

Jindra Monique Čekan/ová, Ph.D.

Valuing Voices: Sustainable Solutions for Excellent Impact at Cekan Consulting LLC

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EXPERTISE:

Political Economist. Jindra Čekan/ová, Ph.D. has used participatory methods for 30 years to connect with participants and policy makers, ranging from villagers to ministers in Africa, Central/ Latin America and the Balkans. Their knowledge has informed **monitoring and evaluation for strategic planning content, project design, organizational knowledge management and learning**. She has also led **assessments, baselines and final evaluations, and especially *sustained and emerging impacts evaluations***. She has a focus on **food security/ livelihoods and gender**. Dr. Čekan/ová founded her firm 15 years ago, serving international development clients in 28 countries, including government, foundations, non-profit and for-profit enterprises. **She founded Valuing Voices, the evaluation and advocacy network in 2013 for post-project sustained and emerging impacts evaluations.**

REGIONS:

- **Africa: Anglophone:** Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. **Francophone:** Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Senegal;
- **Latin America/ Caribbean:** Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras and Peru;
- **Europe:** Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Kosovo, Macedonia, United Kingdom.

EDUCATION:

- **Ph.D. / M.A.L.D.** The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, 1994, 1990. Thesis: 'Listening to One's Clients' a Political Analysis of Mali's Famine Early Warning Systems"
- **University of Cambridge, Research Associate (UK) and Pew Charitable Trust Fellow** 1992-5
- **B.A.** Gettysburg College: Economics and Political Science, 1983
- **e-Certified Knowledge Professional** certificate from Knowledge Management Institute, 2011

Languages: Bilingual English and Czech (FSI 5/5), proficient French (FSI 4S/3R), basic Spanish (FS1)

Dual Citizenship: USA and Czech Republic (EU). Mother of two sons, living in Prague 2017-20

Post-Project Sustained and Emerging Impacts Evaluation, and Monitoring & Evaluation/ Learning

Valuing Voices Catalyst for self-Sustainable Development and President 2013-present
Sustainable community- and national-evaluator led design/evaluation technical expert and team leader.

1) **USAID E3 Basic Education: Management Systems International Case Study Research Lead, Ex-post Evaluation (Uganda) 2016-17**

Designing, managing and implementing an evaluation of sustained outcomes of USAID-funded project in Uganda, leading 4 researchers and experts with Palladium, part of a 4 country comparative study

2) **Catholic Relief Services Team Lead, Ex-post Sustainability Evaluation (Africa) 2016**

Leading team of qualitative and quantitative evaluators to assess sustainability of an African project targeting 100,000 people. Evaluating sustained and emerging impact of agriculture and livelihoods.

3) **Catholic Relief Services: Post-Project Evaluation Consultant: (Niger) 2015**

A mixed-method post-project [evaluation, three-years post-project](#) closeout of CRS Niger's Nutritional and Food Security Program (PROSAN). Researched sustained outcomes, uptake by national partners and unexpected impacts among participants of this highly sustainable food security/ resilience project.

4) **Federation of the Red Cross/ Red Crescent: M&E and Sustainability Consultant (Ethiopia) 2014**

Evaluated Ethiopian Red Cross' Society (ERCS) food security project in Tigray on credit, health knowledge, NRM by gender for impact and sustainability. Created self-sustainability processes with communities and ERCS.

5) **Lutheran World Relief (LWR): Participatory Rural Appraisal M&E Consultant (Niger) 2006-10**

Created, conducted community-based participatory M&E system assessment and evaluation for Gates Foundation-funded drought relief for 4,000 women's pastoralists. Published in [PLA Notes](#).

USAID PPL/LER (Policy, Planning, Learning Bureau, Office of Learning Evaluation and Research) Organizational Learning Direct Consultant (DC) 2012-2013

Supported Organizational Learning at USAID/ HQ and field. Designed and trained team in Appreciative Inquiry (AI) process doing 100+ qualitative interviews of USAID/ HQ staff technical and regional learning products and processes adapting AI to [Discovery, Design, Discussion, Dissemination and Determination](#).

Also did qualitative interviews with 22 Missions, wrote up M&E and Learning best practices on evaluation and performance monitoring platform contracts, sharing findings. [Discussion note](#) on M&E Platforms 2013

Global Giving Consultant for Well-constructed Collaborative Experiments (DC) 2014

Created and led session for 30 staff based on surveys, interviews on research methods for development.

ITECS Innovative Consulting, Project design/ Evaluation Consultant (East Africa) 2012-present

Project design/ proposal development consultant to ITECS, providing technical advice for Maternal Child Health linking, African NGOs, a large international for-profit medical device corp and US donors.

Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, KM Strategic Planning Consultant (DC) 2012

Reviewed current KM strategic plan, did interviews with senior HQ and international staff, analyzed findings and made a wide number of recommendations to become a premier Learning Organization.

TOPS/ Food Security and Nutrition Network, Knowledge Sharing Consultant (DC) 2012

Did 20 qualitative surveys, analysis and wrote five briefs on knowledge sharing about programming, learning, incentives and knowledge supports among 11 int'l non-profits mostly using USG Title II funding. Co-presented findings at the World Bank KM conference with Joan Whelan of TOPS/ FSNN, June 2012.

InterMedia, Health Policy Researcher (DC, Global) 2012

In-depth qualitative interviews on international health policy with 12 African, Asian and American senior experts and policy makers for The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Wrote up key findings for report.

World Vision: Food Security/ Livelihoods and Health and Hope Strategic Planning Consultant 2011

Created a retreat agenda and facilitated meetings and the retreat for first the Livelihoods then the Health and Hope strategic planning processes.

OIC International Food Security, Strategic Planning Consultant (DC, W. Africa) 2010-11, 13-14

Assisted OIC with strategic planning around their food security, agriculture/ livelihoods and vocational training portfolio in Africa. Surveyed field programs, met with senior management and staff to revise materials, focus sectoral programming. Recommended knowledge sharing process with donors and foundations. Drafted two concept papers for Africa. Won \$1million grant from WalMart for African retail vocational training with African Affiliates in 2014.

Johns Hopkins University Knowledge for Health, Evaluation Consultant (DC, Global) 2010

Created and led team to research existing eLearning practices for public health, analyze existing data from 35 international public health eLearning courses, survey a subset of 15,000 eLearning users.

Developed a comprehensive strategy for evaluating eLearning, focusing on African health eLearners.

InterMedia AudienceScapes, M&E Consultant (DC, Africa) 2010

Analyzed and revised questionnaire, two field reports, wrote an interview protocol to assist the Gates Foundation to know how high-level policy makers in Ghana, Kenya and Zambia access, learn from and disseminate policy information. Integrated gender into questionnaire, analysed data and wrote report.

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Sanitation & Hygiene Advocacy, Researcher (World) 2009

Created and lead team of seven to research and evaluate advocacy around sanitation and hygiene in 10 countries in Africa and Asia, Europe and the US. Our team interviewed 103 public, non-profit and private key informants to inform Foundation and partners' priorities. Wrote recommendations including gender analysis in report and did presentation to key Gates Seattle staff with G. McAuliffe (Data Harvest).

FOOD SECURITY/ LIVELIHOODS (Program Design, NGO capacity building, Proposals)

The Mitchell Group, Proposal Writing and Technical Manager Consultant (US) 2015-16

Wrote/ won proposal and technically managed Food Security Midterm Evaluation in Zimbabwe.

The Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa, *Technical Consultant* (DC) 2011
Wrote about Feed the Future's measurement criteria and USAID's learning prospects for a white paper for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

SSG Advisors, *KM/Learning and Food Security Proposal Consultant* (US) 2013
Led proposal design team for USAID Knowledge Driven Agricultural Development's RFP.

Women Thrive Worldwide, *Food Security/ Gender Policy Consultant* (World) 2011
Consultant and acting Director for agriculture/ food security and gender policy advice, including input to the US government on gender monitoring and evaluation for food security in Africa's CAADP/ Feed the Future, writing policy briefs, representing WTW at US Agency for International Development events.

Mercy Corps, *Agriculture/ Livelihoods Proposal Writer/ Technical Reviewer* (E. Africa) 2008, 2009
Reviewed and rewrote two successful Food For Peace MYAP proposals with IMC for Uganda and Congo (>\$10 mil) and with Land O'Lakes in Malawi. Built NGO staff capacity in the field for proposal writing in agriculture, livelihoods and capacity building.

World Vision SP&NK ICB Evaluation & Assessment, *Consultant* (DC, Global) 2008
Evaluated impact of the Specialized Programming and New Knowledge training and work-plan process including staff's knowledge of many sectors of food security programming and how well the SP&NK project supported staff's international cross fertilization and sharing of promising best practices. This covered 26 participants from 10 programs worldwide plus HQ staff.

Congressional Hunger Center, *Training Advisor* (DC, Global) 2007-2009
Training Advisor for Leland class of 2007-09, providing fellows mentoring and information on key food security issues and training. Part-time, led two 10-day Leland International Hunger Fellow trainings on anti-hunger programming and policy, identified speakers and coordinated trainers.

Save the Children USA, *Consultant/ Principal Interviewer and Evaluator* (Africa) 2005-2006
Facilitated the Integration of Food Security and HIV/AIDS and gave technical assistance in East and Southern Africa on integrating sectors' care & support. Reviewed 20 USAID and private projects, interviewed staff about project integration of food aid, HIV/AIDS, recommended joint knowledge sharing.

Geneva Global, *Grant Writer* (Ethiopia and Ivory Coast) 2006
Wrote two successful PEPFAR HIV/AIDS New Partner's Initiative grant proposals for capacity building and prevention/ care with US and African staff totaling \$12 million. Trained field staff.

Aga Khan Foundation, *Food Aid Consultant* (Mali, Tajikistan, Afghanistan) 2006-2008
Managed three USDA food aid monetization grants totaling \$30 million for milk and development programming in Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Mali. Oversaw monetization of 19,500 mt of milk for distribution to schools. Streamlined and improved project design and trained staff in project M&E.

Lutheran World Relief (LWR), *Participatory Rural Appraisal M&E Consultant*(Niger)2006-2008, 2010
Created, conducted community-based participatory M&E system assessment and evaluation for Gates Foundation-funded drought relief for 4,000 women's pastoralists on sheep restocking, wells, fodder and transhumance. Trained local staff in PRA process in French and wrote up RRA recommendations. Special focus on impact of program on women and equitable livelihoods. Published article in [PLA Notes](#).
Advised the agency on a potential value-chain evaluation research in West Africa with CATIE/ Ford Foundation. Reviewed technical documents, attended meetings, made recommendations.

North American Miller's Association (NAMA), *Food Aid Consultant* (Ethiopia, Kenya) 2006
With manufacturer's representative, arranged visits with 12 PVO offices in East Africa, discussed how to improve commodity management and food aid quality, especially in light of HIV/AIDS.

SUSTAIN, *Researcher/Consultant* (World) 2004-2006
Assessed the quality, expectations and preferences for food aid for those infected/affected by HIV/AIDS, malnourished mothers/children and refugees. Designed and analyzed survey from 30 NGO and UN field programs in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Coordinated USAID/USDA, food industry and sci. experts.

American Red Cross, *International Services Head of Food Security Unit* (World) 1999-2003
Created first 'food security strategy' for ARC within Technical Assistance, Planning and Evaluation section of International Development with sectoral foci: agricultural recovery, health/nutrition, water/sanitation and safety nets. Created Red-Cross-wide tools/ systems for food security project design, proposals and commodity management. Managed ARC's first ISA \$500,000 grant from USAID to improve 8 programs' food security best practices. As leader or member of grant writing teams, won over \$5 million in US Government (USAID, USDA, CDC) and Red Cross Federation/ICRC. Seconded to Kosovo 1999-2000.

Catholic Relief Services, *Head of Food Security Unit* (World) 1995–1999, 2005
Created first conceptual food security framework covering the agriculture/ livelihoods, health, micro-enterprise, safety net, education and emergency sectors. Provided technical assistance and capacity building to field offices using food aid in 14 counties and trained over 200 international staff in person and by communities of practice. Special focus on female-headed households in safety net programs.

Co-led grant-writing team that won grants totaling over \$30 million in US government grants and co-managed \$4 million of USAID ISA grant to CRS worldwide food security programming.

Other work: Salomon Brothers Financial Analyst NY 1984-1989, Nigerian Diocese of Ilorin 1987

GRANTS/ UNIVERSITY TEACHING/ FELLOWSHIPS:

- * **Michael Scriven's Faster Forward Fund post-project evaluation research grant** 2017
- * **The Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy, Tufts University (USA)** 1994
Adjunct Asst Prof of Politics
- * **Harvard University (USA)**
Head Teaching Assistant, Faculty of Arts & Sci. Fall 1992-94, Spring 92 1992-1994
- * **PhD Fellowships: African Studies Centre, University of Cambridge, UK (1990-91), Pew Charitable Trust (1990-92), The Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy (1990, 1993-94)**

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS/ BOARD MEMBERSHIPS, HONORS:

- KUSARD (Kenya Relief and Development NGO), Fletcher School Boards 2004-2017
- Washington (Buddhist) Mindfulness Community Board of Directors 1998 and 2015-17
- Member of American, European and Czech Evaluation Associations
- Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University Faculty of Arts & Sciences (based on student evaluations, in top 5% of Harvard's 1,000 Teaching Assistants 1993-94)

SAMPLE of PUBLICATIONS/ PRESENTATIONS

- "[Building the evidence base for post-project evaluation](#)" Report to Scriven's Faster Forward Fund (2017)
- University of Toronto Evaluation Centre M&E Speaker on [Sustained and Emerging Impacts](#) (2017)
- Webinar for DME for Peace: "[Built to last? Embedding sustainability in the project cycle](#)" [Recording here](#), (2017)
- [European Evaluation Society and American Evaluation Association and CARE/Africa Conferences \(2016\)](#) Global Policy Journal "[How to Foster Sustainability](#)" (2016)
- Stanford Social Innovation Review "[When Funders Move On](#)", Sirius XM Radio/ U Penn Wharton Business School "[Social Impact' on Dollars and Change](#)" and American Evaluation Association AEA365 "[Evaluation and Sustainability](#)" (2015)
- American Evaluation Association "[Furthering Community self-Sustainability of our Projects](#)" (2014)
- USAID's PPL/LER "Monitoring And Evaluation Platforms: Considerations for Design and Implementation Based on a Survey of Current Practices" [Discussion Note](#) (key researcher), "Increasing Nigerian women's incomes, increasing peace: triangulation and unexpected results, Lutheran World Relief's ARVIP project" PLA Notes- IIED UK <http://pubs.iied.org/14620IIED.html> (2013)
- "Appreciative Strategic Planning at World Vision USA" [Axiom News](#) and "One Chance to Get it Right: 7 Key Pillars for Achieving Food Security" for Women Thrive <http://womenthrive.org/images/7key-pillars.pdf> (2011)

More about our vision, mission, and work at: www.ValuingVoices.com.

References available upon request.