



# ROOM DOCUMENT NO. 6

**DAC WORKING PARTY ON AID EVALUATION**

## **EVALUATION REPORTS INVENTORY UPDATE**

**Submitted by Cida, Canada**

**Agenda item No. 11**

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**34<sup>th</sup> meeting  
22-23 May 2001**

### Introduction

Since the last update a number of changes have been made to the Inventory website. First, the logo used has been changed to the DAC Working Party on Aid Evaluation (WP-EV) logo to better reflect the group's involvement with the site. The home pages of contributors have also been updated. And finally, the site has been moved from the International Development Information Center (IDRC) to a private contractor, as an interim step to migrating the site in-house at CIDA.

In addition to bringing the site in-house over the coming months, CIDA will be changing the database engine to Oracle. Although this move will be largely transparent to contributors (the site will still have a similar "look and feel") it will enable CIDA to have better control over how the site is managed. In particular, it will allow CIDA to create an online contribution registration system so that submissions and modifications to the Inventory can be made more quickly; links to the full text of reports can be managed better; and, better statistics on use can be kept.

### Current Status

#### *Access*

There continues to be both a "private" and a "public" site which are available by logging onto to:

**[minweb.idrc.ca/dacplog.htm](http://minweb.idrc.ca/dacplog.htm)**. (the private site) or **[minweb.idrc.ca/daclog.htm](http://minweb.idrc.ca/daclog.htm)**. (the public site). Both the account and passwords remain as before - Ottawa and Hull (neither are case sensitive). Once an individual logs onto either site they should bookmark the appropriate site (by placing it in your bookmarks or favorites file) so that you do not have to remember the address.

#### *Management*

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) continues to manage the Inventory on behalf of the WP-EV. This is done with the help of Doncor Information Systems Inc. which continues to be responsible for updating the Website and carrying out any enhancements to it that are requested. Doncor can be reached at [doncor@fox.nstn.ca](mailto:doncor@fox.nstn.ca) or you can email Don Paul directly ([Don\\_Paul@ACDI-CIDA.gc.ca](mailto:Don_Paul@ACDI-CIDA.gc.ca)) should you have any questions or comments regarding either the site or the Inventory.

#### *Contributions*

The site was last updated at the end of April 2001. Since the last report only six members have contributed submissions. There are currently over 8,500 abstracts on the private site and 5,177 abstracts on the public site. The increase in the number of abstracts to the public site is the result of a number of contributors (e.g., UNDP) changing their "restriction" policy.

The UNCDF has also requested to contribute abstracts to the site although we have not received a submission as yet.

### *Use of the Website*

No data is currently available on the use of the site because of the transfer mentioned earlier. Such statistics will not be available until CIDA re-creates the site in-house. It is assumed, however, that the trend towards increased usage continues, as discussed in the previous report.

### **Ongoing and Planned Work**

CIDA is currently putting in place both a contract and the infrastructure that will build and support the website within CIDA. It is anticipated that if all goes well the site can be built by the fall of 2001. The enhancements indicated below, however, can be done prior to this migration.

1. As the size of the Inventory has grown it has become increasingly difficult for users to identify the most recent evaluations on a subject area that is available. We are currently looking into the possibility of whether we can list the results of individual searches by the most recent to the least recent evaluation. Failing this we will archive older abstracts (more than 10 years) into another file which will be made accessible but will not be part of searches that are done.
2. It has also been requested that definitions of individual sectors be provided on line so that users understand what each sector means. This enhancement appears plausible and we are currently looking at how it can be implemented so that it is meaningful to users.
3. Currently, key word searches are conducted using all of the text associated with individual abstracts. If desired, this can be streamlined so that searches can be conducted on either all of the text or only on aspects of the abstracts (for example, limited to the title, evaluation methodology, findings or lessons learned). Such functionality may also allow users to better identify specific types of reports for which they are searching.

### **Issues for Consideration by the WP-EV**

The following issues require further consideration by the group:

1. Although the limited number of regular contributors to the Inventory was raised at the 33rd WP-EV meeting, the number of contributors did not increase. Members are reminded that the Inventory provides an excellent means by which to make international development stakeholders aware of what has been evaluated and what is available on individual development organization homepages.
2. The UNCDF has also requested to contribute abstracts to the site although we have not received a submission as yet. If the Working Party agrees, all members of the UN family could be invited to contribute.

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3. It has also been suggested that contributors begin to categorize their reports using a primary/secondary key. Such a move would be beneficial in that it would further streamline searches so that users can have a better idea of search results. Should the Working Party agree, this can be done.

4. It has been requested that a link from the public site to the private site be created so that only one address is required. This can be done but it could raise concerns about why there is both a private and a public site and why certain evaluations are restricted. The views of the group on this issue would be helpful.

5. The prospect of providing direct links to the full text of reports was raised by some members. The best way of doing this is to have individual contributors provide PDF files of their reports which will be placed directly on the site and accessible from the respective abstract provided. An indicator that a PDF file exists can be provided within the search results of individual queries (in the listings provided) to easily identify where the full text is available. Are Members willing to try this?