Jindra Monique Čekan/ová, Ph.D. Updated May 2026
Valuing Voices: Sustainable Solutions for Excellent Impact at Cekan Consulting LLC
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Expertise:

Political Economist. Jindra Čekan/ová, Ph.D. focuses on **sustainability,** creating ***Sustained and Emerging Impacts Evaluations at*** Valuing Voices and presents on sustainability. Valuing Voices team of consultants & **researchers evaluates, and advocates for ex-post-project sustained and emerging impacts** since 2013. She has used participatory methods for 38 years to learn from participants and policymakers, 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, project design, organizational knowledge management. Sectorally, she focuses on food security & livelihoods.** Dr. Čekan/ová founded her consultancy 23 years ago, serving international development clients in 35 countries, including non-profits, foundations, for-profit enterprises and governments. A former investment banker and management consultant, she manages owns our 540ha Czech Rep family forest.

Regions worked:

- **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;
- **Remote** evaluations & ex-post: Argentina, Bangladesh, Ecuador India, Mali, Mozambique, Samoa

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 & Czech (FSI 5/5),proficient French (FSI 4S/3R),basic Spanish (FS1)
Dual Citizenship: USA and Czech Republic (EU). Mostly now in the Czech Rep, partly in the USA.

Post-Project Sustained and Emerging Impacts Evaluation, and Exit Strategies:

Valuing Voices *Sustainable Solutions for Excellent Impact* President & Catalyst 2013-present

ICF for the Adaptation Fund *Ex-post sustainability and resilience Team Lead* 2025-2026
Dr Čekan/ová led the Ghana ex-post evaluation, overseeing the national evaluation team's methods and tools, trained new evaluators, supported fieldwork execution, and learning & wrote final report.

The Rockefeller **Foundation *Ex-post/ Sustainability Strategic Advisor to Strategic Learning & Impact*** 2025
Dr Čekan/ová is providing advisory services around sustainability, including ex-post evaluation, to the Foundation's Strategic Learning & Impact team

ICF for Climate Investment Funds *Ex-post sustainability & transformation evaluation PPCR consultant* 2024-25
Dr Čekan/ová led 3 ex-post case studies' methods and tools, overseeing national evaluation consultants in Bangladesh, Mozambique, and Samoa. Contributed to overall M&E methods, including a retrospective Theory of sustainability, and transformational change methodology of real-time 'signals'. Updated the skills of the existing Valuing Voices ex-post team, trained new evaluators, supported fieldwork design, execution, and learning. Added to the final report & presentations.

Technical Evaluation Reference Group (Adaptation Fund) *Ex-post evaluation consultant* 2021-3
Team Lead for research and development of a framework & training to conduct ex-post sustainability evaluations, pilots in Samoa, Ecuador and Argentina. Shortlisted projects as pilots for ex-post evaluation via transparent criteria, developed training materials on sustainability and trained national evaluators and UNDP/ WFP/ IBRD stakeholders. Four ex-post evaluations piloted 3-5 years post closure for sustainability/adaptation of infrastructure and resilience to climate change. Oversaw evaluation design, provided support during fieldwork, reviewed reports, discussed results, and shared findings to inform AF guidance and did trainings and presentations. Also ground-truthed sustainability ratings at closure, influenced the Fund's evaluation processes and policy. Designed/ implemented sustainability training modules and informed the subsequent Ex-Al Toolkit.

USAID Mali/ Assess *Ex-post evaluation Team Lead* 2022
PAJE-NIETA (Project d'Appui aux Jeunes Entrepreneurs) 3 years post closure, created new ex-post methods re-creating outputs/outcomes from three sub-projects, did presentation on report to USAID.

World Vision International *Consultancy Support to Strengthen World Vision's Theory of Sustainability and Sustainability Drivers* 2022
Analytic research report and presentation to identify & monitor Drivers towards Child Well Being

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

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

American Red Cross, *International Services* *Exit for Sustainability Consultant (Global)* 2018-19
Benchmarking of Exit and Sustainability Strategies to inform the AmRC global Graduation Strategy

USAID E3 Basic Education: *Management Systems International Uganda* *Case Study Research Lead, Ex-post Evaluation* 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* Southern 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 with villagers in this 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.

Recent, Select Monitoring & Evaluation/ Learning:
Charles University Center for Knowledge and Technology Transfer *M&E Advisor* 2023
Technical assistance, presentation and brainstorming on M&E and Learning for three projects under Charles University and Ministries.

E Co. ***Consultancy for the GCF Readiness Grants and Funding Proposals" M&E services through the Communities of Practice"*** *M&E & Sustainability Consultant* Global 2021-22
Provided M&E support and M&E rubrics. Advised on sustainability for GCF's tranches of proposals.

USAID PPL/LER (Policy, Planning, Learning Bureau, Office of Learning Evaluation and Research), *Organizational Learning Direct Consultant* Global 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 Appr. Inquiry 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

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.

InterMedia *Health Policy Researcher* DC, Global 2012
In-depth qualitative interviews on international health policy with 12 African, Asian, and US senior experts and policy makers for The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Wrote up report findings.

World Vision: Food Security/ Livelihoods & Health & 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.

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.

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Sanitation & Hygiene Advocacy *Researcher* Global 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.

Selected Food Security/ Livelihoods (Program Design, NGO capacity building, Proposals):
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.

Women Thrive Worldwide *Food Security/ Gender Policy Consultant* Global 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 & writing policy briefs.

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.

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, & made recommendations.

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 2006-08, 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.

American Red Cross *International Services Head of Food Security Unit* Global 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* Global 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 programs.

OTHER WORK: Forestry, Finance & Grant-writing: **Lesy Čekanová,** *Forest Owner 1996-now,* **Salomon Brothers** *Financial Analyst* NY 1984-89, **Price Waterhouse/ Coopers**, Management Consultant 1989,1991, **Nigerian Diocese of Ilorin** *Grant writer* 1987

Grants Received/ 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 Profsr. (USA) 1994
- **Harvard University Faculty of Arts & Sciences, T.A. Certif. of Distinction in Teaching** 1993-4
- **PhD Fellowships: African Studies Centre, University of Cambridge, UK** 1990-92
- **Pew Charitable Trust** & **Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy Fellowships** 1990-2, '93-4

Professional Affiliations, Board Memberships and Honors:

- **KUSARD**, **Decent Living** (Kenyan NGO Board Advisor and donor) 2004-now
- **European and Czech Evaluation Associations** member and speaker 2005-now
- **Love in Action** (founder, Czech aid to Ukrainian refugees incl African students) 2022-now
- Washington D.C. & Czech (Buddhist) Mindfulness Community Board of Directors 1998, 2015-now
- **British Chamber of Commerce in Prague, Equilibrium Mentor** of Czech women business leaders 2020-24
- **University of Cambridge** Advisory Mentor for the Queen's Young Leaders and University of Cambridge in the Czech Republic Alumni Association 2018-19
- 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

ORCID Research #: https://orcid.org/my-orcid?orcid=0000-0002-5292-0779

Select Presentations:

* British Embassy in Prague, "Sustainable Forestry" presentation, part of their Sustainability Working Group, 2026
* International Society for the Systems Sciences "Sustainability" 2026
* Global Rethinking Finance Collaborative (GFRC Geneva) Futures Fair presentation with Meg Spearman: "Infinite Growth on a Finite Planet: Rethinking Impact Measurement" 2025
* Nordic Climate Finance Summit Keynote Speaker: "*Social impact and Climate justice and Environmental Impact*" 2025
* European Evaluation Society Conference both "The Theory and Practice of Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience" and "€Valuing Nature's Return on Investment: An Avenue for Sustainable Development?" 2024
* Oxford Policy Management: "Ex-Post Evaluations" 2024
* Charles University Prague, "M&E for Capacity Development" 2023
* Meghalaya Evaluation Summer School, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, "Thinking Explicitly about Sustainability up Front" 2022
* European Evaluation Society Conference "Evaluation at a Watershed; Actions and Shifting * Paradigms for Challenging Times" 2022
* European Evaluation Society Conference "How to know about longer-term effects from Adaptation Initiatives" 2021
* University of Toronto Canada Evaluation Centre, "Planning for Sustainability: Towards a role for Evaluations and Measurement in planning exit strategies" 2021
* "Sustainability results/ Dopady udržitelnosti v byznysu" (česky) webinař 2021
* "Sustained Exit? Prove it or Improve it!" Webinar 1 2020
* Sustaining All of our Hard Work, Webinar, Vienna Evaluation Network, 1 Oct 2020

Select Publications:

- Valuing Voices blogs, including: Sustained and Emerging Impacts Evaluations, National handover ex-post, Sustainable Development Goals and Impact Investing and the SDGs
- Cekan, J. Fostering Values-Driven Sustainability Through an Ex-Post Capacities Lens JMDE Special Issue: Evaluator Competencies, Vol 19, Issue 46 2023
- Evaluating global aid projects ex-post closure: Evaluability… and how-to via Sustainability Evaluation training materials Cekan, Spearman, & Vidal Merino for the Adaptation Fund 2023
- "Can We Assume Sustained Impact? Verifying the Sustainability of Climate Change Mitigation Results." Cekan J., Legro S. In: Uitto J.I., Batra G. (eds) Transformational Change for People and the Planet. Sustainable Development Goals Series. Springer, DE https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-78853-7_8 2022
- "Promises made and promises unfulfilled: Focusing evaluations after COP26" in Evaluation, What should evaluation learn from COP 26? Views of evaluation practitioners https://doi.org/10.1177/13563890221074173 2022
- Preston Stewart, Jindra Cekan Valuing Voices Better Ex-Post Evaluation White Paper Series Part 1: Toward Building Better Evaluation Practices: A Series on the Ex-Post Evaluation Practices of Nordic Countries and the Netherlands: The Search 2021
- "Evaluating the sustainability of health programmes: A literature review by Ishola, F & Cekan https://aejonline.org/index.php/AEJ/article/view/369 2019
- "Building the case for post project evaluation, Valuing Voices" Final Report for Michael Scriven's Faster Forward Fund published 2017, presented at the American Evaluation Association Conference Nov 2017, featured on Better Evaluation Zivetz, L. Cekan J and Robbins, C. 2017
- "In 17 years, 1.6 trillion dollars spent on Sustainable Development; Very few undergo post-project evaluation" Six Degrees News Interview 2017
- "How to Foster Sustainability". Global Policy Journal, Vol. 7, Issue 2 https://doi.org/10.1111/1758-5899.12284 2016
- "When Funders Move on". Stanford Social Innovation Review (SSIR) 2015
- "Increasing Nigerien women's incomes, increasing peace: triangulation and unexpected results" Lutheran World Relief's ARVIP project" PLA Notes- IIED link research with Hlaibi, J. 2013
- "Toward a conceptual framework of household 'coping' – reflections from rural West Africa" Cambridge University Press reprinted in 2011 from original Africa , Volume 68 , Issue 2 , with Adams, A and R. Sauerborn April 1998