



ROOM DOCUMENT 7

DAC Network on Development Evaluation

Update on Professional Peer Review of the Evaluation Function of the World Food Programme

This update has been prepared by Sweden for information at the 6th meeting of the DAC Network on Development Evaluation, 27 – 28 June 2007.

**6th meeting
27 – 28 June 2007**

Professional Peer Review of the Evaluation Function of the World Food Programme

*Summary of on-going work
2007-05-24*

Background

Following discussions and agreement in the DAC Evaluation Network, Professional Peer Reviews of evaluation functions of multilateral organisations were introduced as a learning process. Reviews have been carried out of the evaluation functions of the UNDP and UNICEF.

The World Food Programme (WFP) volunteered in 2006 as the third multilateral organisation for such review. The Peer Review is conducted in line with the *Framework for Professional Peer Reviews of Evaluation Functions in Multilateral Organizations*, which was finalised by the DAC/UNEG Joint Task Force in early 2007 (Available on the Evaluation Network restricted website: www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/members login: *dacevaluation*, password: *evaluation*). A revised draft was presented to the Network as Room Document 14 bis at the Fifth meeting in November 2006.

WFP formally requested the Chair of the DAC/UNEG Task Force to initiate the assembly of the Panel on 20 December 2006. The Chair approached Sida's Department for Evaluation and Internal Audit to take the lead in this Peer Review. In the end of January 2007, Sida agreed to lead the Panel by making arrangements with the Office of Evaluation at WFP (OEDE) to plan the Review, establishing the Peer Panel and recruiting consultants to serve as advisors to the Panel.

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the Professional Peer Review is to provide DAC and UNEG members as well as decision-makers in the leadership of WFP, WFP's Executive Board members and the OEDE with an independent assessment of the functioning of OEDE and the quality of its work. The findings of the Professional Peer Review will be presented to WFP's Executive Board meeting in February 2008 and inform further discussions and decisions about the functional and administrative independence of OEDE.

The Peer Review will collect and analyse information about evaluations managed both by WFP HQ and field offices (regional and country level) and include a discussion of decentralised approaches towards evaluations. This discussion will consider the oversight function of OEDE in relation to evaluations led by WFP regional or country offices.

Approach

The *Framework* indicates three core criteria that need to be satisfied for evaluation functions and products to be considered of high quality:

- A. Independence of evaluations and the evaluation system(s):
- B. Credibility of evaluations;
- C. Utility of evaluations.

Experiences from the previous two Peer Reviews have been taken into account when designing the WFP Peer Review. A short paper – *Approach and Work Plan* – sets out the key elements of the Peer Review and describes the background, its purpose, the scope and general approach and methods, the composition of the Peer Panel and the time schedule. The document was shared with WFP for comments and finally agreed to by the Panel members at the end of April. (See restricted website of the Evaluation Network: www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/members login: *dacevaluation*, password: *evaluation*)

The Peer Review Panel will consider the normative framework of UNEG, and relevant guidelines of the OECD/DAC Evaluation Network as well as ALNAP's proforma for evaluation quality assessment of evaluation reports when assessing WFP's evaluation function.

Panel Composition

When composing the panel membership a number of criteria were applied: (i) relevant professional experience – from both humanitarian and development assistance; (ii) independence – no close working relationship to WFP that might influence the Panel's position and deliberations; and (iii) broader membership – experience and viewpoints from donors, executing organisations and partner countries should be represented in the panel.

The Peer Panel has the following composition:

Jock Baker, accountability & programme quality coordinator, CARE International

**Stefan Dahlgren*, senior evaluation officer, Sida (*lead responsibility)

Susanne Frueh, former chief of evaluation, OCHA

Ted Kliest, senior evaluation officer, Netherlands Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Zenda Ofir, independent member

The Panel is assisted by two advisors – *Ian Christoplos* and *Peta Sandison* – responsible for data collection and information gathering.

Method and Schedule

The data collection will take place during May-September and will comprise scrutiny of policy and guidance documents, assessment of a sample of evaluations, a web based survey to field offices, and interviews with WFP staff at headquarters and field offices as well as stakeholders outside WFP.

A draft report will be presented in October and used for the actual review exercise at a meeting at WFP in Rome. The final report will be submitted 31 October 2007.