

Jindra Monique Čekan/ová, Ph.D.

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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 33 years to learn from participants and policy makers, ranging from villagers and foreign aid implementers to ministers in Africa, Central/ Latin America, the Balkans, and Asia. Their knowledge has informed **monitoring and evaluation for strategic planning content, project design, organizational knowledge management and** she created **Sustained and Emerging Impacts Evaluations at Valuing Voices**. Sectorally, she **focuses on food security, livelihoods, and gender**. Dr. Čekan/ová founded her consultancy 20 years ago, serving international development clients in 28 countries, including government, foundations, non-profit and for-profit enterprises. **She founded Valuing Voices in 2013, that researches, evaluates, and advocates for ex-post-project sustained and emerging impacts.** Co-founded **SDG INGO/ Impact Investor work** <http://www.ImpactGuild.org>

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;
- **Asia:** India

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"
- **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 Exit Strategies

Valuing Voices *Catalyst for self-Sustainable Development and President* 2013-present

Technical Evaluation Reference Group of the Adaptation Fund, *Ex-post sustainability evaluation consultant* 2021-present

Team Lead research and development of a framework to conduct ex-post evaluations. Shortlisting evaluable projects as pilots for ex-post evaluation, Four [ex-post evaluations](#)/ presentations piloted for sustainability and resilience to climate change

USAID Mali/ Assess Ex-post evaluation post-closure of USAID/Mali Out of School Youth Project, also known as PAJE-NIETA (Project d'Appui aux Jeunes Entrepreneurs), new ex-post methods. 2022

World Vision International *Consultancy to strengthen World Vision's Theory of Sustainability and Sustainability Drivers*. Review of World Vision sustainability resources and drivers, including ex-post evaluations, review of industry research re: drivers, report with recommendations delivered. 2022

ResultsInHealth, Exit & Ex-post Sustainability Training & Capacity Strengthening Consultant 2021
Eight weeks of trainings and capacity development for exit and ex-post evaluation for INGO's M&E team

Sambodhi and The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in India *Advocacy Consultant* 2020-21
Sustainability Advisor Consultant for Health Advocacy and Evaluation, advising Indian NGOs/ CSOs

American Red Cross, International Services 2018-19
Benchmarking of Exit and Sustainability Strategies to inform the AmRC global Graduation Strategy

Terre Des Hommes Italia in Bangladesh 2018-19
Evaluated ex-post lessons for adolescent migrant partners, developed exit strategy/sustainability plan.

USAID E3 Basic Education: *Management Systems International Case Study Research Lead, Ex-post Evaluation (Uganda)* 2016-17
Designed, managed, and implemented and led 4-person team evaluating sustained outcomes of USAID-funded project: [Ugandan Evaluation of Sustained Outcomes \(2018\)- primary education](#), 15 years “ex-post” project systems evaluation. Added to [Synthesis Report](#) across the four SOBE cases.

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.

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.

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.

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](#).

Monitoring & Evaluation/ Learning (selected)

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](#). Interviewed 22 Missions, wrote up M&E and Learning report on best practices on evaluation and performance monitoring platform contracts. [Discussion note](#)

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).

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.

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.

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.

Other work: Salomon Brothers Financial Analyst 1984-1989, Nigerian Diocese of Ilorin 1987, Lesy Čekanová 1996-present

Grants/ University Teaching/ Fellowships:

- * **Michael Scriven's Faster Forward Fund** post-project evaluation research grant 2017
- * **The Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy, Tufts University** Adjunct Asst Profr. (USA) 1994
- * **Harvard University Faculty of Arts & Sciences, T.A. Certificate of Distinction in Teaching** 1993-94
- * **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, Board Memberships and Honors:

- **British Chamber of Commerce in Prague, Equilibrium Mentor** of Czech women business leaders 2020-21
- **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
- **American, European and Czech Evaluation Associations** member and speaker 2005-present
- Washington D.C. & Czech (Buddhist) Mindfulness Community Board of Directors 1998, 2015-2021
- 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

Samples of Publications and Presentations:

- **Valuing Voices blogs**, including: **Sustained and Emerging Impacts Evaluations**, **National handover ex-post**, **Sustainable Development Goals** and **Impact Investing and the SDGs**
- Cekan J., Legro S. (2022) **Can We Assume Sustained Impact? Verifying the Sustainability of Climate Change Mitigation Results** In: Uitto J.I., Batra G. (eds) Transformational Change for People and the Planet. Sustainable Development Goals Series. Springer, Cham.
- Cekan, J. (2022) "Promises made and promises unfulfilled: Focusing evaluations after COP26" in Evaluation, **What should evaluation learn from COP 26? Views of evaluation practitioners**
- Preston Stewart, Jindra Cekan Valuing Voices Better Ex-Post Evaluation White Paper Series PART1: **Toward Building Better Evaluation Practices: A Series on the Ex Post Evaluation Practices of Nordic Countries and the Netherlands: The Search** June '21
- Foluso Ishola, Jindra Cekan, **Evaluating the sustainability of health programmes: A literature review** July '19
- **"Building the evidence base for post-project evaluation"** Scriven's Faster Forward Fund 2017
- presented at the American Evaluation Association Conference Nov '17, featured on **Better Evaluation** Dec 2017
- **"In 17 years, 1.6 trillion dollars spent on Sustainable Development; Very few undergo post-project evaluation"** Six Degrees News Interview Oct '17b
- 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"** 2017
- **"Missing Link: Sustained and Emerging Impact Evaluations"**. Better Evaluation, May 2016
- **"How to Foster Sustainability"**. Global Policy Journal, Vol. 7, Issue 2, May 2016
- European Evaluation Society **"How to Foster Sustainability"**. July '15
- Stanford Social Innovation Review **"When Funders Move On"** 2015
- Global Policy, **"How to Foster Sustainability"** 2015
- Sirius XM Radio/ U Penn Wharton Business School **"Social Impact' on Dollars and Change"** 2015
- American Evaluation Association AEA365 **"Evaluation and Sustainability"** 2015
- USAID's PPL/LER "Monitoring And Evaluation Platforms: Considerations for Design and Implementation Based on a Survey of Current Practices" **Discussion Note** (key researcher) 2013
- "Increasing Nigerien 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
- "Toward a conceptual framework of household 'coping' – reflections from rural West Africa" Co-authored with Alayne Adams and Rainer Sauerborn, Harvard's Center for Population and Development. Africa. Vol 68, No. 2. Fall 1998

More information at: <https://valuingvoices.com/about-us/>, <https://impactguild.org/> and <https://www.lesycekanova.cz/en>