



ROOM DOCUMENT 17

Evaluating Global and Regional Partnership Programs (GRPPs): Progress Report to the DAC Evaluation Network

This report has been prepared by the Independent Evaluation Group of the World Bank for information at the 7th meeting of the DAC Network on Development Evaluation, 20 – 21 February 2008.

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IEG – World Bank
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1. GRPP EVALUATION SOURCEBOOK

We have now distributed 1,800 copies of the *Sourcebook*, since it was published in January 2007. We are averaging more than 2,000 unique visitors a month to the GRPP Web site: www.worldbank.org/ieg/grpp. As of January 31, 2008, visitors have downloaded the entire Sourcebook 1,546 times, and individual chapters 3,423 times. The most popular chapters have been:

2. Prerequisites and Enabling Conditions for Effective Evaluations
6. Planning for Scope and Methodology
16. Preparing Evaluation Terms of Reference
17. Preparing Final Reports and Other Evaluation Products

2. GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINES AND EXAMPLES FOR EVALUATING GRPPS

This is now the major focus of our work. The same team that worked on the *Sourcebook* (Chris Gerrard, Dale Hill, Lauren Kelly and Elaine Ooi) has now been re-assembled. The Governments of Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom are contributing financially to this effort.

In general, the overall document will provide good practices for applying generally accepted evaluation processes and criteria (such as relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability) to the evaluation of GRPPs — along with positive examples from existing evaluations — in the light of the particular features of GRPPs. The document will stress the importance of early agreement on the objectives and strategies of the program, in order to facilitate the timely design and implementation of an effective monitoring and reporting system (including baseline information) which will provide the basis for the subsequent evaluation. It will provide some guidelines for and features of good monitoring systems for GRPPs. It will also provide good-practice guidelines and examples for assessing in subsequent evaluations the more unique aspects of GRPPs such as their governance and management arrangements, and their strategies for devolution or exit, as applicable.

We have prepared a Concept Note to guide our work which is available on request (e-mail: cgerrard1@worldbank.org). We have identified nine areas where there is both demand and need for good-practice guidelines and examples — four relating to evaluation governance and process, and five relating to the content and criteria of individual evaluations:

Governance and process issues:

- M&E policies and planning
- Monitoring frameworks
- Evaluation design and methodology
- Evaluation TORs & team selection

Content and criteria issues:

- Relevance — includes both program objectives and design
- Effectiveness (or efficacy) — includes sustainability of program outcomes
- Efficiency, or cost-effectiveness
- Governance & management — includes resource mobilization and financial management issues
- Medium-term strategic issues — includes the sustainability of the program as well as substantial changes in the scale, donor mix, clientele, coordination strategy, and implementation strategy (devolution or exit).

We are also planning to prepare a chapter on “influential evaluations of GRPPs,” detailing cases where evaluations have led to significant changes in strategy or positioning of individual programs, to enhanced results, or to an improved M&E framework for future evaluations.

We are employing a number of research strategies to address the key challenges in each of the areas above. These include:

- Systematic review of existing evaluation reports
- Systematic review of evaluation TORs
- Systematic review of existing M&E Policies and monitoring frameworks
- Structured dialogue with individual programs
- Systematic review of annual financial reports
- Literature review and additional interviews
- Consultations with the Technical Advisory Panel
- GRPP Evaluation Community of Practice
- Stakeholder Consultative Workshops

We have established a six-person Technical Advisory Panel to assist the work of the team by advising us on our strategic direction and reviewing selected materials that the team produces. The first, face-to-face meeting took place in Washington, DC, on November 19-20, 2007, and focused on the broad analytical approach and some initial products (such as a draft TOR template). A second face-to-face meeting is anticipated in May/June 2008, to present a first draft of a broader range of products or chapters.

The following individuals, who have both evaluation and topical expertise, have agreed to serve on the advisory committee:

- Ms. Marie-Hélène Adrien, Canadian, President of Universalia and President of the International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS).
- Mr. Sulley Gariba, Ghanaian, Executive Director of the Institute for Policy Alternatives in Ghana, and President of the African Evaluation Association.

- Mr. Michael Gillibrand, British, independent development consultant working on projects for the Global Corporate Governance Forum, AsDB and DFID.
- Mr. Simon Lawry-White, British, UNICEF Evaluation Office.
- Dr. Ade Lucas, Nigerian, former Director of Special Program on Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR), former Chair of Global Forum for Health Research, and leader of the evaluation team for the 2005 evaluation of the Medicines for Malaria Venture.
- Mr. Markus Palenberg, German, Global Public Policy Institute (GPPi).

The team plans to sponsor two back-to-back workshops with 50–60 participants each, both similar to the first workshop on the draft Sourcebook in September 2006, in order to obtain the needed level of feedback and input from a representative set of stakeholders. This degree of participation is needed to obtain appropriate representation from the different interested parties: members of governing bodies and management units of GRPPs, members of the official evaluation networks (DAC, UNEG, and ECG), professional evaluation associations, individuals with unique experience in evaluating GRPPs, and representatives of planning, funding, evaluation, and implementing agencies in both donor and aid recipient countries.

The team envisages completing the first draft of the Good Practice Guidelines and Examples products in the late summer of 2008, and holding the workshops in October/November 2008. Then the team will attempt to revise the products by the March 2009.

3. GLOBAL PROGRAM REVIEWS

IEG has completed six more Global Programs Reviews (GPRs) since the last meeting of the OECD/DAC Evaluation Network, which are publicly disclosed on the IEG Web site, www.worldbank.org/ieg/grpp. These are the following, in order of completion:

- Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV)
- Development Gateway Foundation
- Cities Alliance
- Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)
- Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA)
- Population and Reproductive Health Capacity Building Program (PRHCBP)

These reviews are contributing in a major way to the Good Practice Guidelines and Examples exercise because these apply a systematic set of evaluation questions and criteria and because they involve, as a matter of course, interviews with the programs and the evaluators of the programs in addition to reviewing the evaluation reports. The IEG Guidelines for Preparing GPRs can be downloaded from the IEG Web site.