



**Annual Report  
June 2020 -  
July 2021**

# **Evaluation Association of Bhutan**



## **Vision**

**Wholesome evaluation for realizing Gross National Happiness (GNH) based initiatives.**

## **Mission**

**To introduce, educate, and inform people of Bhutan about the value of evaluation.**

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## Message from Chairperson

I and the Board of Directors of the Evaluation Association of Bhutan (EAB) are pleased and excited to present the Annual Report of the association for the year 2020.

The disruptions of regular activities due to the Covid-19 pandemic provided us the time to reflect within our organization and strengthen it further. We have developed relevant organizational values including vision and mission statement, and the Theory of Change that will guide the association in bringing effective changes in our works. We are now a better organization than before, with a good understanding of the evaluation eco-system within which we are working and an enhanced ability to situate ourselves and be relevant. The core team members of the association were able to bring out the detailed situational analysis report of the evaluation ecosystem for the first time. It was made possible with support from UNICEF-Bhutan. These are some pertinent achievements in 2020 that will help us greatly in shaping our future activities.

Additionally, the association has been able to strengthen its networks with other voluntary organizations for professional evaluation (VOPEs) in the region and beyond and has benefited through meaningful knowledge-sharing experiences. The EAB joined the network of the Asia Pacific Evaluation Association (APEA) in 2020, making us members of two regional VOPEs. With the launch of the Young and Emerging Evaluators (YEEs), Bhutan chapter, our YEE members joined the global network, preparing and engaging our youth to be future evaluators.

Looking ahead, the association and its governance team will continue our focus on advocacy to raise awareness on evaluation, capacity building activities engaging people at various levels.

I, on behalf of the governance team and the association members, would like to offer our sincere thanks to our supporters for their goodwill and generosity. We look forward to similar support in taking the association to a higher level.

*Wishing everyone a very successful and happy New Year.*

**Phuntsho Choden (Ph.D)**

**Chair  
EAB**

## Introduction

Evaluation plays a critical role as a learning tool, highlighting what works and what does not. An appropriate evaluation can act as a safeguard, helping to identify problems before they grow bigger and more costly. The past decade has seen Monitoring and Evaluation becoming stronger, with more focus on measuring the results and objectively analyzing the program/project effectiveness and relevance. The evaluation has become more important now than ever considering the situation the entire humanity is in currently.

To strengthen and enhance the evaluation practices, numerous Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluators (VOPEs) at national, regional, and international levels were established. Similarly, EAB was established in 2013 as a VOPE with objectives to promote evaluation and bring together evaluation practitioners from various fields including independent evaluators, government, academia, and non-government organizations. EAB is now a Mutual Benefit Civil Society Organization mandated to promote evaluation culture, develop evaluation capacity, and generate demand for evaluation in the country. The association is committed to carrying out its mandates and has initiated a few capacity developments workshops for national evaluators in the past. The association plans to further strengthen its activities covering both demand and supply side environments of evaluation in the country. EAB has a critical role in promoting and increasing the demand for evaluations while collaborating with the key government bodies, parliamentarians, and other relevant stakeholders to build an enabling environment for evaluation.

## Organization Objectives

- To develop an evaluation culture in the country
- To educate and inform people about the need for evaluation
- To promote evaluation as an integral element in the development process
- To develop the capacity and skill of our evaluators

To contribute to knowledge generation and evidence-based planning and policy formulation process.

Annual Report June 2020 – July 2021  
**Strategic Goal**

*“To foster a vibrant evaluation culture through supporting the development of institutional and individual capacities for evaluation in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders.”*

# Board of Directors



**DR. PHUNTSHO CHODEN**  
Chair



**DR. SONAM TSHERING**  
Member



**MS. KARMA CHODEN**  
Member



**MR. JIGMI RINZIN**  
Member



**MS. DECHEN DOLKAR**  
Member

## Staff Profile

### Executive Director



**Mr. Dhan Kumar Bhujel** works as a Monitoring and Evaluation Expert (National Consultant) with the Health Sector Development Program Ministry of Health, funded by ADB. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from IASE-Deemed University, Rajasthan, and MA and PGD in Human Rights from Pondicherry University, India. His interest lies in Data Science, Social Research, and Monitoring & Evaluation. He is also a certified Analyst with training in Big Data Analytics from the Center for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), New Delhi, India.

His 12 years of past experiences include working as a Business Analyst with Construction Development Corporation Ltd, Marketing Officer with Regional Agricultural Marketing and Cooperative Office, MoAF, Mongar, as Asst. Program Officer with the Gross National Happiness Commission and Asst. Project/Liaison Officer with National Housing Development Corporation Thimphu.

### Program Officer



Ms. Tandin Pelden is the Program officer of EAB. Before joining EAB she interned at Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy for 3 months. She also worked as a Project officer for 5 months at Royal Thimphu College funded by Canada Fund for Local Initiatives. Her research co-authored with Dr. Dolma C Roder, "Whoa, that's too personal? The Reported Behavior, Knowledge and Sources of Reproductive Health Education of RTC students" was published in Rig Tshoel: Research Journal of Royal Thimphu College Vol.2., No.1. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Sociology from Royal Thimphu College.

## Programmed and Activities

### Training on Development Evaluation to Civil Society Organization

The training was organized to build skills on Evaluation for CSOs. The three-day training from January 31 to February 2, 2020, was conducted with the support of UNICEF and facilitated by Ms. Rose, Mr. Samuel Bickel, and the EAB Board of Directors. The participants of the training were from 20 different CSOs such as Film Association of Bhutan, Read Bhutan, Loden Foundation, CPA, Bhutan Foundation, GNHC, Bhutan Media Foundation, Clean Bhutan, ABTO, Renew, Ability Bhutan Society, Civil Society Organization Authority, Pel Drukfraling Foundation, BAOWE, Nazhoen Lamtoen, BJTF, and Bhutan Cancer Society. In this training, there were around 16 females and 14 males from different agencies.

The goal of this three-day training was to enhance the evaluation capacity of development stakeholders, build the capacity of the program manager, M&E officers on managing evaluation and create awareness of the importance of evaluation.



## February- EvalFest-2020

Eval-Fest 2020 was organized by the Evaluation Community of India (ECOI for a three-day event in New Delhi). This event was organized mainly to promote a culture of evaluation through advocacy, for capacity building by sharing knowledge about best practices, approaches, evaluation methods, and innovation that are relevant in the context of global progress towards the realization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The theme of the event was “Evidence Building for Achieving SDGs.”

This EVAL-Fest 2020 was an opportunity for those who are under the development evaluation to showcase the role and activities of individual practitioners and enhance the capacities of individuals and organizations towards building better monitoring and learning about evaluation. The ultimate objectives of the conference were to share experience, inspire people, and build a network.

EAB participated in a poster presentation and shared about EAB.



*Dr. Phuntsho Choden and Ms. Tashi Choden representing EAB at EvalFest 2020 in New Delhi.*

## EAB Participated in Asian Evaluation Week 2020

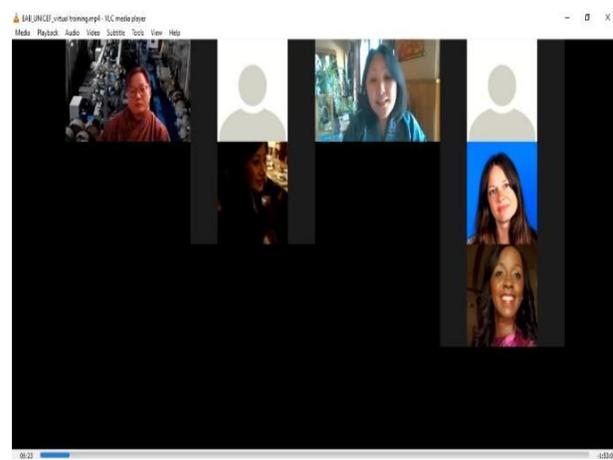
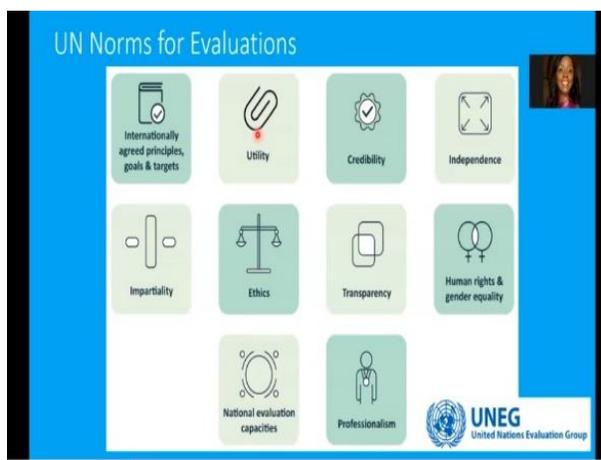
EAB Chair Dr. Phuntsho Choden participated in Asian Evaluation Week (AEW) which was held virtually from September 7-11, 2020. The AEW is an annual event and is a leading evaluation knowledge-sharing event in the Asia and Pacific region, jointly sponsored by the Ministry of Finance, PRC, and the Asian Development Bank. Our Chair joined the VOPE leaders from other countries in a panel discussion on “Advancing evaluation agenda in Asia Pacific region- role of voluntary organization for a professional evaluation.”



## Workshop on How COVID-19 Pandemic changed the Evaluation Landscape

This workshop was conducted on November 6, 2020, virtually to build the capacity of members of EAB on the role of evaluation in a different setting like COVID-19 and being able to use different tools and methodologies including technology in their daily work and document their interventions in pandemic situations. The workshop was facilitated by Rose Thompson Coon Multi-Country Evaluation Specialist, UNICEF ROSA, Tom Pellens Multi-Country Evaluation Specialist, and Esther Kagawa, Regional Evaluation Adviser, UNICEF ROSA.

The Facilitator touched on the topics such as Evaluation Function in development and how to make evaluation more responsive to the pandemic using new approaches and technology. For this training, all participants were EAB members from different professionals and different agencies.



## Situation Analysis Report

EAB conducted a situation analysis between October-December, 2020 to understand our position and what is expected to further strengthen our activities and to appropriately chart the way forward. A situational analysis was conducted by the EAB core working team with financial support from UNICEF Bhutan.

The report is published on our website (see <https://evalbhutan.org/category/publications/>).

EAB partnered Eval4Action Campaign 2020 in October 2020, EAB participated in the global evaluation campaign led by Asia Pacific Evaluation Association and Eval4Action. The campaign is an annual event promoting influential evaluation, where VOPEs and individuals commit to contributing.

## EAB participated in Asia Pacific Stakeholder Dialogue 2021

In January 2021, the EAB chair made the country presentation on the status of National Evaluation Policy and Systems in the Asia Pacific Stakeholder Dialogue. In this stakeholder dialogue, EAB committed to launching the EvalYouth Bhutan chapter to advance evaluation culture through the engagement of youth.

## Launch of EvalYouth Bhutan (EYB)

The EvalYouth Bhutan was successfully launched on February 20, 2021, in commemorating His Majesty the King’s 41st Birth Anniversary joining the Evalyouth Asia and global Evalyouth platform. The four co-leaders of Eval-youth, Bhutan, Mr. Tashi Dendup, Ms. Tashi Choden, Ms. Sonam Choden, and Ms. Dechen Dolkar prepared for the launch with Dr. Phuntsho Choden, EAB chair as the youth advisor. EYB is part of the EAB and aspires to create a vibrant platform for the Young and Emerging Evaluators (YEE) across Bhutan.



**Launch of EvalYouth Bhutan: GUEST SPEAKERS**

 Dr. Will Parks Representative UNICEF Bhutan Country Office	 Kunzang Lhamu Director General, Department of Employment and Human Resource, MoLHR	 Ana Erica Latreza Co-Leader, EvalYouth Asia	 Qutratullah Jahid Co-Leader, EvalYouth Asia	 Dr. Phuntsho Choden Chairperson, Evaluation Association of Bhutan	 Chilimi Dorji National Consultant
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Register:  
<http://bit.ly/3b4v1z>

February 20th, 2021  
@ 11 am-12 noon



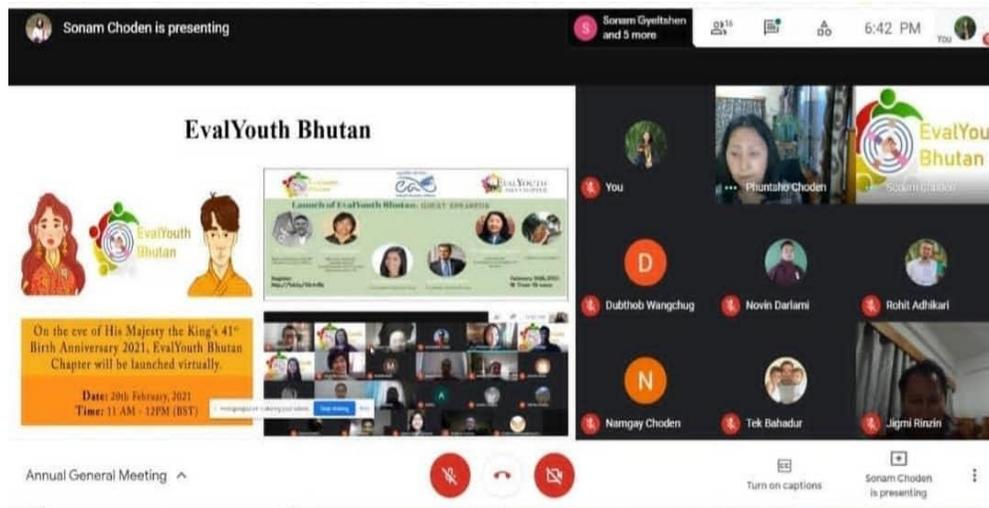
## Reviewing the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework for strengthening public service delivery in Bhutan



The EAB was invited to review the monitoring and evaluation framework for public service delivery in Bhutan, a comprehensive document jointly prepared by Royal Civil Service Commission Bhutan and UNDP Bhutan on 23rd April 2021. Our members led by the Chair of EAB participated in the review.

## Second Annual General Meeting

The EAB conducted its 2nd Annual General Meeting on May 13, 2021, through virtual adhering to the COVID-19 pandemic protocol. The Board of Directors and members were updated on the status of EAB (Financial report and progress of all the planned activities) and shared the planned activities for the upcoming year.



## Eval4Action Sub-regional Consultation South Asia

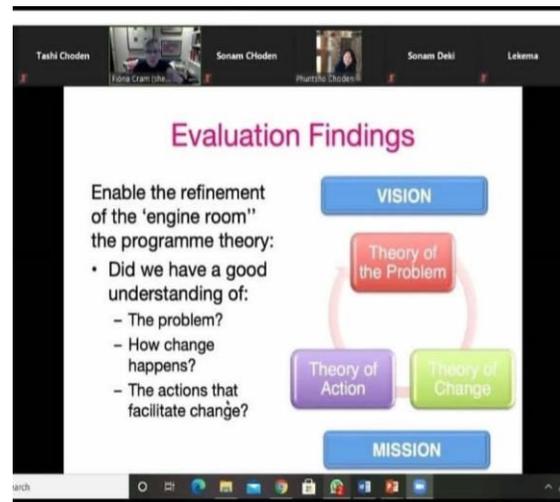
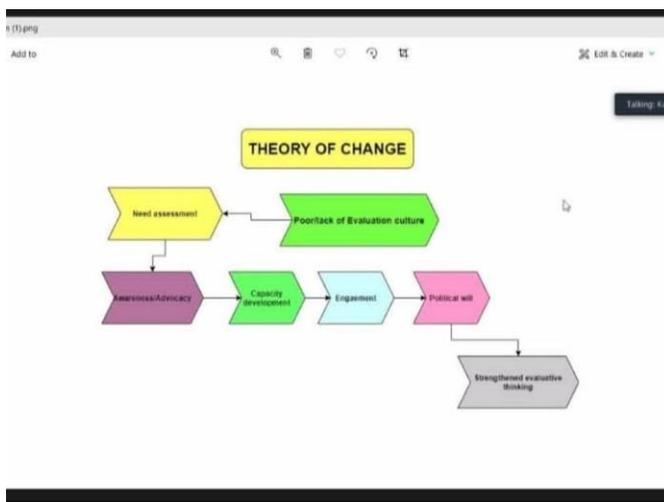
Mr. Jigmi Rinzin (a Board Director) represented EAB as one of the speakers for the sub-regional consultation on 16th June 2021, which was organized by the Community of Evaluators -South Asia (CoE-SA) in association with the Eval4Action Campaign.



*Sub-regional consultation organized by the Community of Evaluators -South Asia (CoE-SA) in association with the Eval4Action Campaign*

## Training on Theory of Change

Virtual training on TOC was organized and conducted jointly by Dr. Fiona Cram, the Director of Katoa Ltd, New Zealand, and Dr. Phuntsho Choden, Chair of EAB on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2021. The training was aimed at introducing the essentials of TOC and enabling our members to develop TOC for interventions they initiate, to support the change, and to be more effective in achieving the outcomes. Besides developing the capacity of our members, the training was aimed at fostering a peer network between members of EAB and EvalYouth Bhutan.



## Webinar on the Role of M&E in achieving Sustainable Development

The webinar was organized and hosted by the co-leaders of EvalYouth Bhutan on August 1, 2021. Invitation to the webinar was distributed by the co-leaders to EAB and EYB members as well as to the other networks all over the world. This programme was arranged with the motive of sharing the knowledge and practical experiences from our three experts Dr. Will Parks, Ms. Dechen Zangmo, and Mr. Chhimi Dorji on the role of M&E in achieving national and global development agendas.

The webinar was aimed at:

1. Creating awareness on the importance of M&E among Young and Emerging Evaluators (YEEs);



2. Building the capacity of the members on Monitoring and Evaluation;

3. Enhancing the professional relationship among members of EYB, EAB, and practicing evaluators;

4. Engaging YEEs in a professional discourse on M&E and developmental agenda of the country and the world, and

5. Providing a platform for practicing evaluators to share their professional experiences in the field of M&E.

## Board of Directors

All the members of the Board of EAB are identified and appointed by the members. All the appointments are endorsed during the Annual General Meeting. The EAB Board is composed of six Directors. Necessary disclosures about each Board of Directors are provided below.

Name	Occupation	Category	Term
Phuntsho Choden	Independent Consultant and Evaluator	Chairperson	1 <sup>st</sup> Term
Tashi Dorji	Research Officer, GNHC	Member	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term
Jigmi Rinzin	Managing Partner, JIGMI Audit & Financials Pvt. Ltd	Member	1 <sup>st</sup> Term
Karma Choden	Consultant	Member	1 <sup>st</sup> Term
Sonam Tshering	Executive Director at Bhutan Interdisciplinary Research & Development (BIRD)	Member	1 <sup>st</sup> Term

### Board Meeting

A total of four Board Meetings was held in 2020 and the meetings were held as frequently as required. Board Meetings in 2020 were held on the following dates:

1. Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 | 12<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting
2. Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020 | 13<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting
3. Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020 | 14<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting
4. Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020 | 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting

Meeting Dates	14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10 <sup>th</sup> Mar	11 <sup>th</sup> June	5 <sup>th</sup> August	Total
Meeting Number	12	13	14	15	
Name of Directors					
Phuntsho Choden	✓	✓	✓	✓	4
Tashi Dorji	✓		✓	✓	3
Sonam Tshering	✓	✓	✓	✓	4
Dhan Kumar Bhujel	✓	✓	✓		3
Karma Choden		✓	✓	✓	3
Jigmi Rinzin	✓		✓	✓	3

The calendar for the Board Meetings during the entire year is proposed as and when it is required. All the board meetings in 2020 were held at the EAB office, in clock tower, Thimphu. The agenda and related documents for the Board Meetings are generally circulated to the Board Members at least two days ahead of the Meeting.

### Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2020

Sources (Fund Inflow)	Nu.
UNICEF Project	733,800.00
Donations	240,000.00
Membership fees	16,500.00
<b>Total Inflow (A)</b>	<b>990,300.00</b>

Expenditures (Fund Outflow)	Nu.
Administration	261,375.00
Subscriptions and PF Contributions	19,804.17
Project Implementation	623,730.00
<b>Total Outflow (B)</b>	<b>904,909.17</b>

<b>Surplus of Income over Expenditure (C=A-B)</b>	<b>85,390.83</b>
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# Our Supporters and Partners



Gross National Happiness Commission



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Asia - Pacific

Evaluation Association

International

Organization for

Cooperation of Evaluation

## How can you support us?

- You can find a Programme and Project.
- You can be a member of EAB
- You can partner with EAB
- Visit [www.evalbhutan.org](http://www.evalbhutan.org) to learn more about us