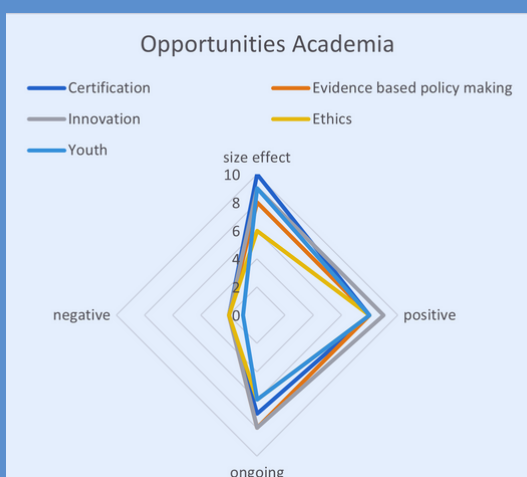


Future of Evaluation?

In a rapidly changing world, the future holds interesting opportunities as well as daunting challenges. During a co-creation workshop at the ECD Seminar on 'the Future of Evaluation' several M&E professionals active in the academic sector in Evaluation jointly brainstormed on identifying some of those opportunities and challenges for the future of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E). The discussion and results are summarised in this infographic.

Opportunities



Four dimensions of opportunities:
Size effect: Will the trend have large effect on M&E (0-10 scale)
Ongoing? Is the trend currently already active in your M&E work? (0= not active, 10: every day in work)
Positive/Negative: Do you envisage the trend to generate positive and/ or negative effects (0-10 scale)

1. Need for certification/ professionalization

Increased need for certified M&E experts, M&E being recognized as a profession

2. Evidence-based policymaking

Increased need for evidence-based policy making/ Academia has greater role in producing such evidence needed to inform policy

3. Increased need for innovation

Increased need for innovation (knowledge generation) (A.I. tech, knowledge generation, big data, methods data, concepts, frameworks, ...)

4. Increased importance of ethics

The need for upholding ethical standards (e.g. IRB etc.) while conducting evaluations

5. Increased importance of youth in M&E

There is increase in demand for youth in M&E Academia has a role in educating/training young minds

Challenges

1. Limited capacity & financing

Face challenges in attracting trained faculty and resources

2. Lack of internal acceptance of M&E as a discipline

Universities' administration does not recognize M&E as a mainstream discipline

3. Lack of demand for M&E studies

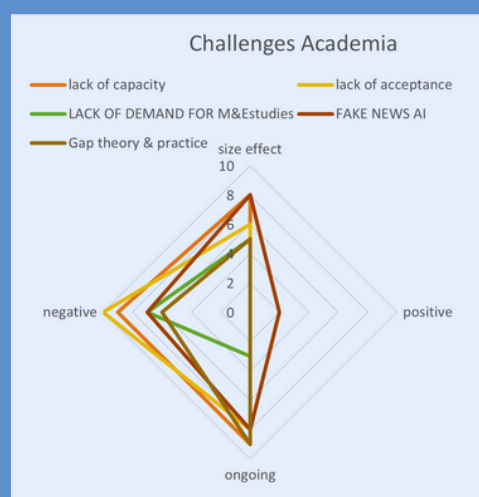
Since M&E is not recognized as a mainstream discipline, students rarely prefer M&E for their studies especially at undergraduate level

4. Fake news, A.I. big data challenge

Fake news (with help of A.I. and other technologies) create challenges for the appreciation of evidence

5. Gap between theory and practice

Faculty with theoretical knowledge not well equipped with the skills to operationalize it



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Action

For opportunities

- Design curricula and launch M&E courses
- Generate evidence and establish dissemination mechanisms + consultancy
- Adopt innovative technologies (A.I., ML, Big Data) for learning and research
- Set up functional Institutional Research Boards (IRBs) and/or Research Ethical Committees (REC) in academic institutions
- Set up M&E chapters for connecting youth for employment opportunities

For challenges

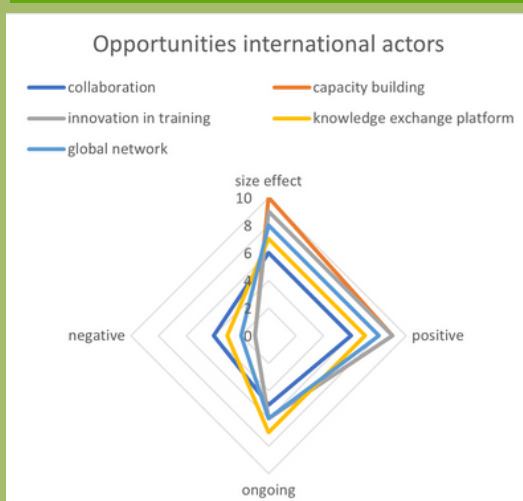
- Capacity building of academic staff
- Mobilize resources
- Lobby and advocate for M&E; publish work on M&E
- Promote interdisciplinary collaborations and linkages (networks)
- Establish linkages with VOPEs
- Outreach and career guidance directed to M&E
- Organizing internships, M&E clinics/labs/hubs

Prepared at the ECD conference Uganda, 2023 by Shyam Singh, Solomon Mwije, Nathalie Holvoet, Joshua Byenkya, Nicholas Mugabi, Godfrey Bwanika, Eloi Kisibisha, Doreen Kyando, Martha Olwenyi, Dorothea Deus, Sara Dewachter, Martha Mutua

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1. Collaboration and networking

With training institutions within Africa & globally

2. Innovation in training & capacity building

Working with academia in research & innovation in evaluation

3. Trending innovation in training

Using digitization, AI in evaluation

4. Knowledge exchange platform

Conferences, Webinars

5. Global networking & collaborating with other VOPEs

Challenges

1. Collaboration with government & stakeholders

lack of collaboration

2. Institutional governance & legal standing

Are they recognized by their respective government

3. Lack of visibility hierarchy within VOPEs

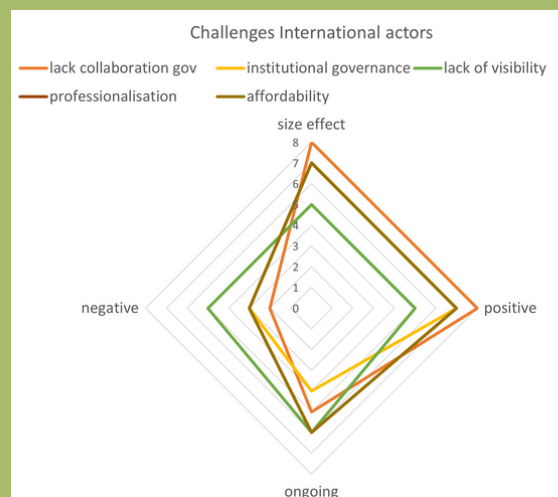
If we do not have a recognized hierarchy then it becomes a challenge

4. Measuring competencies

Is there any consistency across the board?
The element of professionalization

5. Affordability of training programs

Very expensive for professionals in the global south



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Action

For opportunities

- Presentations in upcoming conferences - ensure students graduating have adequate skills
- Conduct collaborative action research - comparative research
- Innovations in trainings e.g partner with governments in trainings in AI & big data
- Establish community of practices - inclusive of persons during trainings & peer to peer collaborations
- Exchange in conferences, seminars and webinars.

For challenges

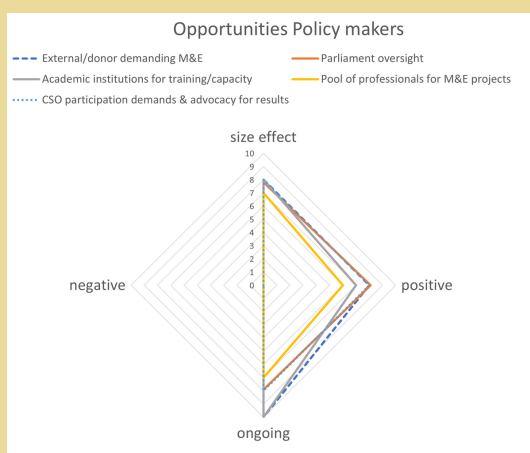
- Joint capacity building & training programs
- Advocate for adoption of informed evidence decision making
- Involvement & institutionalize VOPEs in technical working groups of government
- Establish platforms to showcase best practices e.g. institutionalize international evaluation week
- Standardize trainings, certifications, curriculums & credentials
- Joint research & evaluation activities
- Establishing a steering structure amongst the international VOPEs

Prepared at the ECD conference Uganda, 2023 by Dr. Ponge Awuor, Eddah Kanini, Susan Anibaya, Brehima Simpara, Bright Onapito, Nico De Winter, Nathalie Holvoet, Sara Dewachter, Martha Mutua.

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1. External/donor demanding M&E

External/ donor funding demanding M&E system, structures, and personnel

Partners provide resources, personnel, capacity building & technical tools, conditionality, and effectiveness conditions.

2. Parliament oversight

Parliament sectoral committee demands for evaluation reports, accountability & physical visits.

3. Academic institutions for training/capacity

Increasingly providing courses/curriculum and direction for M&E + Funding to improve the training programs teams for evaluation of programs.

4. Role VOPEs : Pool of professionals for M&E projects

5. CSO participation demands & advocacy for results

Challenges

1. Lack of clear KPIs to monitor programs

Parliament, capacity & skills

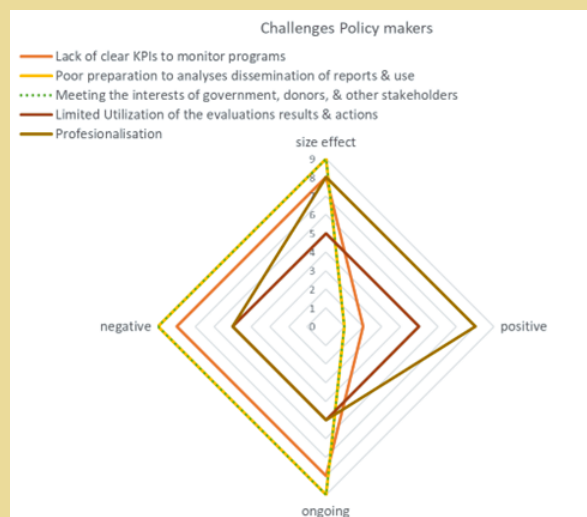
2. Poor preparation to analyses dissemination of reports & use

3. Meeting the interests of government, donors, & other stakeholders

-Affects the credibility of reports
-Political interference

4. Limited Utilization of the evaluations results & actions

5. Professionalization



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Action

For opportunities

- To institute an enabling environment (Policy / Legal / Clear institutional arrangements)
- Strengthening capacity of parliamentarians & staff on M&E field in the public sector
- Develop competency-based frameworks
- Promote capacity building (Attachments, Trainings)
- Matching curriculum with work environment
- Collaborate with academic institutions in curriculum development

For challenges

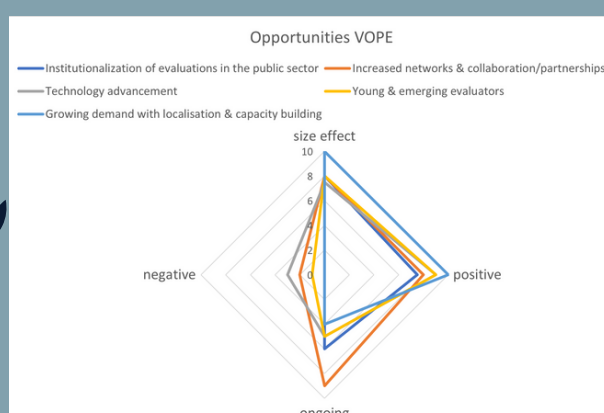
- Strengthening capacities (Funding, staffing & tools, trainings).
- Strengthen communication & knowledge management strategy (ICT, Data).
- Conduct M&E ecosystem analysis (Demand & supply).
- Advocate for political and commitment in the usage of M&E reports.
- Proper institutional arrangements for M&E from national to local level including all stakeholders

Prepared at the ECD conference Uganda, 2023 by Myranda Lutempo, Sakina Mwinyimkuu, Robert Mugabe, Mathias Mulumba, Esther Nabukeera Sempira, Brown, Noeline Gwokyalya, Reagan Opiyo, Nathalie Holvoet, Martha Mutua, Sara Dewachter.

Future of Evaluation?

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1. Institutionalization of evaluations in the public sector
2. Increased networks & collaboration/partnerships
3. Technology advancement
4. Young & emerging evaluators
5. Growing demand with localization & capacity building

Challenges

1. Resource constraints Top five challenges ahead for VOPE

-Funding

2. VOPE governance, leadership

-Corruption, leadership, appreciation

3. Lack of legal frameworks & VOPE standards

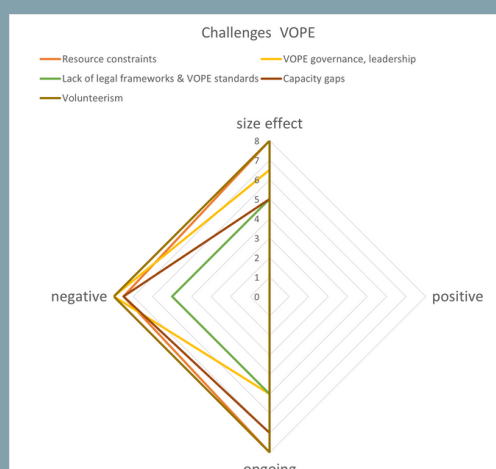
-For the profession of M&E

4. Capacity gaps

-Capacity gaps

5. Volunteerism

-Actions are done on a voluntary basis. If active members lose commitment this will be a big issue for VOPE's existence.



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Action

For opportunities

- Identify champions at government, academia, private institutions level to advocate for institutionalization of M&E
- Conduct Assessment on national M&E capacities
- Stakeholders' analysis & mapping to identify networks and establish partnerships.
- Capacity building for YEEs, use of technologies, innovations hubs
- Develop a partner engagement plan.
- Coaching and mentoring programs for YEEs
- Develop a strategic plan
- Increase visibility of VOPE
- Collaborate and partner with Academia and capacity building institutions.

For challenges

- Establish resource mobilization strategy.
- Develop VOPE standards
- Provide incentive for members to encourage them in memberships fee payment
- Capacity building for VOPE leadership and governance (for instance IOCE Leadership Boot Camp)
- Conduct national consultations with parliamentarians, government; academicians, etc
- Advocacy - M&E week
- Develop a volunteer management programs.
- Coaching & mentoring programs
- Build partnerships with capacity building institutions (academia, IOB etc)

Prepared at the ECD conference Uganda, 2023 by Tsigereda Belay, Michée Sagara, Eugene Swinnerstone, Lise-Marie Vandendriessche, Todaro Jude, Miriam Mwaibula, Betty Lizzie, Mathew Lubuulwa, Flavia Lubega, Ousséni Kinda, Theoneste Mutsindashyaka, Nathalie Holvoet, Sara Dewachter, Martha Mutua

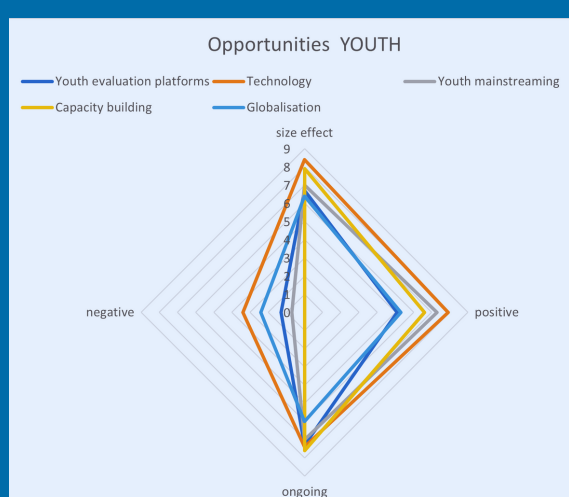
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PERSPECTIVES FROM YOUTH

Future of Evaluation?

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1. Existing Youth evaluation platforms

Awareness, capacity building, job creation

2. Technology and Youth

Ease data collection, enhance data analysis, facilitate evaluation reporting, dissemination of evaluation and access of knowledge.

3. Youth mainstreaming

Stakeholders promoting youth inclusion through policy & funder requirements.

4. Capacity building opportunities

Improve competencies, career development and indigenization

5. Globalisation

Youth participation and job creation

Challenges

1. Competencies

Methodological skills, analytical skills and communication/ Dramatic changes

2. Access to M&E opportunities

Limited opportunities for youth in M&E missions and education

3. Resource constraints

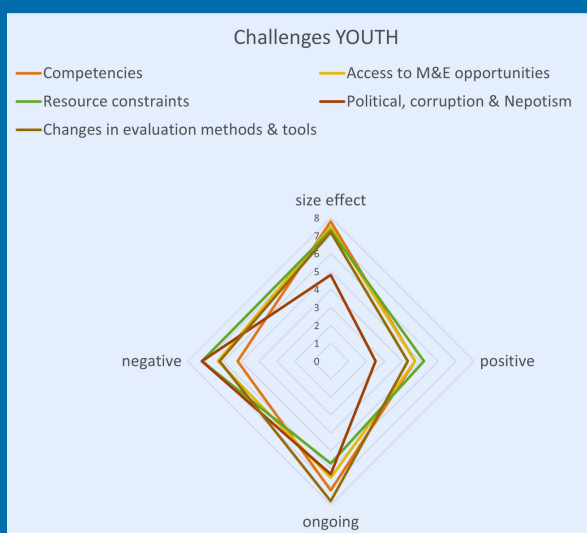
Not sufficient to permit youth to have training on M&E

4. Political, corruption & Nepotism → "unequal opportunities"

Prevent youth from accessing M&E opportunities

5. Fast evolution of evaluation methods & tools

The need for continuous coping and need for capacity building



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Action

For opportunities

- Promote the knowledge sharing function of the Youth educational platforms through more inter- and intra-networking. Enhance posting of evaluation knowledge assets.
- More programs for mentoring, coaching and training opportunities
- Access hub to employ and promote technology in M&E
- Fund youth participation in M&E related events, research and evaluation missions
- Advocate for youth engagement and inclusion in evaluation

For challenges

- Conduct local training on methodologies and online mentoring programs
- Innovative fundraising through VOPES for peer- to- peer interventions
- Internship opportunities for young emerging evaluators
- Initiate partnerships with and within universities to have formal M&E courses/ programs
- Open source to thrive the M&E library
- Initiate thematic working groups and communities of practices with youth involvement

Prepared at the ECD conference Uganda, 2023 by Naser Quadous, Frankline Ojong Agbor, Adam Timothy Mayemba, Busuge Andrew, Drateru Agnes, Sharon Joy Lucima, Joe Ogwang, Rudo Mhonde, Nathalie Holvoet, Martha Mutua, Sara Dewachter.

<https://www.uantwerpen.be/ecd-seminar-uganda2023>