

## VOPE Toolkit Theory of Change

In order to articulate the VOPE Toolkit Theory of Change, it is important to review EvalPartners' Theory of Change. The high-Level Logic Model for EvalPartners is depicted below, and the role of the VOPE toolkit as one of the activities aimed to strengthen country and regional VOPEs is noted.<sup>1</sup>

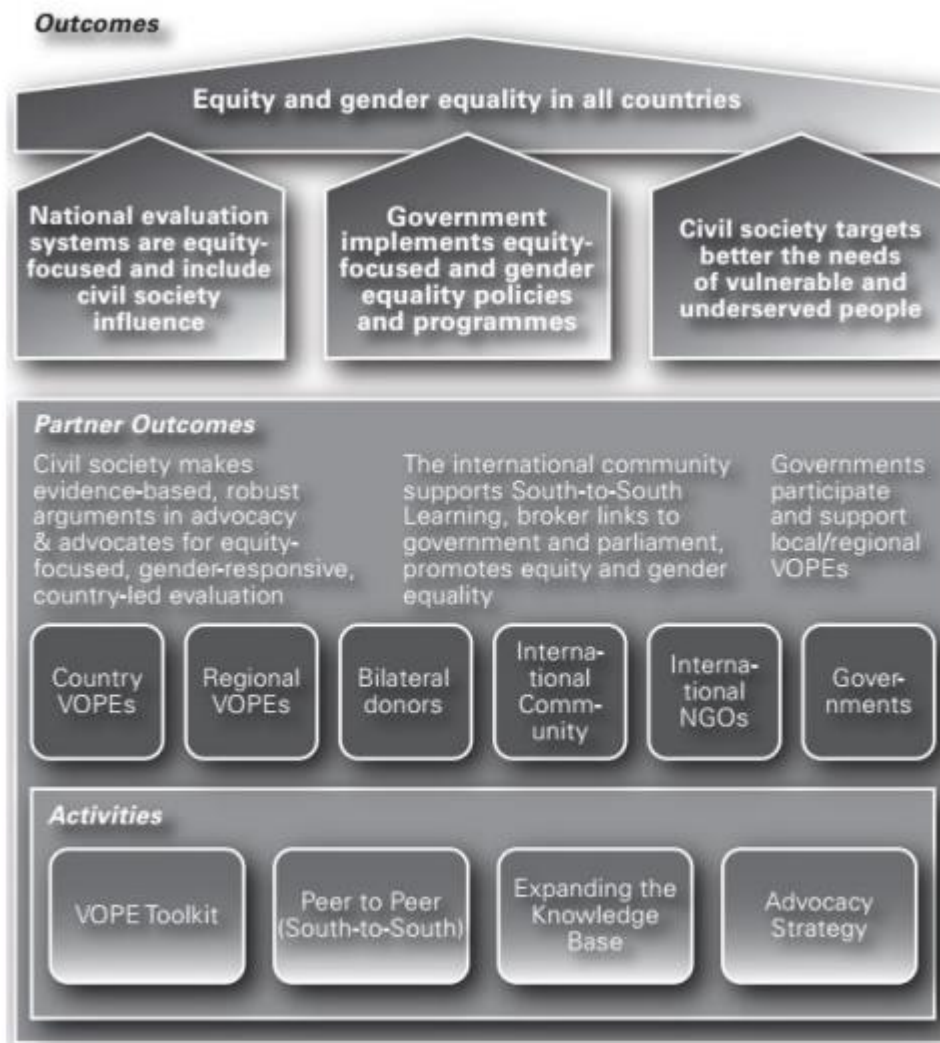


Figure 1: High-Level Logic Model for EvalPartners

Attuned Research and Evaluation and Basi Consulting Group Inc. (2015).<sup>1</sup> Evaluation of EvalPartners. February 2015 page 11. Accessed online on 20 October 2015 at: [http://www.portail-rfe.org/sites/default/files/EvalPartners-Evaluation-Full-Report-\(2015-02-03\).pdf](http://www.portail-rfe.org/sites/default/files/EvalPartners-Evaluation-Full-Report-(2015-02-03).pdf)

A recent Evaluation of EvalPartners, (quoting Marco Segone and Jim Rugh, Evaluation and Civil Society: Stakeholders' Perspectives on National Evaluation Capacity Development, n.d ) describes the overall EvalPartners Theory of Change as follows:

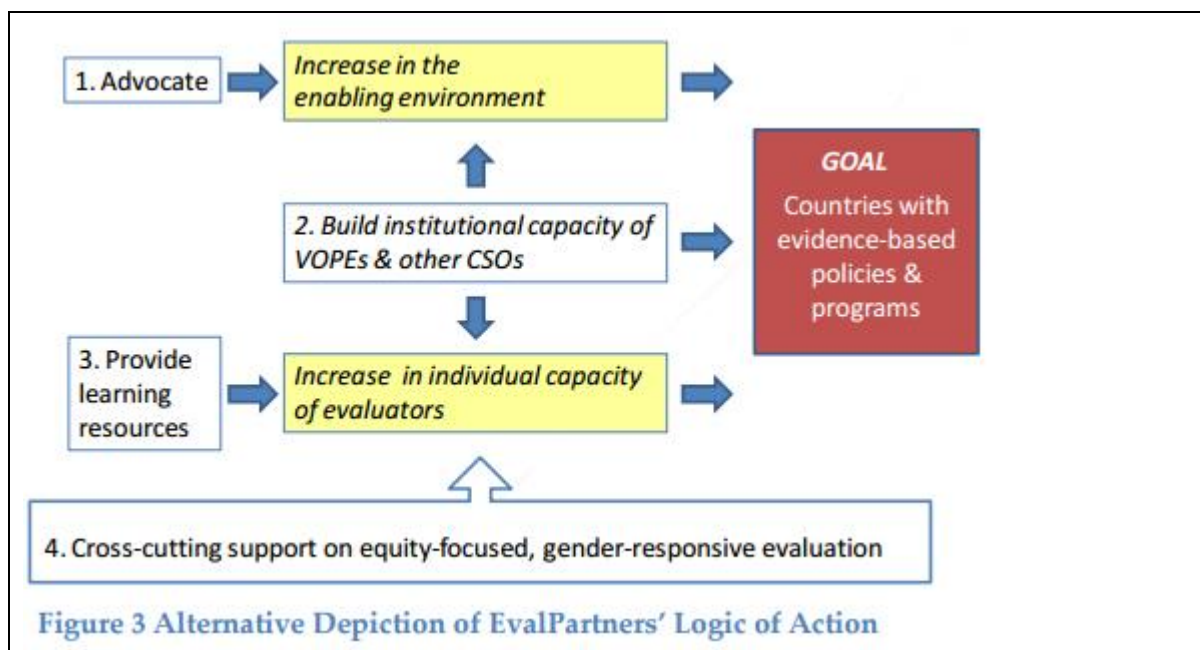
The theory of change underlying the logic model, consists of two key element: The first is a theory about the contextual dynamics, and the second is a theory about how to positively influence these dynamics. Both of these focus on evaluation at the national level with the goal of building overall national evaluation capacity.

**Contextual Dynamics as Described by the Theory-of-Change:**

National evaluation capacity has both a demand element and a supply element. On the demand side, government officials and other key actors delivering programs should ideally appreciate and demand evaluation, and beyond this, the public plays an active role within democracy to demand transparency and hold their office bearers to account. On the other hand, the supply side means that those providing an evaluation function can produce relevant, high-quality evaluations. A country can be in one of four categories, as shown in Figure 2. The objective of increasing the quality and trustworthiness of the evidence, coupled with an enabling policy environment, is expected to result in state in which both demand and supply capacity provide the foundation for the virtuous circle.

**Action Component of the Theory-of-Change**

This component focuses on how EvalPartners is intended to influence the national dynamic, both directly through advocacy and expanding the knowledge base, and indirectly through its engagement with VOPEs and other boundary actors. The theory-of-change posits that strengthening the use of evaluation must happen at three levels: enabling environment, institutional and individual. The logic model provides a depiction of the action component of the theory-of-change. Although EvalPartners' activities expanded beyond those mentioned in the logic model, the three-level capacity building model still encapsulates these expanded activities. Figure 3 below provides an alternative visualization of this model, including this broader categorization plus the acknowledgement that EvalPartners explicitly focuses on supporting equity-focused and gender-responsive evaluation. The other difference in this depiction is that the ultimate goal is to support countries to arrive at the 'virtuous circle' category, rather than to support equity and gender equality in all countries as per the logic model. This alternative depiction is included here as this was the way the evaluation team most clearly understood the program logic in action during the evaluation – a working model. It is not posited as a permanent alternative to the logic model, as updating the logic model is an exercise best undertaken by EvalPartners themselves, as an internal exercise.

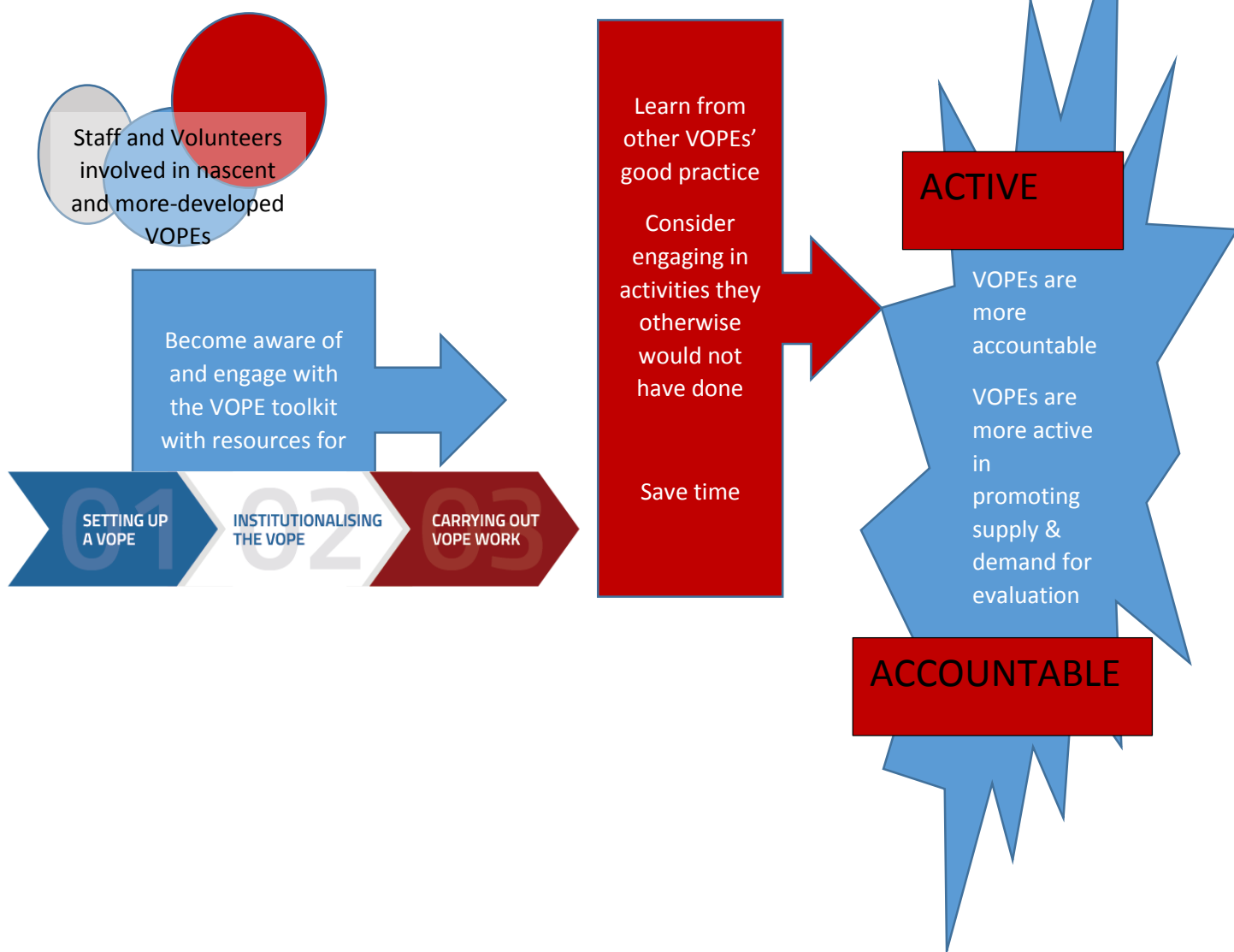


Within this description, the VOPE Toolkit can be seen to contribute towards the development of VOPEs as institutions. Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of VOPEs, is one of four streams of Activities that EvalPartners engaged upon. The following table from the EvalPartners Evaluation (2015)<sup>2</sup> provides an overview of the other strands of activities.

Levels:	Key Actors	Key Initiatives:
<b>Enabling Environment</b>	Enabling Environment Task Force EP Coordinators Knowledge Management & Communications Task Force (also cross-cutting)	Advocacy Strategy Advocacy Toolkit Promotion of 2015 as EvalYear Parliamentarians' Initiative Mapping of National Evaluation Policies P2P Grants Related to Advocacy Innovation Challenge Grants Related to Advocacy
<b>Institutional Capacity Development</b>	EP Coordinators Institutional Toolkit Task Force P2P Task Force	VOPE Mapping Exercise and VOPE case studies Institutional Capacity Toolkit P2P Grants
<b>Individual Capacity Development</b>	EvalPartners' leadership Claremont University P2P Task force	Webinars and E-learning Resources on My M&E website P2P Grants Focused on Individual Capacity Building
<b>Equity-focused, gender-responsive</b>	Equity-focused, Gender Responsive Task force (also cross-cutting)	Webinar series on Gender-Responsive Evaluation Gender review of EvalPartners materials Innovation Challenge grants on gender-related evaluation approaches

<sup>2</sup> Table 2: Main activities undertaken by EvalPartners, *Evaluation of EvalPartners*, Attuned Research and Evaluation & Basi Consulting Group Inc. Final Version February 3, 2015 p 37-8.

The VOPE toolkit, specifically, aims to make resources available to help staff and board members involved with VOPEs to make their VOPEs more accountable, and more active. If National and Regional VOPEs' staff and volunteers become aware of the toolkit (through championing activities and linking with other EvalPartners initiatives), they may engage with the online toolkit which contains resources to help with setting up a VOPE, institutionalize the VOPE, and to carry out VOPE specific work. This engagement may lead the staff and volunteers to learn from other VOPEs' good practice, motivate the staff to start engaging with VOPE activities they did not consider before, and help them to save time. Ultimately this may lead towards more accountable National and Regional VOPEs who are able to better promote the supply and demand for evaluation.



## Key Performance Indicators, Targets and Measures

Results Hierarchy	Indicator	Target	Measure
Activity	Championing Activities	10 per year	Count of Championing Activities by Toolkit Taskforce
Output	Number of Unique Visitors (excluding Bounce Rate)	500 per year	Google Analytics Measure of Unique & Returning Visitors
Outcome	Number of new and more developed VOPEs that report Learning from other VOPEs' good practice	10 per year	Online Toolkit Use Survey sent to all IOCE listed VOPE contacts
Outcome	Number of new and more developed VOPEs that report engaging in activities they otherwise would not have done	10 per year	Online Toolkit Use Survey sent to all IOCE listed VOPE contacts
Outcome	Number of new and more developed VOPEs that Saving time	10 per year	Online Toolkit Use Survey sent to all IOCE listed VOPE contacts