



***A global network to promote  
engagement, innovation, and exchange among:  
young and emerging evaluators, youth stakeholders, and key actors***

## WHY EVALYOUTH

The achievement of EvalPartners' long-term goals rests heavily upon the decisions taken now, in the International Year of Evaluation. 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 and accuracy. However, an ongoing issue faces the global evaluation community: the pool of skilled evaluators is shallow, and demand far exceeds supply. It is anticipated that adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) could exacerbate this problem by drawing significant attention to evaluation. The challenge facing the global evaluation community and actors whose long-term goals rely upon high-quality evidence is:

*How can we increase national, regional, and international capacity to 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, youth are historically and frequently absent from evaluations of policies and programs that impact them. 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 in evaluation raises a secondary challenge for worldwide evaluators and those who commission and use evaluations:

*How can we advocate for and include the voices of young people in the evaluation process?*

To address both challenges, EvalPartners requires a global network to promote engagement, innovation, and exchange among: young and emerging evaluators, youth stakeholders, and key actors.

## WHY EVALYOUTH CANNOT WAIT

Between the anticipated adoption of SDGs, and the designation of [2015 as the International Year of Evaluation](#), the timing is ripe for launching this coordinated effort. But we must act now, and act fast, to capitalize on these synergies.

More specifically, the future SDGs, which will replace the existing Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), will include calls for high-quality evaluations, with particular focus on relevance and other utility criteria. The development of evaluation capacity at multiple levels (regional, national, and international) is therefore essential. Further, the recent UN General Assembly resolution reiterates the importance of meeting the demand for high quality evaluations, recognizes the designation of 2015 as the International Year of Evaluation, and calls for a more coordinated effort to strengthen evaluation capacity. That this resolution was co-sponsored by 48 countries is indicative of global commitment to these ideas. EvalPartners proposes to coordinate global network in support for young and emerging evaluators, in order to ensure that capacity development efforts are aligned with, and responsive to, the challenges faced by newcomers to the evaluation community.

In addition to increasing the demand for evaluation, the SDG's are expected to strategically target equity, which includes promotion and advocacy for the interests of youth. EvalYouth will coordinate global engagement, innovation, and exchange on Youth-Inclusive Evaluation, as a step toward the realization of equity.

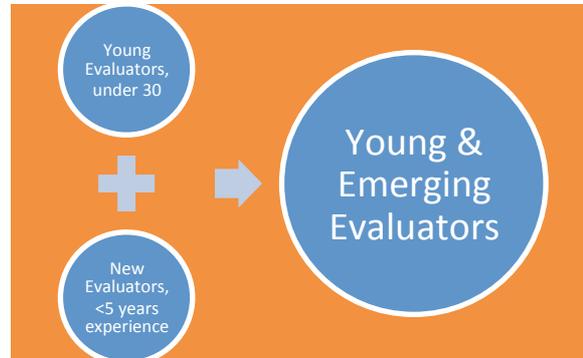
This nexus of ideas, coupled with global support, make 2015 the year to launch EvalYouth.

## WHAT DOES EVALYOUTH WANT TO ACHIEVE

EvalYouth wants to support young and emerging evaluators (YEE), particularly young women, to become technically sound, experienced and well-networked professionals who contribute to evaluation capacity at national, regional and international levels.

Who are young and emerging evaluators?

- Evaluators under age of 30 years OR
- Novice evaluators who have less than 5 years of professional experience OR
- Recent university graduates who are interested and willing to join the evaluation profession OR
- Development professionals who have technical knowledge on evaluation and willing to become professional evaluators.



EvalYouth objectives for include:

1. Encourage education, relevant courses, learning and training activities for young and emerging evaluators;
2. Encourage the networking and mentoring between young and emerging evaluators with experienced evaluation professionals;
3. Encourage experience sharing and networking among young and emerging evaluators within the international evaluation community;
4. Organize activities that address the specific challenges met at the early stages of a career in evaluation;
5. Encourage VOPEs to integrate the issue of young and emerging evaluators in their strategic plan and activities.

## HOW EVALYOUTH WILL ACHIEVE IT

EvalYouth is a global network that will coordinate activities involving: young and emerging evaluators, youth stakeholders, and key actors. EvalYouth aims to thereby increase the contribution of YEE and youth to equitable and sustainable social development. EvalYouth will cultivate evaluation capacity at national, regional and international levels: a) social mobilization of key actors to **engage** YEE and youth stakeholders, b) promotion of **innovation** in practice, and c) **exchange** of learning and knowledge.

To set the conditions for sustainable progress, EvalYouth is based on 4 principles:

- Inclusiveness and equity
- Building on existing achievements
- Partnership
- Innovation

See Annex 1 for a logic model of EvalYouth, Annex 2 for an overview of EvalYouth outcomes and outputs, and Annex 3 for the budget needed for the implementation of activities.



## ENGAGE

*Impact through social mobilization*

Through social mobilization, EvalYouth will enable VOPEs, governments, policy makers, civil society representatives and advocates, international development agencies, academic institutions and other interested actors to coordinate efforts to **better engage young and emerging evaluators in the evaluation field and young people in the evaluation process.**

### **Outcomes**

1. Young and emerging evaluators are better engaged in the evaluation field.
2. Young people are better engaged in the evaluation process.

### **Proposed strategies for the coming 3 years**

- Especially during 2015, the [International Year of Evaluation](#), encouraging young and emerging evaluators (YEE) to get involved in leadership roles;
- As part of the [2016-2020 Global Evaluation Agenda](#), by advocating priorities for YEE;
- Encouraging Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs) to bolster inclusion of YEEs in their governance bodies and in capacity-building programs;
- Encouraging governments and development partners to proactively promote the participation of young people in evaluation of programs and policies that concern them;
- Encouraging governments and development partners to proactively promote the participation of YEE in evaluation;
- Advocate that academic/training institutions develop relevant training courses in evaluation methodologies and approaches that target YEE and Youth-Inclusive Evaluation methodologies;
- Enhance linkages with other evaluation networks and taskforces led by EvalPartners.

### **Outputs**

1. Youth component of Global Evaluation Agenda based on inputs of YEE and young people who have been involved in an evaluation process, supported by partners and ready to be implemented beyond 2015;
2. Increased participation of YEE to the 2015 Global Forum;
3. Increased contribution of YEE and young people who have been involved in an evaluation process to initiatives and follow up events arising from the Global Agenda;
4. Recommendations for YEE participation in national evaluation capacities identified and shared with stakeholders;
5. Increased involvement of YEE in VOPE governance, committees and activities;
6. Promotion of networks of YEE within countries, regions and internationally;
7. Recognition Awards for VOPEs and development partners for innovative initiatives engaging YEE or young people in the evaluation process;
8. YEE represented in each networks and taskforces led by EvalPartners.



## INNOVATE

*Impact through innovation in practice*

EvalYouth will facilitate innovation in engaging young and emerging evaluators in evaluation and young people in the evaluation process by engaging the community of policy makers and evaluators to **use of new approaches, strategies and methodologies that can attract and take advantage of the ideas and energies of young people.**

### **Outcomes**

1. Young and emerging evaluators benefit from innovative ways to develop their expertise.
2. Young people will benefit from innovative methods used to include them in the evaluation process.

### **Proposed strategies for the coming 3 years**

- Promote and continue developing e-learning courses using public platforms such as [EvalPartners](#) and upcoming [UNEG](#) e-learnings;
- Promote mentoring and internship programmes;
- Document and disseminate good practices, including those related to Youth-Inclusion Evaluation;
- Support capacity for YEE to publish papers scientific journals;
- Encourage projects led by YEE focused on their expertise on information technology and communication.

### **Outputs**

1. Development of a YEE mentoring program;
2. Development of a YEE internship program;
3. Special edition/thematic sections of Evaluation Journals dedicated to YEE and Youth-Inclusive Evaluation practice;
4. Innovation Challenge Program for evaluation projects mobilizing YEE expertise on information technology and communication;
5. Publishing two “Blue Books” (<http://www.mymande.org/selected-books>): one on good practices and experiences engaging YEE, and the other on good Youth-Inclusive Evaluation practices.



### **EXCHANGE**

*Impact through learning and knowledge sharing*

EvalYouth will serve as a platform to **share knowledge, learning and experiences** on the best ways to strengthen the engagement of young and emerging evaluators in the evaluation field and strengthen the inclusion of young people in the evaluation process.

### **Outcomes**

1. Young and emerging evaluators are connected and contribute to the global evaluation community.
2. Young people are purposefully and meaningfully included in the evaluation process.

### **Proposed strategies for the coming 3 years**

- Organize webinars to share knowledge on the engagement of YEE or inclusion of young people in the evaluation process;
- Develop a webpage, including a crowd-sourced interactive map of EvalYouth-aligned activities;
- Initiate a EvalYouth Blog;
- Promote EvalYouth activities through social media (Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, etc.);
- Learn from initiatives conducted around the world engaging YEE and young people in evaluation.

### **Outputs**

1. Sponsor a series a webinars targeting the needs of YEE and Youth-Inclusive Evaluation practice offered in different languages;
2. “EvalYouth strand” included in conference programs of South based regional

- conferences (AfrEA, CoE-SA, EvalMENA, IPEN, ReLAC, RFE);
3. Organization of two “EvalYouth conferences”: one virtual in 2016, one face-to-face in 2017;
  4. Increased participation by YEE from Official Development Assistance (ODA) countries in major evaluation conferences through a scholarship program;
  5. Optimization of the EvalYouth Forum and other communication channels with the global community;
  6. Implementation of an awards program (e.g., innovative contribution to the field of evaluation, best evaluation report, best paper accepted in a peer-review journal, best thematic paper by an university student, innovative contribution to Youth-Inclusive Evaluation).

## WHAT'S NEXT

The shaping and launch of EvalYouth will be participatory in nature, and will leverage existing processes within the International Year of Evaluation, by taking advantage of the existing events organized by many stakeholders within the framework of the Year of Evaluation.

It will connect with other networks, organizations and individuals that are interested in contributing to the process. EvalYouth will be managed through a core group of institutions, led by EvalPartners. A wider reference group will be open to all interested organizations and individuals who align with the purpose of EvalYouth and wish to be engaged with the process.

EvalYouth will be formally launched at the [2015 Global Evaluation Week](#) to be held at the Parliament of Nepal in Kathmandu from 23 November - 27 November 2015, with monthly updates from the EvalYouth co-chairs thereafter.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### **Feedback**

An open discussion forum has been established on [www.ioce.net/forum](http://www.ioce.net/forum). The EvalYouth Co-chairs would welcome your feedback on the Concept Paper.

### **Volunteer**

Consider volunteering to help with an EvalYouth-sponsored initiative or volunteering to organize an EvalYouth-aligned event.

### **Partnership**

Feedback and donation of time are necessary, but insufficient to build and sustain momentum for EvalYouth activities. Financial donations are also needed to ensure the inclusion of important voices, to foster innovation, and establish partnerships across the globe.

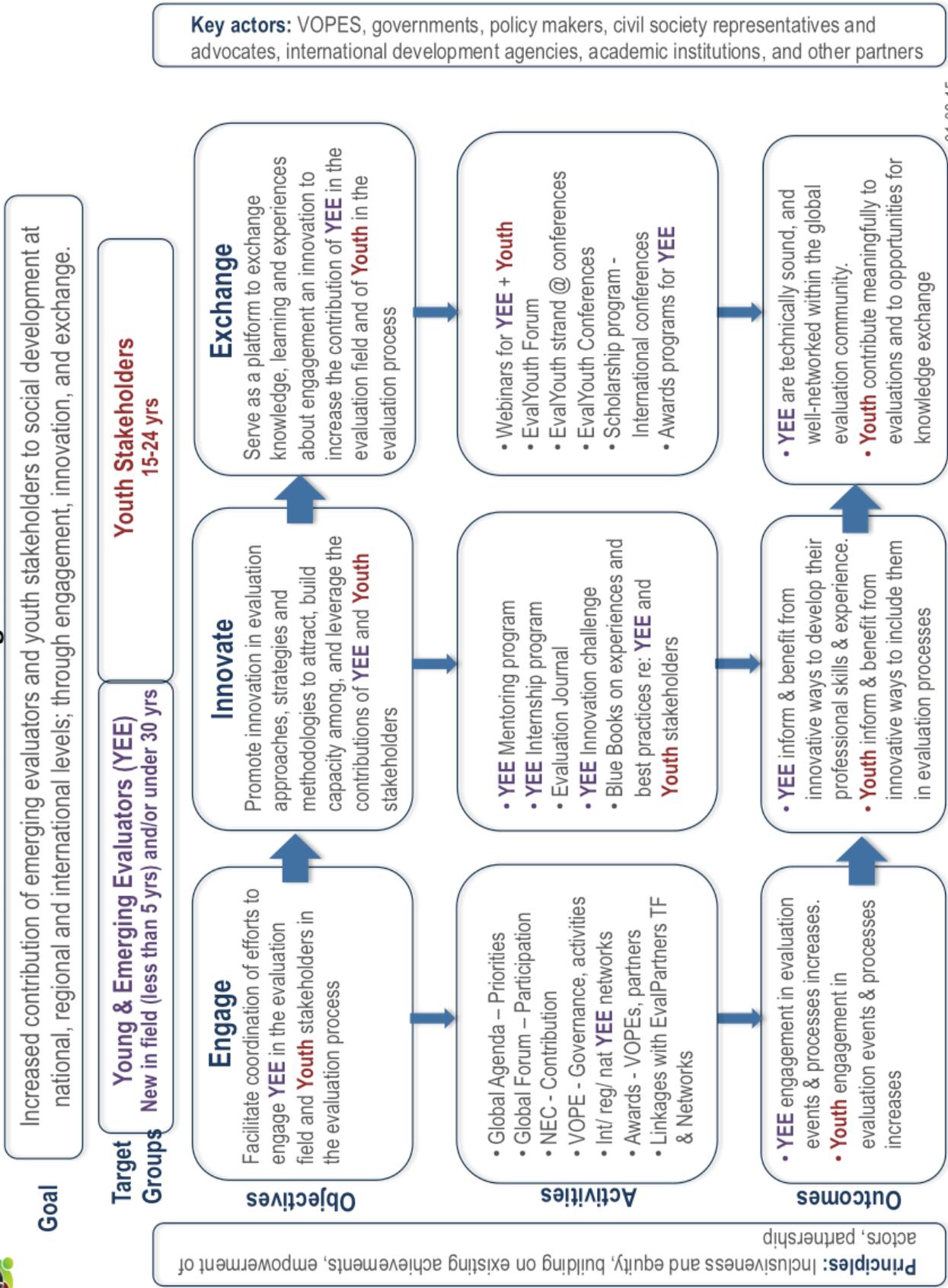
## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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## ANNEX 1 – EvalYouth Logic Model



## ANNEX 2 – Overview of EvalYouth Aims and Outputs

Project aim	Outputs
<b>ENGAGE: Impact through social mobilization</b>	
<p><b>Outcome 1</b> 1.1 Young and emerging evaluators are better engaged in the evaluation field</p> <p>1.2 Young people are better engaged in the evaluation process</p>	<p><b>Output 1.1</b> Youth component of Global Evaluation Agenda based on inputs of YEE and young people who have been involved in an evaluation process, supported by partners and ready to be implemented beyond 2015</p>
	<p><b>Output 1.2</b> Increased participation of YEE to the 2015 Global Forum</p>
	<p><b>Output 1.3</b> Increased contribution of YEE and young people who have been involved in an evaluation process to initiatives and follow up events arising from the Global Agenda</p>
	<p><b>Output 1.4</b> Recommendations for YEE participation in national evaluation capacities identified and shared with stakeholders</p>
	<p><b>Output 1.5</b> Increased involvement of YEE in VOPE governance, committees and activities</p>
	<p><b>Output 1.6</b> Promotion of networks of YEE within countries, regions and internationally</p>
	<p><b>Output 1.7</b> Recognition Awards for VOPEs and development partners for innovative initiatives engaging YEE or young people in the evaluation process</p>
	<p><b>Output 1.8</b> YEE represented in each networks and taskforces led by EvalPartners</p>
<b>INNOVATE: Impact through innovation in practice.</b>	
<p><b>Outcome 2</b> 2.1 Young and emerging evaluators benefit from innovative ways to develop their expertise</p> <p>2.2 Young people will benefit from innovative methods used to include them in the evaluation process</p>	<p><b>Output 2.1</b> Development of a YEE mentoring program</p>
	<p><b>Output 2.2</b> Development of a YEE internship program</p>
	<p><b>Output 2.3</b> Special edition/thematic sections of Evaluation Journals dedicated to YEE and Youth-Inclusive Evaluation practice</p>
	<p><b>Output 2.4</b> Innovation Challenge Program for evaluation projects mobilizing YEE expertise on information technology and communication</p>
	<p><b>Output 2.5</b> Publishing two “Blue Books” (<a href="http://www.mymande.org/selected-books">http://www.mymande.org/selected-books</a>): one on good practices and experiences engaging YEE, and the other on good Youth-Inclusive Evaluation practices</p>
<b>EXCHANGE: Impact through learning and knowledge sharing.</b>	
<p><b>Outcome 3</b> 3.1 Young and emerging evaluators are connected and contribute to the global community evaluation</p> <p>3.2 Young people are purposefully and meaningfully included in the evaluation process</p>	<p><b>Output 3.1</b> Sponsor a series a webinars targeting the needs of YEE and Youth-Inclusive Evaluation practice offered in different languages</p>
	<p><b>Output 3.2</b> “EvalYouth strand” included in conference programs of South based regional conferences (AfrEA, CoE-SA, EvalMENA, IPEN, ReLAC, RFE)</p>
	<p><b>Output 3.3</b> Organization of two “EvalYouth conferences”: one virtual (2016), one face-to-face (2017)</p>
	<p><b>Output 3.4</b> Increased participation by YEE from ODA countries in major evaluation conference through a scholarship program</p>
	<p><b>Output 3.5</b> Optimization of the EvalYouth Forum and other communication channels with the global community;</p>
	<p><b>Output 3.6</b> Implementation of an awards program (innovative contribution to the evaluation field, best evaluation report, best paper accepted in a peer-review journal, best thematic paper by an university student, innovative contribution to Youth-Inclusive Evaluation)</p>

