



ROOM DOCUMENT

Agenda Item III, b/bis

THE INVENTORY FACILITATING COLLABORATION AND JOINT WORK

This document has been prepared by the Secretariat for discussion at the 10th meeting of the DAC Network on Development Evaluation, 10-11 February 2010.



**10th meeting
10 – 11 February 2010**

The inventory - facilitating collaboration and joint work

The inventory

In order to improve information sharing and facilitate identification of possible future collaboration, the Secretariat developed an “evaluation plan inventory” on the request of the Network members. The inventory was first presented at the Network’s eighth meeting in November 2008 and has been available since then on the restricted members-only website (www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/members). The inventory is now also available on the joint evaluation platform (<https://community.oecd.org/community/deveval>).

The inventory provides information on ongoing and planned evaluations, focusing on evaluations conducted by central evaluation units. Each evaluation included has information on the Network member responsible for the evaluation, sector, partner country, start and end year, phase of the evaluation and whether the evaluation is a joint exercise or not.¹

At present 30 member agencies are represented in the inventory. In total there are 773 evaluations included in the inventory. 22 member agencies updated their information following the Secretariat’s request in January 2010.² Some members are providing information for the current year, whilst other members’ plans are spanning over the next two or three years. The analysis in this document is based on intersections identified among those evaluations which were updated in January 2010, i.e. about 400 evaluations from 22 member agencies.

When members update or make their evaluation plans available they are encouraged to provide full and up-to-date information, in spreadsheet format, to the Secretariat. This should include information on emerging ideas and evaluation plans that are not yet confirmed or still under development as experience has shown that this is when there is most potential for initiating collaboration. Members who have not yet included their plans are encouraged to do so.

What to include in the spreadsheet:

- ✓ Sector/topic
- ✓ Partner country (if applicable)
- ✓ Start year of the evaluation
- ✓ Expected end year of the evaluation
- ✓ The phase the evaluation is currently in
- ✓ If the evaluation is open for other members to join and if it is a joint partner country evaluation
- ✓ Any other information that could be useful for other members

¹ The inventory does not distinguish between joint donor evaluations and those conducted jointly with a partner country.

² Plans have not been provided by the IEG, IADB, IMF, Italy, Greece and New Zealand. At the time of writing Belgium, Finland, Ireland and the EC were not able to provide updated plans as they have not been finalised. UNDP did not confirm their plans.

Identifying potential collaboration and learning opportunities

The inventory can be used for several purposes. By indicating planned evaluations the inventory helps members find sectors or countries where collaboration could potentially be useful as well as highlighting opportunities for learning. The inventory also gives a picture of the general direction development evaluation is taking; it presents information on which sectors and countries are most commonly evaluated drawing attention to overall trends including those sectors and countries which are less evaluated.

Ongoing joint evaluations

There are currently several major ongoing joint evaluations listed in the inventory, for example evaluations of conflict prevention and peace building activities, budget support, child rights, the implementation of the Paris Declaration and anti-corruption efforts. There are also ongoing evaluations in public financial management and public sector governance reform.

Sector evaluations

There are several different sectors where multiple members are planning or already doing evaluations. For example, there are more than fifteen ongoing or planned evaluations each in: **conflict, peace and security; democracy and human rights; education; agriculture; and multilaterals**. It is encouraging to see that many of the evaluations in the area of conflict, peace and security and multilaterals are planned to be undertaken jointly. Around ten evaluations are also planned or ongoing in each of the following areas: **civil society and NGO; gender; humanitarian assistance; and water supply and sanitation**. Despite the high level of interest in similar topics, the majority of these are not planned as joint undertakings and members are encouraged to try to find intersections and collaborate when possible.

That many evaluations are undertaken in these sectors indicate the importance that is currently placed on these areas and also seems to correspond fairly well with general patterns in ODA allocations. Health, infrastructure and energy do not feature in the inventory as often as expected, considering the high level of funds allocated to them by bilateral agencies.³

Evaluations in specific countries

Of the recently updated evaluations 210 specify a location where the evaluation will take place. 46 of the evaluations indicating a location, or 21%, are listed as joint or maybe joint. This suggests an increase since the last Network meeting when only 14% of the evaluations indicating a location also indicated that they were to be undertaken as joint work.

Only 11 out of 57 country or regional evaluations (19%) are planned as joint evaluations. This might seem like a quite high percentage but considering the type of evaluation it is surprising that more of these evaluations are not conducted jointly. Working jointly with other donors when conducting country and regional evaluations would ease the burden on the country(ies) where the evaluation is taking place and conducting evaluations jointly with partner countries increase partner country ownership, all in line with the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action.

Members planning evaluations in the same countries, although not the same sector, are encouraged to look for synergies and opportunities for collaboration, as well as involving the partner country in the evaluations:

³ Infrastructure and energy are sectors which are given more attention by the banks than bilateral donors in regards to evaluation.

- Both CIDA and Norad are conducting country evaluations in **Afghanistan**, starting in 2010 and 2011 respectively. CIDA's evaluation is not joint although they have expressed interest in collaborating with other members. Norad's is planned as a joint evaluation.
- JICA, CIDA, France DGTPE are all planning evaluations in **Indonesia**, none is indicated as joint. They could possibly draw on each other's evaluations although they are not in the same sectors.
- CIDA and Germany BMZ are both planning country evaluations in **Peru**, none is listed as joint.
- Danida and France DGTPE are both planning evaluations in **Vietnam** in 2010 and although in different sectors, some collaboration might be possible.
- It is encouraging to see that DFID and Ireland are conducting a country evaluation jointly in **Tanzania**. CIDA could possibly benefit from collaboration with DFID and Ireland when conducting their planned country evaluation of Tanzania in the same year (2010).
- It is also positive that there are joint evaluations taking place in **Zambia**, one being the budget support evaluation led by the EC together with several other donors. Sida is also conducting a program strategy evaluation in Zambia, Danida and Ireland a joint country evaluation and MCC an evaluation focusing on governance issues. Further collaboration might be possible.

The countries which appear often in the inventory seem to correspond with countries also receiving high levels of ODA. However, there are no evaluations planned in Iraq and Ethiopia, two of the biggest recipients of aid.

Looking for partners to conduct joint evaluations

Many Network members are explicitly looking for other agencies to conduct evaluations with:

- DFID is welcoming interest from other donors in conducting an evaluation around the topic of **climate change**. The evaluation is still at the planning stage with further scoping being done to consider remit of work and which other partners will be involved.
- Switzerland - SECO is looking for partners for an independent evaluation, starting in 2010, of **the Swiss Investment Fund for Emerging Markets (SIFEM)**. SIFEM is providing long-term risk capital (private equity, loans) to private businesses.
- Danida is seeking partners for an evaluation in the sector of **agriculture**. The themes are yet to be decided. The evaluation is planned to start in 2010. Danida is also planning a possible joint evaluation around **civil society and NGOs**, themes are yet to be decided. The evaluation is planned to start in 2010. Furthermore, Danida is planning an evaluation in Bolivia in **Gender mainstreaming** (to start in 2011) which might be conducted jointly with partners.
- Austria is planning an evaluation of their **Gender Policy** in 2010 and is considering whether to do this jointly.
- Sida has an ongoing evaluation in **Transboundary Water Resources** which is open for other members to join. Sida is also planning a number of evaluations starting in 2010 which are open for other to join:
 - **Public infrastructure utilities**
 - **Land rights**
 - **Media and other watchdogs**
 - **Public financial management**
 - **Public financial management in Europe**
- **Aid for Trade:** As part of efforts to improve the effectiveness of aid-for-trade projects and programmes (transport and storage, infrastructure, trade facilitation, and building productive capacity), and develop good practices in the evaluation of aid for trade, the OECD aid-for-trade team will be conducting a meta-evaluation. They are currently discussing this with the aid-for-trade community and would appreciate if information about planned evaluations in the field of Aid for Trade could be circulated among their stakeholders. This particularly concerns multilateral and regional financial institutions such as the EBRD, AfDB and ADB.

Discussion points

Information in the inventory can be used by members when developing their plans for the coming years. The recent member's survey conducted by the Secretariat indicated that 75% of members look at other members plans when setting their own plans. However, the same study also shows that 71% of evaluations are not joint, neither with another donor nor with a partner country. It is hence not clear what impact the sharing of plans has had and if studying other member's plans changes behaviour or reduces the amount of duplicate work.

- What are your experiences of using the inventory so far?
- Has the tool increased collaboration with other Network members and/or influenced evaluation planning?
- Can information on planned evaluations in the field of Aid for Trade be shared with the Aid for Trade community?
- Shall the Secretariat draw attention to opportunities for specific evaluations by making postings on the joint evaluation platform?