



ROOM DOCUMENT 7

EVALUATION QUALITY STANDARDS - WORKSHOP 2009 -

This document has been prepared by the AusAID, NZAID and the Secretariat for consideration at the 8th meeting of the DAC Network on Development Evaluation, 18-19 November 2008.



**8th meeting
18 – 19 November 2008**

Workshop on evaluation quality standards 2009

Introduction

The DAC Evaluation Quality Standards¹ were developed by the members of the DAC Network on Development Evaluation in consultation with stakeholders.² The standards were approved in March 2006 for a test phase of three years and they are now being widely used by Network members and by other evaluation stakeholders. Experience during the test phase will inform final agreement on the standards. In 2009 the draft standards will have been used for three years and it will be time to agree on a final document.

The standards are a guide to good practice and identify the key pillars needed for a quality evaluation process and product. They aim to contribute to a harmonised approach to evaluation in line with the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action.³ The standards are not binding on member countries, but a guide to good practice and aim to improve the quality of development evaluations.

Past activity

A workshop was held in Delhi in 2005 to compare experience in the development and use of standards for assessing the quality of development evaluation. Workshop findings fed into the development of the draft standards. The workshop was held as part of the International Development Evaluation Association 1st Biennial Conference, which ensured that discussions included participation from members of the Evaluation Network, a range of evaluation specialists, including from developing country governments, and civil society.

Since the approval of the draft standards in 2006, many agencies have been using the standards. To gather initial feedback on the draft standards, the Secretariat developed a survey. This survey was completed by members of the Network and other users between July and September 2007. The survey found that the standards are widely used. They have notably been used:

- a) for quality control;
- b) when drafting terms of references;
- c) in preparing evaluation guidelines;
- d) for staff training on evaluation and;
- e) in briefing consultants.

At the Network's seventh meeting on the 20-21 of February 2008 it was suggested that a workshop on the standards and experience with their use should be organised. Australia and New Zealand offered to co-host it.

¹ The DAC Evaluation Quality Standards (for test phase application)

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/51/7/38686953.pdf> (In this document the DAC Evaluation Quality Standards are referred to as the standards.)

² Workshop in Delhi 2005

³ Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness: Ownership, Harmonisation, Alignment, Results and Mutual Accountability (2 March 2005) -

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/11/41/34428351.pdf> and the Accra Agenda for Action (4 September 2008) -

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/58/16/41202012.pdf>

Workshop 2009

The objective of the workshop is to share and review experiences in using the standards and discuss any modifications that may be needed. It is also important to agree on a process for reaching final agreement on the standards and sharing experiences will inform the revision process towards an agreed document.

The two day workshop will take place in Auckland in the week beginning on 9 February 2009. It will be held in conjunction with the launch of the second phase of the evaluation of the Paris Declaration. This will facilitate the involvement and participation of partner countries and civil society (see below).

Participants

Members of the Network are invited to the workshop. It is also envisaged that other stakeholders, such as partner countries, civil society and non-governmental organisation (CSOs and NGOs), that have experience in the use of the standards, will participate. It is expected that the participation of non-members to the Network will be facilitated by the subsequent meeting launching the second phase of the Paris Declaration, as the launch is likely to see participants from both partner countries and CSOs.

It is also foreseen that some facilitators, "experts" in evaluation standards, will be invited to act as resource people for the workshop. These resource people could potentially later also contribute to the finalisation of the document should major changes be required.

Logistics and costs

Venue: The Copthorne Hotel, Auckland

Participants will pay their own travel and accommodation costs. Costs for partner country participants could be covered by individual Network members that extend the invite. Costs such as expenses and fees for facilitator/s could be financed by resources pooled from the Network members.

DAC EVALUATION QUALITY STANDARDS WORKSHOP

DRAFT PROGRAMME for 8TH – 10TH February 2009

Time	ACTIVITY	Facilitated by:
	Sunday 8 February	
2 – 5pm	Arrival of participants and registration	NZAID
6.00pm	Evening Reception hosted by NZAID	NZAID <i>Copthorne Hotel</i>
	Monday 9 February	
8.30	<i>Powhiri</i> – Welcome ceremony	Tangata whenua NZAID
9.00	Session 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome, purpose, overview and adoption of agenda 	DAC Evaluation Network Chair / Facilitators
9.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The value and use of evaluation quality standards: What is the experience so far? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Standards in DAC member agency headquarters – <i>presentation</i> - Standards use in the field – <i>presentation</i> - A Development Partner perspective – <i>presentation</i> 	Facilitators
10.40	<i>Refreshment break</i>	
11.00	Small group discussions on value and use Plenary discussion	Facilitators
12.30pm	LUNCH	<i>Copthorne Hotel</i>
1.30pm	Session 2: To what extent have the standards led to better quality evaluations? Strengths and success in using the standards Challenges and constraints, and ways to overcome these.	Facilitators
3.30	<i>Refreshment break</i>	
4.00	Summary of day	Facilitators
5.00	Close of day	DAC Evaluation Network Chair / Facilitators
7.00pm	<i>Dinner at a local restaurant</i>	Participants

	Tuesday 10 February	
9.00am	Session 3: What improvements are needed?	Facilitators?
10.40	<i>Refreshment break</i>	
11.00	Small group discussions Plenary discussion	Facilitators
12.30pm	LUNCH	<i>Copthorne Hotel</i>
1.30pm	Session 4: Concluding discussion on changes needed to the standards Strategy for dissemination and how to communicate the final product to reach a broad audience. Agreement on next steps	
3.30	<i>Refreshment break</i>	
4.00	Summary of workshop	Facilitators
5.00pm	Close of Workshop Finish	Evaluation Network / NZAID