

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 learn from participants and policy makers, ranging from villagers and foreign aid implementers to ministers in Africa, Central/ Latin America and the Balkans. Their knowledge has shaped her expertise in **proposal funding, technical reviews, project design, monitoring and evaluation, strategic planning and lately, Sustained and Emerging Impacts Evaluations. Sectorally she focuses on food security, livelihoods and gender.** Dr. Čekan/ová founded her consulting firm 16 years ago, serving global development clients in 28 countries, including government, foundations, non-profits and for-profits and is currently focused on post-project (ex-post) evaluation through [Valuing Voices](#).

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** 1990-92
- **B.A.** Gettysburg College: Economics and Political Science 1983
- **e-Certified Knowledge Professional** certificate from Knowledge Management Institute 2011
- **Impact Investing** course, iix Impact Institute 2018

REGIONAL EXPERTISE:

- **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.

Languages: Bilingual English & Czech (FSI 5/5), proficient French (FSI 4S/3R), basic Spanish (FS1)
Dual Citizenship: USA and Czech Republic (EU).

SUSTAINABILITY EVALUATIONS: Sustained and Emerging Impacts Ex-Post Project & Projected Sustainability

Valuing Voices at Cekan Consulting LLC Catalyst/ President 2013-present
Sustainable Solutions for Excellent Impacts. Research, Monitoring and Evaluations, Publications, Presentations in US, Europe and Africa, blog, research and publications: <http://www.valuingvoices.com/>

USAID E3 Basic Education, Management Systems International Case Study Research Lead, Ex-post Evaluation (Uganda) 2016-17
Designed, managed and implemented an evaluation of sustained outcomes of USAID-funded project in Uganda, leading four researchers and experts with Palladium, part of a four-country comparative study

Catholic Relief Services Team Lead, Ex-post Sustainability Evaluation (Zimbabwe) 2016
Led 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

Catholic Relief Services, Post-Project Evaluation Consultant (Niger) 2015
Led 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

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. Led team of six, trained staff, led presentations at meetings with 50 stakeholders. Led ex-post self-sustainability inquiry with communities and ERCS.

Lutheran World Relief, *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, final evaluation 6 months after closeout with lessons about sustainability and unexpected outcomes. Published in IIED's [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.

GLOBAL CONSULTING: Strategic Planning, Design, Technical aid, M&E, Knowledge Mgmt

CEKAN CONSULTING LLC *President/ Founder* (USA and Czech Republic) 2002-present
Founded consulting firm, creating and leading teams to serve global client technical assistance needs

USAID PPL/LER (Policy, Planning, Learning Bureau, Office of Learning Evaluation and Research), *Organizational Learning Direct Consultant* (USA) 2012-13
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](#)
Designed and did qualitative interviews with 22 Missions, wrote up M&E and Learning report on best practices on evaluation and performance monitoring platform contracts. [Discussion note](#) 2013

Global Giving *Consultant, Well-constructed Collaborative Evaluative Experiments* (USA) 2014
Created and led session for 30 staff based on surveys, interviews on research methods

ITECS Innovative Consulting, *Project Design/ Evaluation Consultant* (East Africa) 2012-14
Consulted on project design/ proposal development, providing technical advice for Maternal Child Health linking, African NGOs, a large international for-profit medical device corporation and US donors

Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, *KM Strategic Planning Consultant* (USA) 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 great learning organization

TOPS/ Food Security and Nutrition Network, *Knowledge Sharing Consultant* (USA) 2012
M&E survey and analysis, documenting knowledge for improved programming, learning and incentives by 11 global non-profits using USAID Title II funding. Co-presented findings at the World Bank

InterMedia, *Health Policy Evaluative Researcher* (USA, Global) 2012
Interviewed 12 African, Asian and American senior experts and policy makers on international health policy for The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Wrote up key findings for report

World Vision, Food Security/ Livelihoods, Health & Hope *Strategic Planning Consultant* 2011
Designed strategic planning processes and facilitated retreat for Livelihoods and Health & Hope teams.

Johns Hopkins University Knowledge for Health, *Evaluation Consultant* (USA, Global) 2010
Led research team to improve 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, globally and for Africa

InterMedia AudienceScapes, *M&E Consultant* (USA, Africa) 2010
M&E analysis for the Gates Foundation among high-level policy makers in Ghana, Kenya and Zambia. Integrated gender into questionnaire, analyzed data and wrote recommendations report

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Sanitation & Hygiene Advocacy, *Researcher* (World) 2009
Created and led team to evaluate advocacy around sanitation and hygiene in 10 countries. Over 100 interviews of senior public, non-profit and industry experts to inform Foundation and partners' priorities. Recommendations including gender analysis. Presented to key Foundation HQ staff with Data Harvest

World Vision, SP&NK ICB Evaluation & Assessment, *Consultant* (USA, Global) 2008
Evaluated impact of the training and work-plan process including staff's food security knowledge, including international cross fertilization and best practices from 10 global programs plus HQ staff

FOOD SECURITY/ LIVELIHOODS: Program Design, NGO Capacity Building, Proposals

The Mitchell Group, *Proposal Writing and Technical Manager Consultant* (USA) 2015-16
Wrote/ won proposal and technically managed \$400K Food Security Midterm Evaluation in Zimbabwe

OIC International Food Security, *Strategic Planning Consultant* (USA, W. Africa) 2010-11, 2013
Led strategic planning for OIC's African food security, agriculture/ livelihoods and vocational training portfolio Recommended revising materials and focus programming
Won \$1million grant from Walmart for African retail vocational training with African Affiliates 2014

The Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa, *Technical Consultant* (USA) 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

Women Thrive Worldwide, *Food Security/ Gender Policy Consultant* (World) 2011
Acting Director for Agriculture/ food security and gender policy advice. Provided feedback to the US government on gender monitoring and evaluation for food security. Wrote briefs, represented WTW

Mercy Corps, *Agriculture/ Livelihoods Proposal Writer/ Technical Reviewer* (Africa) 2008, 09
Reviewed and won two successful Food For Peace MYAP proposals with IMC for Uganda and Congo (>\$10 mil) and Land O'Lakes in Malawi. Built NGO staff capacity in agriculture and livelihoods

Congressional Hunger Center, *Training Advisor* (USA, Global) 2007-09
Training Advisor for Leland class of 2007-09, providing mentoring and led Leland International Hunger Fellow trainings on anti-hunger programming and policy

Save the Children USA, *Consultant/ Principal Interviewer and Evaluator* (Africa) 2005-06
Facilitated the Integration of Food Security and HIV/AIDS. Gave technical assistance in East and Southern Africa to integrate of food aid and HIV/AIDS, made knowledge sharing recommendations.

Aga Khan Foundation, *Food Aid Consultant* (Mali, Tajikistan, Afghanistan) 2006-08
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

SUSTAIN, *Researcher/Consultant* (World) 2004-06
Assessed the quality, expectations and preferences for food aid for those infected/affected by HIV/AIDS, plus malnourished mothers/children and refugees. Designed and analyzed survey from 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) 1999-03
Created food security strategy for AmCross within Technical Assistance, Planning and Evaluation section of International Development (agricultural recovery, health/nutrition, water/sanitation and safety nets). Created Red-Cross-wide tools/ systems for food security project design, proposals and commodity management, did training. Won over \$5 million in US Government grants (USAID, USDA). Seconded to Red Cross Federation/ ICRC in Kosovo 1999-2000

Catholic Relief Services, *Head of Food Security Unit* (World) 1995-99, 2005
Created first food security framework (agriculture/ livelihoods, health, micro-enterprise, safety net, education and emergency). Provided technical assistance and capacity building on food aid to 14 field offices. Trained over 200 international staff in person and communities of practice
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

Ilorin Diocese Succeeded in 60% of 50 grants for Cardinal Onaiyekan for Nigerian projects 1987

CORPORATE: Forestry, Consulting and Investment Banking

[Lesy čekanová](#), *Owner and CEO* of 535-hectare forest (Czech Republic) 1995-present

North American Miller's Association (NAMA), *Food Aid Quality Consultant* (Ethiopia, Kenya) 2006
Shaped food aid production for HIV/AIDS through visiting 12 non-profit offices in East Africa with NAMA

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| Geneva Global, Grant Writer Consultant (Ethiopia and Ivory Coast) | 2006 |
| Wrote successful \$12 million grant for Geneva Global investors for USAID on PEPFAR HIV/AIDS | |
| Price Waterhouse, Privatization Management Consultant (Czech Republic) | 1991 |
| Analyzed and informed privatization recommendations for Technomat's machinery export firm | |
| Coopers & Lybrand, Management Consultant Intern (NY headquarters, USA) | 1990 |
| Analyzed SmartTrip prospects, including lessons from global comparisons | |
| Salomon Brothers Corporate Finance Analyst (NY headquarters, USA) | |
| Data analysis & Graphics analyst, for Mergers & Acquisitions and other investment advice | 1984-89 |

GRANTS/ UNIVERSITY TEACHING/ FELLOWSHIPS:

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| * 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 | |
| | 1992-94 |
| * PhD Fellowships: African Studies Centre, University of Cambridge, UK | 1990-91 |
| * Pew Charitable Trust and The Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy Fellowships | 1990-2, 1993-4 |

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS and BOARD MEMBERSHIPS and HONORS:

- [University of Cambridge Advisory Mentor](#) for the Queen's Young Leaders and University of Cambridge in the Czech Republic Alumni Association 2018
- [KUSARD, Decent Living](#) (Kenyan NGO Board Advisor and donor) 2004-18
- **The Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy** DC Board and Speaker 2014-17
- **Washington Mindfulness Community** (Buddhist) Board of Directors 1998 and 2015-17
- **American, European and Czech Evaluation Associations** member and speaker 2005-present
- **Harvard University** Faculty of Arts & Sciences Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, based on student evaluations, in top 5% of Harvard's 1,000 Teaching Assistants 1993-94

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS and PRESENTATIONS

Publications:

- "[Impact Investing – International Development's New Holy Grail?](#)" Medium 2018
- "[Valuing Voices: Why the 2030 Agenda Starts with 'Them'](#)" Transformations Forum 2018
- "[Building the evidence base for post-project evaluation](#)" Report to Scriven's Faster Forward Fund 2017
- "[Living a Well-Meaning Lie: Valuing All Voices?](#)" Solutions Journal 2017
- "[How to Foster Sustainability](#)" Global Policy Journal 2016
- [Sustained and Emerging Impacts Evaluations new](#) Better Evaluation Theme 2016
- "[When Funders Move On](#)" Stanford Social Innovation Review (SSIR) 2015
- "[Appreciative Strategic Planning at World Vision USA](#)" Axiom News 2014
- "[One Chance to Get it Right: 7 Key Pillars for Achieving Food Security](#)" Women Thrive 2011
- "[A Wealth of Knowledge: Case Studies from PVO's Most Precious Assets](#)" Mon Developmt 2008
- "[Rapid Rural Appraisal/ Participatory Rural Appraisal Manual](#) Catholic Relief Services Editor and food security participatory tools writer 2008

Presentations:

- Federation of the Red Cross, Red Crescent "[Sustained and Emerging Impacts](#)" Powerpoint 2018
 - USAID Local Systems Community Speaker '[Sustainable Development? Prove It! Improve it!](#)' 2017
 - University of Toronto Evaluation Centre M&E Speaker "[Sustained and Emerging Impacts](#)" 2017
 - "[Built to last? Embedding sustainability in the project cycle](#)" DME for Peace [Recording](#) 2017
 - CARE's East, Central and Southern Africa (ECASA) Regional Conference Speaker 2016
 - Dollars and Change, Sirius XM Radio/ U Penn Wharton Business School "[Social Impact](#)" 2015
- Our vision, mission, blogs and work at: www.ValuingVoices.com.*