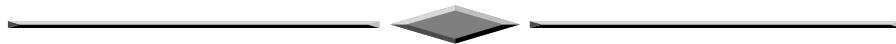


ROOM DOCUMENT

Agenda Item VIII, iii

NOTE ON AVR EVALUATION METHODOLOGY MEETING,
20 MAY 2009, GENEVA

This note has been prepared by the International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF) for information at the 9th meeting of the DAC Network on Development Evaluation, 15-16 June 2009.



9th meeting

15 – 16 June 2009

Note on AVR Evaluation Methodology Meeting, 20 May 2009, Geneva

UNDP convened an informal meeting on 20 May 2009 in Geneva to discuss mapping¹ and evaluation methodologies for planned OECD DAC work on Armed Violence Reduction (AVR). The meeting was chaired by UNDP (co-chair of OECD work on AVR together with DFID) and included representatives from DFID, the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Swiss Development Cooperation, WHO, UNODC, the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development secretariat, OECD secretariat (INCAF and Evaluation Network), the SecDev Group, Small Arms Survey, QUNO, Landmine Action and GICHD.

It was agreed that AVR evaluations are required, as we have only limited knowledge of what works in different settings (overarching question), and if/how different levels and differently focused AVR programmes work together to achieve a reduction in armed violence.² In terms of evaluation methodology, it was agreed that a number of promising programmes (from different settings) identified through the OECD mapping exercise should go forward for more extensive evaluation in 2010. The overall aim of the evaluation process would be to enhance learning and knowledge for donors and practitioners at headquarters and in the field, so as to shed light and build evidence based on what works in terms of both i) process (programme design etc.) and ii) positive/negative impact (e.g. firearm-related death rates etc.).

The evaluation exercise would include a detailed up front context/conflict analysis so as to identify the risk factors and the challenges and opportunities within the given setting. The context analysis could also look at how (or if) the AVR programme in question links to other ongoing processes on the ground (symbiotic relationships).

It was agreed that - where possible - joint evaluations would make more sense, as joint evaluations would allow more cross-referencing of results, greater access to data and should also guard against subjectivity. It was emphasised that partner governments in individual settings should be invited to partake in the evaluation exercise, in line with the principle of local ownership.

It was agreed that the OECD AVR lens provides a basis for the evaluation exercise. In order to effectively evaluate results against the AVR lens, available baseline data and documented programme monitoring would be useful. In the absence of such data and/or a monitoring component it was agreed that an evaluation exercise could nevertheless go ahead on a case by case basis using alternative measurement tools, if it was felt that a given programme in a given setting provided a valuable learning opportunity.

It was suggested that up to 6 evaluations could be undertaken (at a cost of approximately 100,000 USD per evaluation) across different settings. It was suggested that local consultants should join the evaluation team in each setting. In addition a reference group should be put in place in order to ensure the quality of the process (possibly the OECD AVR advisory panel), while a management group should keep the process moving (possible UNDP, UK and OECD secretariat, plus other interested parties such as the Geneva Declaration secretariat).

¹ Advice and direction provided on a mapping methodology for AVR has been integrated into the draft OECD terms of Reference for AVR mapping.

² For example, following the results of the CDA *Reflection on Peace Programme* different levels of programming on conflict prevention is required to have any real effect. On their own, the impact of most programmes is greatly reduced.

Evaluation requires collecting data relevant to programme processes or objectives and each evaluation will therefore make use of setting specific data and data collection mechanisms. As a general principle however, the evaluation methodology will follow the OECD DAC draft guidance on Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding. Lessons learnt from applying the guidance would be fed back into the OECD DAC Evaluation Network and the OECD DAC International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF).

The evaluation methodology should be developed in consultation with evaluation experts from the development sector (e.g. OECD DAC) and at least one other relevant sector (e.g. public health, quantitative criminology) so as to ensure it reflects a cross-sectoral consensus.

Question to members: Does the approach outlined in this Note provide a firm basis for developing an AVR evaluation methodology? Are there other issues that should be taken into account when developing the methodology?