

Arabic version of the OECD DAC Quality Standards for Development Evaluation released

An Arabic version of the OECD DAC Quality Standards for Development Evaluation is released in a joint initiative between the African Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, the Network on Development Evaluation of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD DAC) and the UAE Office for Coordination of Foreign Aid. The Standards are intended to serve as a guide, incentive and inspiration to improve evaluation practices and help make development programs more effective.

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A trilingual version of the OECD DAC Quality Standards for Development Evaluation (Arabic, English and French) will be released this Sunday 22 January during an Evaluation Symposium organized by the Islamic Development Bank in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Quality Standards for Development Evaluation – part of the OECD DAC Guidelines and Reference Series – outlines core, internationally-agreed principles for evaluating development policies and programs. The standards are a key reference for governments and development agencies around the world.

The Arabic version of the Quality Standards for Development Evaluation was developed through the collaborative efforts of the evaluation departments of the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) in Jeddah, together with the OECD DAC Network on Development Evaluation and the United Arab Emirates Office for the Coordination of Foreign Aid (OCFA). The four institutions identified a need for evaluation resources in Arabic to strengthen evaluation practices in Arabic-speaking countries that are active in promoting development and poverty reduction.

Built through international consensus and extensive field testing, the standards provide valuable guidance to strengthen accountability for development results and contribute to learning processes. The publication outlines key dimensions of quality in the different phases of the evaluation process: objective setting, planning, design, implementation, reporting, learning, and using evaluation results. By improving the quality of evaluations, the standards seek ultimately to reinforce the contribution of evaluation to improving development outcomes.

The document is available free online at: <http://bit.ly/w3EESf> and can also be accessed via: www.oecd.org/dac/evaluationnetwork/documents

Mr. Mohameden Sidiya, Director of Group Operations Evaluation Department at IsDB said, "The cooperation between OECD DAC, AfDB, OCFA and IsDB enabled the production of the Arabic Version of DAC Quality Standards. This makes the standards available for the first

time in Arabic with the aim to support evaluation capacities of development institutions and governments and encourage evaluation by development actors working in Arabic-speaking countries. We at the IsDB are very proud of this fruitful collaboration and look forward to new joint initiatives with our partners to strengthen the development effectiveness agenda.”

Mr. Nick York, Chair of the OECD DAC Network on Development Evaluation said, “We are pleased at the outcome of this work and look forward to continued collaboration with the IsDB, the AfDB, the United Arab Emirates and other regional partners. We have found that the DAC Quality Standards are a useful tool for promoting an evidence-based approach to development co-operation, and hope this new trilingual version will facilitate collaboration among development partners working in Arabic, English and French.”

Ms. Megan Kennedy-Chouane, Policy Analyst with the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate said, “Evaluation is an important tool for holding donors and governments to account for the results of their programs and also for learning about what works and what doesn’t, and how we can work together to achieve better development outcomes. We hope this new translation of the Quality Standards will be used by both OECD members and our regional partners to practically support work on development and poverty reduction in Arabic-speaking countries.”

Sultan Mohamed Al Shamsi, Executive Director of OCFA, UAE said “Making this reference document available in Arabic is expected to be of great value to those who have an interest in development issues in this region, and more specifically to those carrying out evaluations of developmental projects. Many international developmental organizations currently operate and fund developmental projects in the Arab world and should make good use of this resource. We look forward to a continuous and successful collaboration between these four institutions to make other specialized development-related references available in the Arabic language, as Arabic resources in this field are rare.”

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