



## **ROOM DOCUMENT NO. 4**

**DAC WORKING PARTY ON AID EVALUATION**

### Highlights of joint evaluations - Members responses to request for information

This document was prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of Members' submissions for discussion under item 5 of the agenda for the DAC Working Party on Aid Evaluation Meeting, 27 – 28 March 2003.

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**37<sup>th</sup> meeting  
27-28 Mars 2003**

In order to promote an efficient exchange on developments in the field of joint evaluation among Working Party Members, the Secretariat has assembled Members' responses to the information request sent out. Nineteen Agencies responded to the request.

This room document contains two sections:

- Members' responses on ongoing joint evaluations completed by the lead agency for the joint evaluation - Section 1
- Exploratory ideas and suggestions concerning future joint evaluations - Section 2

### **Section 1. Ongoing joint evaluations (lead agency in brackets)**

- Joint Evaluation of External Support to Basic Education in Developing Countries (Netherlands)

In the sequels to the World Education for All Forum held in Dakar in April, 2000, a Consultative Group of Evaluation Departments, representing international and national funding and technical assistance agencies, agreed to undertake a joint evaluation of external support to basic education.<sup>1</sup> The objective of the evaluation is to assess the combined contributions of external support to basic education in selected partner countries in order to draw lessons for policy and programme improvement. More specifically, the evaluation will (1) address the relevance and effectiveness of external support to national policies; (2) consider issues of co-ordination and coherence of external support; (3) assess the sustainability (or potential sustainability) of the results of the various activities undertaken; and (4) in view of the relevance of the study for ongoing sector-wide approaches, investigate the understandings and practices of funding and technical assistance agencies in the development of programme and sector approaches, both those in their early stages and those with longer experience. Four partner countries have joined the initiative: Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Uganda and Zambia.

To assure broad participation in the conception and oversight of the evaluation, the commissioning organisations have constituted an Evaluation Steering Committee and an Evaluation Management Group. The Steering Committee includes representatives of the participating organisations and the partner countries and is chaired by the Policy and Operations Evaluation Department of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Composed of the Netherlands Policy and Operations Evaluation Department of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (chair), the Evaluation Office of UNICEF and the Evaluation Office of CIDA, the Evaluation Management Group is responsible for the on-going management of the evaluation.

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<sup>1</sup>. The evaluation is commissioned by: Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Danish International Development Assistance (DANIDA), European Commission, German Ministry of Economic Co-operation (BMZ), Irish Department of Foreign Affairs, Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA), Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (SIDA), Department for International Development of the United Kingdom (DFID), UNESCO, UNICEF, and the World Bank.

Following a preparatory study<sup>2</sup> which reviewed the basic issues, highlighted potentially problematic areas, and outlined the general parameters for the proposed evaluation, the Terms of Reference for the evaluation were agreed in October 2001. Subsequently a consortium consisting of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, Goss Gilroy Inc. of Canada and Education for Change of the United Kingdom was contracted through a process of international competitive bidding. This consortium also includes national evaluators from each of the four partner countries involved in the evaluation.

The actual evaluation started in February 2002 and will be finalised in June 2003. Its major areas of inquiry are: (a) external support to basic education, (b) externally supported basic education, and (c) the relationships between the providers and recipients of the external support, i.e. partnerships. The evaluation has two major approaches. First, all three areas of inquiry are addressed through a systematic review of evaluation reports and other documents. Second, all three areas of inquiry are addressed through focused case studies in four countries: Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Uganda, and Zambia. A synthesis then combines the findings and recommendations of those two approaches. For each of the major areas of inquiry, the Framework Terms of Reference identifies key questions, organised in a common framework: intents, policies and strategies; practices; results and consequences.

The review of existing documentation and the field studies in the four partner countries were carried out in 2002. Draft reports will be submitted to Evaluation Steering Committee for review in March 2003. The Steering Committee is expected to discuss the synthesis report in June 2003. The results of the evaluation will be presented in an international conference which is planned to take place in the second half of 2003.

- Country-led evaluation Mozambique (Netherlands)

The initiative to support a country-led evaluation in Mozambique which was taken by The Netherlands, UNDP and the World Bank led to further contacts with the authorities in Mozambique. In the summer of 2002 a workshop was organised in Maputo by the Working Group under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Relations (MINEC). During that workshop various options and priorities for a country-led evaluation (CLE) were deliberated. These included concentration of the evaluation on a single sector or a limited number of sectors. However, no further steps were taken following the workshop to design the evaluation. In view of the challenges of establishing a "fully-owned" and locally driven CLE, it is deemed necessary to first make an inventory and analysis of factors affecting the design and implementation of such an evaluation. Where appropriate, alternatives like jointly setting up a donor-partner country evaluation in stead of a CLE, establishing an evaluation support fund, and other capacity building efforts will be discussed with the Mozambican authorities.

- Evaluation of "Triple C" (Netherlands)

The Heads of evaluation services of the EU and the Member States decided on investigating the possibilities of evaluating 'Triple C, i.e. the three 'Cs' of the Maastricht Treaty: *complementarity, coherence and coordination*. The group mandated the heads of evaluation services of the Commission, Germany, France, The Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden and the UK to form a steering group. It was agreed to follow a phased approach.

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<sup>2</sup>. J. Samoff, *When Progress is Process X Evaluating Aid to Basic Education: Issues and Strategies* (Report prepared for the Consultative Group of Evaluation Departments, January 2001).

An initial scoping phase of desk research was commissioned from a Dutch consultant, culminating in the preparation of four background reports: one for each of the three “Cs”, setting out the key issues and one on the 3Cs’ legal basis. But despite the usefulness of the reports the complexities were found still to preclude presentation of viable methodological proposals, and the Steering Group agreed on the need for further preparatory work, in this case a pilot study of limited scope.

The pilot study, managed by the Commission, was terminated before finalization as the Steering Group was not satisfied with the quality of the consultants’ preparatory desk research. It was concluded that a period of reflection was needed during which evaluators, policy-makers and programmers might usefully exchange views on the 3Cs.

To this effect, a workshop took place on 27 February 2003 in Brussels. This workshop was very appropriate in view of the growing interest in 3Cs-related issues within the Commission and due to the reference to the 3Cs both in the recent DAC Peer Review of the Commission’s development co-operation and the EU-Barcelona Council.

The workshop reconfirmed the demand for an evaluation of the 3Cs. Because of the complexity of the subject to be evaluated, it was however decided that the evaluation would subsequently cover the different “Cs” in a case by case approach. In other words, the evaluation will be implemented in multiple phases. To this effect, a detailed working programme will be elaborated.

EC : Evaluation of the Maastricht 3Cs: Co-ordination, Complementarity and Coherence - following a successful recent exploratory Workshop attended by evaluators and policy makers from the Commission and EU Member States, this evaluation is about to be substantially re-planned, and relaunched within a looser framework which may entail a number of smaller, separate studies rather than a single, unified study.

- Evaluation of the Maastricht 3Cs: Co-ordination, Complementarity and Coherence (European Commission)

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- Multi-stakeholder Evaluation of Implementation of the Comprehensive Development Framework (World Bank)

This evaluation is nearing completion. Since the formation of the Steering Committee in January 2001, 6 country case studies and 5 thematic or cross-country studies have been completed. A final draft of the Synthesis Report has been submitted to the Steering Committee. The final report should be available in June. Several country workshops are being planned to present the country case studies and one or more events are being planned to launch the Synthesis Report. The studies, especially the country studies, were supported in large measure by a CDF Evaluation Multi-Donor Trust Fund, to which four donor countries contributed, (Canada, United Kingdom, Denmark, and Sweden ) as well as by three individual donor trust funds, (Norway-OED Partnership, SDC-OED Partnership and Netherlands-OED Partnership), and in kind contributions from Asian Development Bank, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan, and JBIC.

- Evaluations of the PRSP process (IMF-IEO in parallel with WB-OED)

The purpose of the evaluations is to assess the appropriateness of the design of the PRSP initiative and the problems faced in its implementation to date –especially with respect to the role of the IMF and the World Bank, respectively, as well as make a preliminary assessment of the initiative’s ability to reach its objectives and suggest modifications in the approach. The evaluation will rely on both cross country analyses and cases studies, most of which will be joint between IEO and OED.

- Joint Study of Peace building Activities (Norway)

The Study undertaken with Germany, the Netherlands and UK has started and will be finished autumn 2003. As a follow up to the Study it is planned for an international workshop this year.

- Joint Study on the Impact of International Trade in Fishery Products on Food Security (Norway with FAO) To be completed in 2003
- Joint evaluation of ENDA TM in Senegal (Austria in collaboration with Netherlands, Switzerland and Luxemburg)

The joint evaluation was later transformed into an organisational restructuring of ENDA TM due to unforeseen developments within the organisation

- IDB

- DFID financing background studies for IDB Country Program Evaluation of Brazil.
- Spanish Trust Fund financing for Legislative Strengthening Evaluation
- Swiss Trust Fund financing for the Evaluation of the Operational Policy on the Bank’s Response to Emergencies and Natural Disasters.

- NZAID notes that all its evaluations are undertaken jointly with ‘partner’ countries

- The 2002 country strategy review of NZAID’s Papua New Guinea programme was conducted with AusAID participation.
- When the Secretariat of the Pacific Community reviewed the operations of its Pacific Women’s Bureau in 2001, a staff member from NZAID was included in the team.

## II. Tentative ideas/ suggestions for future joint evaluations

- Budget support (Ireland)
- Humanitarian Assistance (Ireland)
- Participation in joint evaluations of WFP and IFAD (CIDA)
- Budget Support under discussion (CIDA)
- Health Sector in Tanzania – to be initiated late 2003 (Denmark)
- Agriculture in Uganda – to be initiated early 2004 (Denmark)
- International Trade Centre – to be initiated mid 2003 (Denmark)
- General Budget Support (DfID)
- Evaluation of Triple “C”: Coherence, Complementarity and Coordination (DfID)
- Macroeconomic Budget Support (EC)
- Assessment of the Financial Sector Assessment Program (IMF-IEO and with WB-OED)
- Participation to the Joint evaluation of WFP Development Program proposed by BMZ (Italy)
- Joint evaluation on a Sector Development Program e.g. Agriculture Sector Development Program in Tanzania. (Japan MOFA)
- Japan MOFA expects DAC to set an evaluation framework in which donor countries can join. CDF evaluation by World Bank would be a good example.
- What can evaluation contribute to the assessment of political developments and/or good governance in difficult partnerships (e.g. Zimbabwe)? (Austria)
- Participatory Forest and Water Resource Management with ADB (JBIC)
- Joint Evaluation with recipient country; (e.g. Thailand) (JBIC)
- Meta evaluation by the Japan Evaluation Society (JBIC)
- Education in Pacific Island countries. NZAID is in discussion with donor colleagues, principally, AusAID, the World Bank and the European Union, and with Pacific Ministers of Education on how to move towards joint evaluations in this field
- Impact Evaluations in the health and rural Sectors (World Bank)
- Harmonization of country assistance evaluation standards (World Bank)
- Monitoring and evaluation capacity development in developing countries in the context of the PRSPs. (World Bank)
- Identification of case study evaluations whose findings have proved influential and of use to key Stakeholders (World Bank)
- Scholarships to facilitate developing country evaluators participation at the Third IPDET course, July 2003. (World Bank)