

Public Sector Governance Reform (PSGR) Evaluation

Investments in the public sector are frequently viewed as vital to the success of many development activities. DFID, like other donors, is devoting an increasing share of its financial and advisory support to Public Sector Governance Reform (PSGR) interventions. Findings from a mapping of DFID's PSGR work indicated interventions tend to be high risk, are often undertaken with other donors and performance is highly variable.

These initial results, a summary of the World Bank's IEG PSGR evaluation, and an outline of a SIDA proposed PSGR evaluation, were presented at an OECD Experts Meeting in Paris in April 2009. The meeting discussed a broad range of issues related to the focus, methodology and management of a potential evaluation. Overall, the experts endorsed the need for further joint donor evaluation of PSGR work, taking the policies and plans of developing countries as the starting point. It was agreed greater clarity was needed on objective, and that an approach would be informed by work now underway to map DAC member's PSGR interventions.

In addition, the meeting also identified the need to link this evaluation with two other on-going evaluations. Firstly, a multi donor evaluation of anti-corruption interventions led by NORAD in 2009/10, focusing on the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts at country level (report expected April 2010). Secondly, a SIDA led multi donor process to assess the relevance and outcomes of Public Financial Management capacity building initiatives as well as the relevance and outcome of the donors' support to these initiatives will begin in 2009.

Potentially three major evaluations, PSGR (which it was agreed would focus on issues of civil service and public administration reform), Anti-Corruption and Public Financial Management, will conclude in late 2010. Taken together, the results could provide insights into how donors have supported the core of the public sector in developing countries. A synthesis report in 2011 could make a significant contribution to HLF 4 that year. The DAC (Aid Effectiveness, Evaluation, Governance and Capacity) could play a role.

Next Steps

DFID is seeking additional partners and financial support for the PSGR evaluation; SIDA have offered support. A full report highlighting DAC PSGR interventions will be available in July 2009 after which an Approach Paper will be developed.