



ROOM DOCUMENT NO. 4

DAC WORKING PARTY ON AID EVALUATION

**AN UPDATE ON SOME CURRENT
JOINT EVALUATION INITIATIVES**

**Prepared by Germany, the Netherlands
and the World Bank**

Agenda item 2 viii

**35th meeting
14-15 November 2001**

PROGRESS NOTE ON CDF EVALUATION

Submitted by the World Bank

Subsequent to the second meeting of the CDF Evaluation Steering Committee, held in Copenhagen on June 14, 2001, implementation of the evaluation has been launched.

- The Evaluation Design Paper was revised to incorporate comments from Steering Committee (SC) members at the June 14 meeting. Having been reviewed by the evaluation Management Group (MG), it is being transmitted to SC members along with the first evaluation Quarterly Progress Report.
- The CDF Evaluation Management Group (MG) held meetings on July 23 and September 28, 2001, to select national and international consultants for country case studies and thematic and cross-cutting studies, and to review progress and the work plan for the next ten months.
- National and international consultants were selected for the Bolivia, Romania, Uganda, and Vietnam country case studies. Consultant candidates are being identified for the Burkina Faso and Ghana case studies.
- Planning missions for Vietnam and Bolivia have been completed and field work in Uganda will begin at the end of October. The Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Romania case studies will be undertaken during the first half of calendar year 2002.
- Consultants for the four thematic and cross-country studies on the CDF principles (Holistic, Ownership, Partnership, Results) and for one quantitative study aiming at the identification of patterns in the implementation of the CDF principles, have also been selected, with a consultant from the North paired with one from the South for each study.
- The next SC meeting will take place in Kampala, Uganda, on January 15, 2002. The main objectives are to review substantive progress, revisit the proposed CDF-PRSP linkages study, and approve the terms of reference for the synthesis report, to be completed by October 2002 and discussed at a major dissemination workshop in November. The final meeting of the Steering Committee will be in January 2003.
- Financial contributions to the CDF Evaluation budget have already been made through the existing OED-Norway and OED-Swiss Partnership Trust Funds. A new Multi-Stakeholder CDF Evaluation Trust Fund is being established with contributions from Canada, Denmark, Netherlands, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. In kind-contributions are being provided by the Asian Development Bank, Japan, and the United States. Altogether, contributions from these donors are financing about sixty percent of the total evaluation budget.

JOINT EVALUATION OF EXTERNAL SUPPORT TO BASIC EDUCATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Submitted by the Netherlands

As a sequel to the World Education for All Forum held in Dakar in April 2000, a Consultative Group of Evaluation Departments, representing international and national funding and technical assistance agencies, agreed to undertake a joint evaluation of external support to basic education.¹ The intention is to develop a strategy for assessing the combined contributions of external support to basic education in selected partner countries in order to draw lessons for policy and programme improvement.

The evaluation is expected to (1) address the relevance and effectiveness of external support to national policies and their implementation from the perspective of poverty alleviation and gender equality; (2) consider issues of co-ordination and coherence of external support; (3) assess the sustainability (or potential sustainability) of the results of the various activities undertaken; and (4) in view of the relevance of the study for ongoing sector-wide approaches, investigate the understanding and practices of both funding and technical assistance agencies in the development of programme and sector approaches, whether they be in their early stages or more established. Five partner countries have been invited to join the initiative: Bangladesh, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Uganda and Zambia.

To assure broad participation in the conception and oversight of the evaluation, the commissioning organisations have constituted an Evaluation Steering Committee and an Evaluation Management Group. The Steering Committee includes representatives of the participating organisations and the partner countries and is chaired by the Policy and Operations Evaluation Department of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Evaluation Management Group, composed of the Netherlands Policy and Operations Evaluation Department of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (chair), the Evaluation Office of UNICEF and the Evaluation Office of CIDA, will be responsible for the on-going management of the evaluation.

A preparatory study for the evaluation reviewed the basic issues, highlighted potentially problematic areas, and outlined the general parameters for the proposed evaluation.² The results of this study formed the basis of the Terms of Reference for the evaluation which were prepared by the Evaluation Management Group in consultation with the Steering Committee. Contracting out the work will be done through public advertisement, short listing, and competitive bidding.

The evaluation is expected to commence in February 2002 and will be finalised in May 2003.

¹. The initiative is currently sponsored by: Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Danish International Development Assistance (DANIDA), European Commission, German Ministry of Economic Co-operation (BMZ), Irish Department of Foreign Affairs, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (Sida), Department for International Development of the United Kingdom (DFID), UNESCO, UNICEF, and the World Bank. Other national and international funding and technical assistance agencies may join this effort.

². J. Samoff, *When Progress is Process. Evaluating Aid to Basic Education: Issues and Strategies* (Report prepared for the Consultative Group of Evaluation Departments, January 2001).

EVALUATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA) AND THE INTERNATIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION (IPPF) TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION

Submitted by Germany

The proposal for a multi-donor evaluation of contributions by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) towards implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, 1994, has been significantly moved forward since the last meeting of the Working Party on Aid Evaluation in May of this year.

Germany, that has taken the lead on this multi-donor evaluation, commissioned two consultants with work on a draft evaluation design. This design would analyse: the existing evaluation work, either carried out by the two organisations themselves or undertaken by others on UNFPA and IPPF and their work; identify key areas of work that had not yet been sufficiently covered by previous evaluations; suggest two or three foci of a substantive nature for the proposed multi-donor evaluation; and address issues concerning the approach and methodology of the evaluation.

The consultants submitted their report towards the end of October; it is based on extensive desk research and close consultations with UNFPA, IPPF and those DAC members that have expressed an interest in joining this evaluation (Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway and United Kingdom). Key recommendations of the consultants include:

- focusing the multi-donor evaluation on two areas of substantive work of the two organisations, which contribute in a major way towards the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action, i. e. (i) Gender and Reproductive Health and Rights; and (ii) Reproductive Health and Rights of Youth and Adolescents;
- adding a third evaluation focus looking at issues of co-ordination, complementarity and coherence, and including questions such as partnerships and alliances with government, civil society and the private sector, complementarity between UNFPA and IPPF, and donor co-ordination;
- pursuing an empirical approach by starting off with a number of country case studies. The findings of these case studies would then form the basis of a synthesis report addressing both the three foci of the evaluation as well as cross-cutting issues of a more generic nature such as the role of: advocacy; information, education and communication; and monitoring and evaluation.
- opting for as broad a stakeholder involvement in this evaluation as possible and ensuring that evaluation teams would be balanced in terms of gender and comprise, on equal terms, national and international experts.

The report of the consultants will be submitted to a one-day workshop in London on 12 November, immediately preceding the meeting of the Working Party on Aid Evaluation. Participants in this workshop will be DAC members that have expressed interest to join this evaluation, IPPF, which is hosting the workshop at its headquarters, and UNFPA. A brief oral update on the outcome of the workshop will be provided for members the Working Party on Aid Evaluation under item 2 viii of the agenda.

EVALUATION OF "TRIPLE Cs"

Submitted by the Netherlands

In late 2000, the Heads of the Evaluation Services of the EU Member states and the European Commission decided to investigate the possibility of conducting an evaluation of the "three Cs" of the Maastricht Treaty, namely *complementarity, coherence and co-ordination* in all fields of European external policy, including aid policy. A Steering Group consisting of the evaluation services of the Commission and a number of Member states was formed to prepare for the "Triple C" evaluation. It was agreed to follow a phased approach.

The Steering Group decided to commission a preparatory study which was to provide a solid base for the subsequent evaluation. In April and May 2001 four background studies were produced concerning respectively *complementarity, coherence and co-ordination* and the legal background of the Triple C.

Subsequently it was decided that additional work was necessary before the evaluation could commence and that it was necessary to initiate an evaluative pilot study. This study will focus on the ways in which the three Cs are dealt with in policy development and implementation with regard to a particular commodity or a sector. It was agreed to conduct a field study in an African country (probably Tanzania). Another part of the pilot study will consist of a desk study covering the Commission's database and information sources, and serve as the basis of methodological development.

Based on the results of this work further steps are to follow (November 2001).

COUNTRY-LED EVALUATION: MOZAMBIQUE

Submitted by the Netherlands

The initiative to support a country-led evaluation in Mozambique which was taken by the Netherlands, UNDP and the World Bank led to further contacts with the authorities in Mozambique. An exploratory mission (Rob van den Berg - IOB/Netherlands), M. Nurul Alam - EO/UNDP and Osvaldo Feinstein - OED/WB) visited Maputo in July 2001. They met government and civil society representatives, as well as their country-based organisations. During the meetings, government representatives indicated their strong interest in a country-led evaluation. Key problems identified for this type of work are a) the limitations of the existing information system, particularly concerning grants provided by donors, and also non-financial information; and b) the lack of sufficient skills in evaluation.

It was agreed to proceed in phases. First, to conduct a diagnostic study (evaluation capacity, information infrastructure for evaluation, etc.). Second, to explore the possibilities for a country-led evaluation which would focus on one of the sectors for which there is a Sector-wide Approach (SWAP). After successfully conducting a country-led evaluation of that particular sector, it is envisaged to apply the experiences gained (evaluation approach and methodology) to other sectors as well. It was considered important to link this initiative with ongoing activities, e.g. the strengthening of M&E within the context of PRSP.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mozambique has offered to serve as a focal point in further discussions with donors and development agencies willing to support the evaluation initiative. The Ministry will prepare a note which will allow the UNDP representation in Maputo to elaborate a proposal for the evaluation later this year.