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Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Economiques
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

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English - Or. English

**DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE**

**DCD/DAC/EV(2000)5/REV2
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Working Party on Aid Evaluation

WORK PROGRAMME 2001-2002

(Note by the Secretariat)

The attached work programme has been updated for the 35th meeting of the Working Party on Aid Evaluation on 14-15 November 2001.

English - Or. English

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WORK PROGRAMME 2001-2002

1. This work programme has been updated following discussions at the 34th meeting of the WP-EV and recent developments.
2. The work programme is structured around the tasks specified in the mandate of the Working Party and is closely related to DAC priorities. Activities for which Members have expressed general support, but no agency has yet volunteered to lead, may not be implemented. Further adjustments may also become necessary as a result of discussions of the overall OECD work programme and budget.
3. Feedback to the DAC is an integral part of the work programme and the evaluation process and, therefore, not listed as a separate activity.

Mandate

4. The Expert Group on Aid Evaluation's mandate is:
 - i. "strengthening exchange of information, experience and co-operation between national and, as appropriate, multilateral evaluation units, with a view to:
 - improving the evaluation activities of individual members;
 - encouraging standardisation of methodological and conceptual frameworks;
 - laying the basis for improved donor co-ordination in the planning of major evaluation studies;
 - ii. contributing to improved aid effectiveness by attempting to distil from evaluation studies operational lessons for project and programme planning and design, for consideration by the DAC;
 - iii. examining the feasibility of launching a set of joint or co-ordinated studies, undertaken by interested members, of aid effectiveness in a major sector, such as agriculture, or possibly in particular countries;
 - iv. seeking ways to promote and support developing countries' own evaluation capabilities."
5. The DAC reviewed all working parties and subsidiary bodies on 29 February - 1 March 2000. Strong support for the WP-EV was expressed and there was consensus that it should continue its work under the established mandate.

Monitoring and follow up

6. An annual report by the Chair has been issued as a monitoring instrument for the DAC, and for the WP-EV itself, on the implementation of its work programme [see DCD/DAC/EV(2001)1].

I. Strengthening exchange of experience

Strengthen exchange of information, experience and co-operation with a view to:

- improving the evaluation activities of individual Members;
- encouraging standardisation of methodological and conceptual frameworks; and
- improving donor co-ordination in evaluation.

SUBJECT	PURPOSE	EXPECTED RESULTS	ACTION/RESOURCES
1. Follow-up to the Review of the Principles for Evaluation of Development Assistance.	Contribute to improved evaluation practice in development co-operation and increase the use of evaluation results in decision-making.	Elaboration of good/effective practices followed by publication.	<p>Action: Elaborate a set of effective practices to complement and reinforce the Principles in key areas. These include: feedback and communication practices and result-based management; partnerships in evaluation. [See work programme items below.]</p> <p>Resources: Lead and co-ordination: Secretariat.</p>
i) Result-based management and evaluation.	Take stock of and promote cross-fertilisation of useful experience. Provide guidance based on Members' experience on how to develop and implement results-based management in development agencies.	<p>Phase 1: An overview study of result-based management applications in development organisations, with specific emphasis on links with evaluation.</p> <p>Phase 2: A set of effective/good practices based on Phase 1 and in-depth study of RBM systems.</p>	<p>Action: Phase 1: Brought to a conclusion with desk study of RBM systems posted on the website. Phase 2: Key informant interviews with selected agencies underway. Work to be completed, followed by publication of findings.</p> <p>Resources: Lead and co-ordination: Secretariat. Member inputs and voluntary contributions.</p>

SUBJECT	PURPOSE	EXPECTED RESULTS	ACTION/RESOURCES
ii) Evaluation partnership (see also section IV.B).	Improve evaluation partnership practices.	Identification of key elements for more effective evaluation partnership practices.	<p>Action: Identify examples of good/effective evaluation partnership practices, covering all stages of the evaluation process. This work will draw on ongoing joint evaluations and the review of donor practices.</p> <p>Resources: Lead and co-ordination: Secretariat, with Member contributions.</p>
iii) Feedback and communication.	Promote good feedback and communication practices.	Improved feedback and communication practices among development agencies. (Representatives from the DAC, international development agencies and developing countries met in Tokyo in September 2000. Participants sought to identify good practices so as to make agencies more learning-oriented and accountable. The ensuing report has been published.)	<p>Action: i) Disseminate the report of the Tokyo Workshop on "Evaluation Feedback for Effective Learning and Accountability". ii) Consider further follow-up actions, including upcoming seminars, and a policy note on "better use of evaluation results in development co-operation".</p> <p>Resources: Dissemination: Secretariat, Members. Follow-up: to be decided.</p>
2. Poverty reduction: evaluation methodologies and approaches.	Share and improve methods to evaluate poverty reduction strategies and programmes.	<p>Elaboration of follow-up proposal drawing on the results of recent OED/IOB meeting on monitoring and evaluation of PRSPs. It will also draw upon the Edinburgh workshop on evaluation methodologies and approaches for poverty reduction programmes, including the literature review conducted.</p> <p>An important input to this work would be the results of the PRSP review process and the World Bank work on evaluation and poverty reduction.</p>	<p>Action: Organise a workshop, as proposed by CIDA.</p> <p>Resources: Lead: CIDA with Member inputs.</p>

SUBJECT	PURPOSE	EXPECTED RESULTS	ACTION/RESOURCES
3. Website for the Working Party on Aid Evaluation.	Facilitate and strengthen exchange of information and experience among Member countries. Disseminate more widely information about work and activities of the Working Party on Aid Evaluation.	A functional and useful website for Members of the Working Party on Aid Evaluation and external users.	Action: Continuously update and improve the functionality of the website for the Working Party on Aid Evaluation. Co-ordinate with the Evaluation Inventory and Global Development Gateway developments. Resources: Lead: Secretariat. Member contributions.
4. Glossary.	Provide common understanding of terminology used in evaluation and result-based management.	A high-quality glossary of terms in evaluation and result-based management for use by partners and development co-operation personnel. The publication will be available in English, French and Spanish.	Action: Reach agreement on the glossary with a view to broad dissemination. Resources: World Bank, France and Task Force, Secretariat. Member inputs and contributions.
5. Informal seminars on methodological issues.	Promote mutual learning and cross-fertilisation on evaluation methods and results.	Improved knowledge of methods and conceptual frameworks for evaluation.	Action: Members will be encouraged to sponsor events aimed at the dissemination of lessons and sharing of methods either in connection with the biannual meetings or on separate occasions (see Annex for a list of recent seminars/workshops). Resources: Co-ordination: Secretariat. Member contributions.
6. Evaluation training for development agencies.	Contribute to building evaluation expertise in agencies.	Help offset the shortage of skilled personnel who manage or carry out evaluations. Improved and harmonised evaluation methods and approaches among development agencies.	Action: World Bank, in partnership with Carleton University, hosted a major training course in the summer of 2001. Follow-up to be considered. Resources: World Bank/IFC. Volunteer Members.

II. Lessons learned

Contribute to improved aid effectiveness by generating, distilling and synthesising operational lessons through pooling of experience and results.

SUBJECT	PURPOSE	EXPECTED RESULTS	ACTION/RESOURCES
1. Gender/WID Evaluation.	Contribute to further implementation of the DAC gender action plan in collaboration with the DAC Working Party on Gender Equality, building on the 1999 workshop hosted by Sweden and the 1994 WID Assessment.	Mainstream gender issues in evaluation work. Contribute to WP-GEN work.	Action: Suggestions and options for future work will be presented at the November 2001 meeting. Resources: Lead: Australia with Sweden, World Bank, Secretariat and Member contributions.
2. Dissemination of publications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance for Evaluating Humanitarian Assistance in Complex Emergencies • Evaluating Country Programmes, Vienna Workshop, 1999 • Donor Support for Institutional Capacity Development in Environment: Lessons Learned • Effective Practices in Conducting a Joint Multi-Donor Evaluation • Evaluation Feedback for Effective Learning and Accountability 	Share lessons and results of evaluations, and promote good practice in evaluation.	Wide dissemination of the outputs of joint work undertaken in the WP.	Active distribution by Secretariat and by Members (including via internet, workshops, seminars etc).
3. Evaluation Inventory.	Help to build up and spread knowledge about the results of development co-operation. Contribute to the dissemination of evaluation reports. Enhance usefulness of the Evaluation Inventory.	A user friendly, publicly accessible database with evaluation abstracts.	Action: Evaluation Inventory is migrating to CIDA and undergoing work to make it more user-friendly and enhance its usefulness to Members. Resources: Lead: Canada. Member contributions.

III. Joint studies

Promote and conduct joint or co-ordinated studies on aid effectiveness in major sectors. More joint studies will alleviate the administrative burden on developing countries and add value to individual donor evaluation efforts.

SUBJECT	PURPOSE	EXPECTED RESULTS	ACTION/RESOURCES
1. Sharing evaluation plans (both firm and indicative plans).	Identify opportunities for collaboration in the implementation of evaluations. Facilitate and promote cross-fertilisation of methodology and terms of reference. Plan ahead for sharing or pooling of results to obtain maximum dissemination and feedback impact.	Increased number of joint evaluations. Greater collaboration among Members in all stages of the evaluation process.	Action: Members will provide the Secretariat with timely information on future evaluation plans. This will enable the Secretariat to maintain the DAC Members' evaluation matrix, containing all major planned evaluations. Resources: Co-ordination: Secretariat. Member contributions.
2. Joint sector evaluations (multidonor and partner countries).	Assess effectiveness of development co-operation in key sectors.	Joint (multidonor and partner country) sector programme evaluations, e.g. basic education. Enhanced contributions to specific DAC meetings.	Action: Discuss and identify scope for joint sector evaluations. Secretariat to prepare a matrix with aid flows by sector at regular intervals. Resources: Members will participate in individual initiatives. Secretariat will facilitate.
3. Peace building and conflict prevention.	Contribute to performance evaluations in the area of assistance for peace building and conflict prevention.	Evaluate policies and interventions to link pre/post-conflict assistance to sustainable economic and social development.	Action: Further work in this area has been suggested but not defined. The Working Party will need to review ongoing efforts and investigate scope and modalities for joint work with the DAC Network on Conflict, Peace and Development Co-operation. Resources: To be decided.
4. Using Information and Communication Technology (ITC) as a tool for development.	Assess development co-operation instruments and efforts in new area.	Feed into agency work and OECD/DAC work on bridging the digital divide.	Action: Review of current status of evaluation efforts followed by synthesis work. Resources: to be decided. UNDP, World Bank, Secretariat have indicated willingness to participate in joint effort.

<p>5. Peer Reviews and WP-EV.</p>	<p>Support DAC Members' efforts for continuous improvements in peer review processes and outputs.</p>	<p>Enhance the impact of peer reviews and contribute to their methodological development.</p>	<p>Action: Informal Sub-group on Peer Reviews to explore proposals for further collaboration between PR Division and WP-EV. Members are invited to contribute to this effort on collective or individual basis. Resources: Sub-group chaired by Norway. Input by Members in WP meetings.</p>
<p>6. Local governance and decentralisation</p>	<p>Identify lessons learned on supporting national efforts towards decentralisation and local governance.</p>	<p>Comprehensive study of donor efforts in this area, combining meta-analyses and field work.</p>	<p>Action: Produce a synthesis report by November 2002. Resources: Steering Group chaired by Germany and UNDP.</p>

IV. Evaluation capacity of developing countries

Promote Evaluation Capacity Development and contribute to strengthening evaluation partnerships.

SUBJECT	PURPOSE	EXPECTED RESULTS	ACTION/RESOURCES
1. Evaluation Capacity Development (ECD) in partner countries.	<p>Assist developing partner countries in building effective evaluation systems.</p> <p>Promote networking between partner country evaluators.</p> <p>Promote exchange of experience on ECD.</p>	<p>Develop Action Strategy for Evaluation Capacity Development, including suggestions for joint partner/donor implementation.</p> <p>Enhanced awareness of the usefulness of evaluation as a management tool in public sector programmes.</p>	<p>Action: Contribute to and promote Member and partner countries' ECD efforts. Build on initiatives such as IDEAS and results of recent meetings, such as:</p> <p>(a) AfDB Johannesburg conference on ECD (September 2000)</p> <p>(b) The UNDP conference on Evaluation Capacity Building (in Beijing, October 1999).</p> <p>Resources: Lead: To be decided. Multilateral banks and Members/Secretariat.</p>
2. Evaluation partnership (see also section I.C).	<p>Improve evaluation partnership practices.</p>	<p>Identification of key elements for more effective partnership practices in evaluation.</p>	<p>Action: Identify examples of good/effective evaluation partnership practices, covering all stages of the evaluation process. Experiences will be drawn from ongoing joint evaluations. Consult with partner countries.</p> <p>Resources: Lead and co-ordination: Secretariat. Member contributions.</p>
3. Outreach and co-operation with evaluation community of civil society and development agencies.	<p>Improve mutual understanding of evaluation approaches and challenges through dialogue with NGOs and other partners.</p>	<p>Improved dialogue and strengthen links with key development evaluation partners.</p>	<p>Action: Organise a development evaluation forum in 2002 with NGOs and other civil society partners and development agencies.</p> <p>Resources: Steering Group. Voluntary contributions from Members.</p>

ANNEX

List of selected publications

Most of the Working Party documents are prepared for internal discussion at meetings, either as OECD documents or room documents. At each meeting, a complete list of documents is made available. Nevertheless, it may be useful here to recall some recent special outputs (lead agency for the publication within parenthesis):

- In the Evaluation and Aid Effectiveness Series:
 1. *Guidance for Evaluating Humanitarian Assistance in Complex Emergencies* (OECD), 1999.
 2. *Evaluating Country Programmes, Vienna Workshop, 1999* (OECD), 1999.
 3. *Donor Support for Institutional Capacity Development in Environment: Lessons Learned* (OECD), 2000.
 4. *Effective Practices in Conducting a Joint Multi-Donor Evaluation* (OECD), 2000.
 5. *Evaluation Feedback for Effective Learning and Accountability* (OECD), 2001.
- Results Based Management in the Development Co-operation Agencies: A Review of Experience (electronic dissemination via the website), 2001.
- Review of the DAC Principles for Evaluation of Development Assistance (OECD), 1998.
- Searching for Impact and Methods: NGO Evaluation, Synthesis Study (Finland), 1998.
- Evaluation of Programmes Promoting Participatory Development and Good Governance (OECD), 1997.
- Evaluation Capacity Building: Donor Support and Experiences (Denmark), 1996.
- The Role of Rating Systems in Aid Management. Experiences of DAC Member Organisations (Netherlands), 1996.
- Methods for Evaluation of Poverty-Oriented Aid Interventions (Denmark), 1995.
- Assessment of DAC Members' WID Policies on Programmes (Canada), 1994.

List of workshops and seminars

- Workshop on Evaluation Feedback for Effective Learning and Accountability, hosted by Japan, September 2000.
- Workshop on Evaluating Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, hosted by Sweden, November 1999.

- Workshop on Poverty Reduction Evaluation Methodologies and Approaches, hosted by United Kingdom, October 1999.
- Regional Workshop on Evaluation Capacity Development, hosted by UNDP, Beijing, October 1999.
- Workshop on Country Programme Evaluation, hosted by Austria, March 1999.
- Regional Conference on Strengthening the Evaluation Capacities of African Countries, hosted by the AfDB, November 1998.
- Workshop on Performance Management and Evaluations, hosted by UNDP/Sida, October 1998.
- A Workshop to review progress and provide directions for elaborating best practices in evaluating humanitarian aid, hosted by Denmark, February 1998.
- Norway invited Members to a Seminar on NGOs in Aid in November 1997, at which the report “Searching for Impact and Methods: NGO Evaluation Synthesis Study” was discussed.