



ROOM DOCUMENT 14

Overview of current and planned HIV/AIDS evaluation work and considerations for future joint work

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

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Purpose of session:

In light of the various high level evaluative studies currently being undertaken and the body of work already completed, the purpose of this session is to inform the members of major current and planned evaluations in relation to HIV/AIDS, and, to initiate discussion on what role, if any, the DAC Evaluation Network should have in facilitating future evaluative work.

Background:

1. During the last twenty five years almost 65 million people have been infected with HIV and an estimated 25 million have died from AIDS related diseases. According to the latest data from UNAIDS some 40 million live with HIV¹. Apart from the suffering and loss caused, the social and economic implications of this pandemic are enormous.

Funding Context:

2. The most recent reports from the United Nations AIDS and World Health Organisation reconfirm that HIV infections are still on the rise in all regions of the world. However, financial resources for HIV / AIDS, including domestic expenditure by Governments of the countries most affected, have increased significantly since 2001. Overall global funding dedicated to spending in low and middle income countries has risen from \$1.2 billion in 2000 to \$8.3 billion 2005. This is within the range set by the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV / AIDS global targets.²

3. While this funding has largely come from large scale, international programmes such as the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, the MAP programme of the World Bank, the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the European Commission and UNAIDS, nevertheless, very significant levels of resources have also been provided directly by bi-lateral donors such as the United Kingdom, Sweden, Norway, Japan and Canada.

Evaluation work:

4. A significant amount of evaluation work has been undertaken in the area of HIV/AIDS. This ranges from technical evaluation of various care, prevention and treatment initiatives through to strategy evaluations and organisational assessments. A number of bilateral donors have completed major evaluations of their approaches and spending (most recently United Kingdom and Sweden). At the global level a number of major evaluations are also either underway or have been announced. Foremost amongst these is that of the Global Fund. This evaluation will cover the period since its inception and address three broad but highly strategic questions namely:

- (i) Effectiveness and efficiency of its Organisational Structures and Business Model.
- (ii) Effectiveness and efficiency of its partnership system in supporting HIV, malaria, and TB programs at the global and country level.
- (iii) Its contribution to reducing the burden of Malaria, HIV / AIDS and TB.

5. Other significant evaluative exercises planned include:
- UNAIDS – a 5 year review;
 - United States President's Emergency Programme for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) – an overall programme performance assessment (to follow the already completed interim evaluation);
 - Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) - The scope of the evaluation will encompass intervention effectiveness and impact at country and global levels. The GAVI objectives and milestones will be used as starting point for the further refinement of focus and specific evaluation questions in the inception phase.
6. There has however, been some debate³ that the evidence for the design of effective packages of interventions against HIV / AIDS is thin. Some suggestions for future evaluation have proposed, for example, a greater focus on (i) the effect of global control efforts and (ii) determination of which strategies are most effective in what contexts.
7. It is also important to recognise the coordinating function of UNAIDS plays in bringing together the work and resources of the UN system. Within this structure the Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group works to provide a coordinated approach to monitoring and evaluation.

Issues for consideration:

- Given the large scale global level studies being undertaken, and the agreed coordination role of UNAIDS, is there a role for the DAC Evaluation Network members to track and influence these studies, to help ensure overall coherence of the evaluation effort?
- Is there a need for meta evaluation work to gain the maximum benefit from a diverse range of evaluations?
- Does there appear to be any major gaps in HIV / AIDS evaluation, and if so how can these be addressed?
- Is there a role for the Network to undertake specific joint evaluative work in the area of HIV/AIDS?

¹ Report on the global AIDS epidemic 2006; Executive Summary.

² Report on the global AIDS epidemic 2006. However, it should also be noted that despite this growth in funding, the gap between resources requirements and availability remains large. It is estimated that to provide prevention, care and treatment needs in low to middle income countries in 2007 some \$18.1 billion will be needed while resources so far available are estimated at \$10 billion. Resources needs could reach \$22 billion in 2008.

³ For example Bennet, Boerma and Brugha 'Scaling up HIV / AIDS evaluation'. The Lancet, January 2006.