, and exchange among young and emerging evaluators and youth and young people.

2.0 Background

According to UNDP in 2000, 189 countries of the world came together to face the future and what they saw was daunting famines, drought, wars, plagues, and poverty the perennial problems of the world. So leaders from these countries created a plan called the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This set of 8 goals imagined a future just 15 years off that would be rid of poverty and hunger that was an ambitious plan and the progress in those 15 years was tremendous. Hunger was cut in half and extreme poverty down nearly by half, more kids are going to school and fewer are dying however, the young were not involved in this process in achieving their goals. Now these countries want to build on the many successes of the past 15 years through the new set of goals, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), aiming to end poverty and hunger by 2030. The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is expected to exacerbate this problem by drawing significant attention to evaluation. The SDGs are a universal agenda for “transforming our world.” To achieve this transformation, we must rethink the approaches of the MDG era that left youth out of the process. Governments that recognize the value of collaborating with young people as partners and establish clear and explicit pathways for their meaningful participation from the outset will be much better positioned to achieve the 17 SDGs and related targets.

Evaluation’s most vital long-term goal is to contribute to sustainable and equitable development. This goal depends on the production of high-quality evaluations that meet standards for quality dimensions such as utility, feasibility, propriety, accuracy, and evaluation accountability. This is where young people have a critical role to play. If countries are to succeed in achieving the SDGs, leaving no one behind along the way, governments must seek out an active and substantive engagement of young women and men from diverse backgrounds in national level planning, implementation, and monitoring. The overall success of the SDGs depends on youth engagement because young people are: critical thinkers, change makers, innovators, communicators and leaders:

However, the pool of skilled evaluators is shallow, and demand far exceeds supply. Additionally, young evaluators are also under represented in many Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluators (VOPEs). The challenge is “*how can we increase national or regional capacity to*

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produce high-quality evaluations of sustainable development initiatives?” In addition to the technical expertise of professional evaluators, the quality of evaluations depends on appropriate representation and participation from stakeholders. However, young people are historically and frequently absent from evaluations of policies and programs that impact them, except as a potential source for data collection. If SDGs are to be fully realized, it is essential to prioritize the inclusion of young people in evaluation processes. The need to include youth and young people in evaluation raises the challenge “*how can we advocate for and include the voices of young evaluators in the evaluation process?*”

To address both challenges, YEEs program need to be formed based on the Eval2020 Agenda (2016-2020) which was developed and agreed upon during the Global Evaluation Week held in Kathmandu, Nepal in November 2015 as indicated by (Eval Youth, 2016).

3.0 Program Goals

- To promote the ***inclusion of YEEs in evaluations*** conducted at the national, regional and international levels.
- To empower YEEs to become ***competent, experienced and well-networked*** professionals who contribute to evaluation capacity at national, regional and also international levels

4.0 Key Outcomes

- Young and emerging evaluators are better engaged in the evaluation field (purposefully and meaningfully)
- Young and emerging evaluators are connected and contribute to the global evaluation community.
- Increased national or regional capacity to produce high-quality evaluations for sustainable development

5.0 Program Components

The YEE program in Uganda has been developed with 5 major components with different activities involved.

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1. Engagement of UEA leadership and members

This will involve;

- Increasing the engagement of YEEs in the governance of UEA e.g committees (**YEE as Leaders**)
- Encourage UEA to integrate the issue of young and emerging evaluators in their strategic plan and activities. (**YEE issues integrated**)
- Encouraging UEA to include of YEEs in capacity-building programs (**YEE capacity improved**)
- Providing opportunities for knowledge sharing and learning
- Innovation example: *UEA Members who include YEEs have a reduced rate on membership and/or other costs like conferences, trainings etc*

2. Engagement of evaluation stakeholders

This will involve;

- Mapping of key stakeholders for YEE program
- Social mobilization of key actors to engage YEE stakeholders
- Engage governments and development partners to proactively promote the participation of YEE in evaluation
- Recommendations for YEE participation in national evaluation capacities identified and shared with stakeholders
- Increased participation by YEE from Official Development Assistance (ODA) countries in major evaluation conferences through a scholarship program
- Special edition/thematic sections of Evaluation Journals dedicated to YEE and Youth-Inclusive Evaluation practice;

3. The Mentorship & Internship Program (MIP)

The YEE mentoring & Internship program will involve;

- Evaluation skills trainings
- Employability skills training
- YEE job placements at UEA members & stakeholders
- Practical evaluation data analysis skills
- Providing opportunities for knowledge sharing and learning

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- Follow-up of CVs and action plans for the YEEs

4. The Young & Emerging Evaluators' Network (YEEN)

This component will involve;

- The formation and establishment of the YEEN
- Enhancing linkages with other evaluation networks especially the YEE networks in the global community
- Enhancing YEE representation at Eval networks
- Innovation Challenge Program for evaluation projects mobilizing YEE expertise on information technology and communication
- Implementation of an awards program for YEEs (e.g., innovative contribution to the field of evaluation, e.g best evaluation report, best paper etc).

5. YEE Communication for Development (Media)

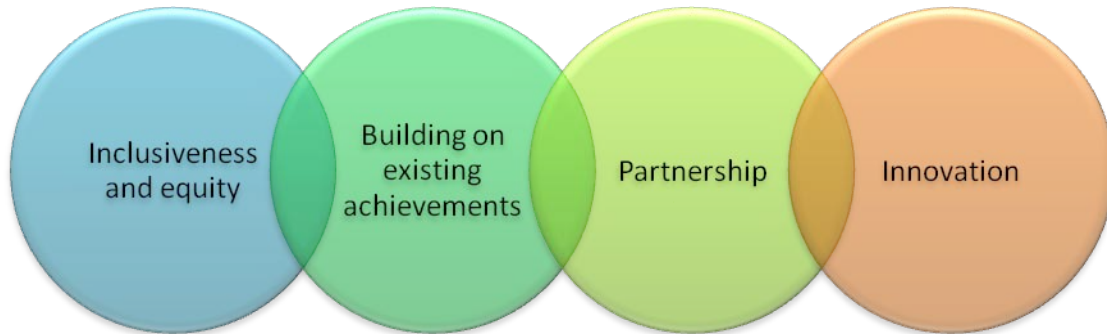
- Develop a YEE webpage, including a crowd-sourced interactive aligned activities;
- Initiate a YEE Blog for knowledge sharing
- Promote YEEs activities through social media (Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, etc.)
- Support capacity for YEEs to publish papers, scientific journals
- Document and disseminate good practices, including those related to Youth-Inclusion Evaluation
- Learn from initiatives conducted around the world engaging YEEs in evaluation.
- Publishing books on good practices and experiences engaging YEE, and the other on good Youth-Inclusive Evaluation practices.

6.0 Code of conduct

The program will be conducted based on the following principles;

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7.0 The team

- ▶ So far the team has only 3 people
 1. Theodorah Mwolobi, M&E Practitioner, Masters Student, UTAMU
 2. Victor Kiwujja, Executive Director, Lida Africa ([ww.lidaafrica.org](http://www.lidaafrica.org))
 3. Ronald Waiswa, Director Research & Training, Lida Africa
- ▶ Many more members are welcome to develop a structure for this.

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