

**AGENDA ITEM III.
Updates on Current Work (2009/2010)**

Batch #1: Brief Updates on Current Work

This document contains short updates on several areas of ongoing work from the Network's current work programme (2009/2010). Updates on the remaining items will be provided as soon as they are available. These will be presented for information during agenda item III, with time for brief questions and answers.

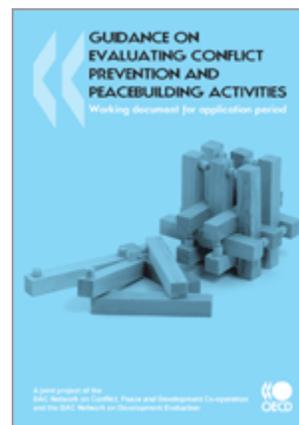
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11th Meeting

16-17 November 2010

a. OECD DAC Draft Guidance on Evaluating Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Activities

Workshop in Oslo 16 – 17 February 2010 to discuss findings and lessons from the application period



The draft *Guidance on Evaluation of Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Activities* (OECD DAC, 2008) elaborates on conducting evaluations of conflict prevention and peacebuilding work. It is the result of an ongoing collaborative work of the OECD DAC's Network on Development Evaluation and International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF). The two networks began this collaboration in 2005, responding to the need expressed by INCAF members for greater clarity regarding techniques and issues of evaluation in their field.¹

An assessment of past conflict and peace evaluations and current practices was undertaken in 2006 and clearly identified a need for further guidance. As the work started, it was agreed that the *Guidance for Evaluating Humanitarian assistance*, published by OECD DAC in 1999, was a good example to follow in terms of structure and form. In 2006, a research piece was completed for the DAC Networks by the Collaborative Learning Projects (CDA) and subsequently published as an input to the development of this draft guidance. A workshop was held in late 2006 for the two networks and with contributions from experts such as Mary B. Anderson; Diana Chigas; Peter Woodrow; Tania Paffenholz; Tony Vaux; Robert Picciotto; Cheyanne Church and Robert Muggah as well as members of the two networks. The draft document was revised and reformatted following extensive comments from members of both networks during the summer and fall of 2007 and was published early 2008.

Five key elements of the Guidance, specific to the field of conflict prevention and peacebuilding, are:

- Conflict analysis to be used or conducted by the evaluation team
- Conflict sensitivity in the evaluation process
- Evaluation criteria operationalised and adapted to a conflict prevention and peacebuilding context
- The use of programme theory in evaluations
- Definition of conflict prevention and peacebuilding activities using the Utstein palette ++ categories

The working draft guidance was to be applied to evaluations in 2008 to be revised and finalized based on those experiences in 2009 – 2010. But evaluations applying the guidance have taken longer than anticipated, in large part due to the evolving conflict contexts in several countries.

¹ At the outset of this collaboration INCAF was known as the Network on Conflict, Peace and Development Cooperation (CPDC). The CPDC network later merged with the fragile states network, and became INCAF.

A workshop to discuss experiences from the application of the Guidance will take **place 16 – 17 February 2011** in Oslo, Norway. The purpose of the workshop will be:

1. Systematize policy lessons from evaluations carried out the last two years for use in future conflict prevent and peacebuilding work.
2. Systemize lessons on how to evaluate conflict and peace activities including on the application and usefulness of the OECD/DAC draft guidance.

The agenda for this meeting is currently being decided. Based on previous discussions, it is suggested that Day 1 be devoted to discuss findings and policy implications of the evaluations and Day 2 is set aside for discussions of evaluation methodology lessons and the Guidance document.

Key experts will be invited as discussants in the workshop to present their views on the Guidance and how the Guidance has been applied, responding to presentations made by the respective team leaders of the evaluations that have applied the Guidance. It is expected that during the 2011 workshop in Oslo necessary steps to finalise the Guidance document will be identified and a review process resulting in a final version of the guidance to be agreed upon.

The following evaluations have applied/are applying the Guidance:

- Evaluation of Norwegian peace efforts in Haiti (completed 2009, Norway)
- Evaluation of donors' peace efforts in Sri Lanka (completed 2009)
- Multi-donor evaluation of conflict prevention and peacebuilding activities in Southern Sudan – 2005 – 2010 (underway 2010, Netherlands lead)
- Multi-donor evaluation of conflict prevention and peacebuilding activities in DR Congo (underway 2010, Belgium lead)
- Other (Evaluation of Norwegian peace efforts in Sri Lanka; evaluation by the Swedish military in Afghanistan)

Updates on ongoing member-led evaluations applying the draft guidance:

Multi-donor evaluation of support to conflict prevention and peacebuilding activities in Southern Sudan

The evaluation is led by the Policy and Operations Evaluation Department (IOB) of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is supported by the evaluation departments of 9 donors and 6 multilateral organisations, as well as the Ministry of Finance and Planning of the Government of Southern Sudan.

Preparations for this evaluation took place in the first half of 2009 with the establishment of an Evaluation Steering Committee² which is co-chaired by the deputy Director of IOB and the Director for Aid Coordination at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning of the Government of Southern

² The Evaluation Steering Committee consists of Belgium, Canada (CIDA), Denmark, Germany, Government of Southern Sudan, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden (Sida), United Kingdom (DFID), UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOCHA, UNV, USA (USAID), and WFP. The European Commission is a 'silent partner'. The World Bank decided to no longer participate in the Steering Committee.

Sudan. An Evaluation Management Group consisting of the Evaluation Department of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Office of Evaluation of the World Food Programme and IOB (Chair) takes care of the day-to-day management of the evaluation.

The Terms of Reference for the evaluation were finalised in July 2009 and the evaluation team fielded by ITAD Ltd (UK) in association with Channel Research (Belgium) was contracted in October 2009 following a process of international competitive bidding.

The Evaluation focuses on donor support provided to conflict prevention and peacebuilding processes in Southern Sudan in the period 2005-2009 (i.e. post-Comprehensive Peace Agreement). It covers the four key categories of conflict prevention and peacebuilding strategy and action defined by the OECD/DAC *Guidance on evaluating conflict prevention and peacebuilding activities – Working draft for application period (2008)*.

The first stage of the Evaluation started on 1 November 2009 and consisted of conducting analytical work of which the results were used to delineate the subsequent evaluation work. Work in stage 1 included (i) a conflict analysis; (ii) a policy and strategy analysis; (iii) an analysis of (aid) portfolios in support of conflict prevention and peacebuilding; and (iv) an analysis of evaluations and research material. The report of the results of stage 1 and a detailed ToR for the subsequent field study phase were discussed by the Evaluation Steering Committee meeting on 8 and 9 February 2010.

Stage 2 (February – March 2010) consisted of a ‘sample based’ evaluation covering interventions studied in detail at field level. The field study report was discussed by the Evaluation Steering Committee in its meeting on 17 and 18 June 2010. The draft final report synthesizing the results of stage 1 and stage 2 of the evaluation was discussed on 21 September by the Evaluation Management Group with the Evaluation Team on the basis of written comments provided by the Steering Committee.

It is expected that the evaluation will be finalised in **November 2010** with a final report to be published in December. The report will be presented and discussed at a workshop in Southern Sudan (Juba) currently planned for February/March 2011.

Joint Evaluation of Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding in the Democratic Republic of Congo

The joint evaluation of conflict prevention and peacebuilding in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo involves: Belgium, Canada, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, UNDP, UNFPA, OHCHR, UNICEF and UNIFEM. The Belgian Special Evaluation office coordinates the whole exercise. This evaluation is nearing completion. Reports on the policy phase, in which the evaluators identified donor conflict prevention and peacebuilding policies and carried out an extensive desk study, and field mission have been completed. An initial draft synthesis report was discussed by the steering group in September and is currently being revised by the consultant team. The final draft report will be shared with the steering **group by end November**, for completion and in-country consultation in December/January.

b. Update on the Haiti Evaluation Task Force



Introduction: Accountability and learning needs in the international earthquake response

1. The earthquake that hit Haiti on 12 January 2010 killed more than 200 000 people, injured 300 000 and left over one million homeless. With its epicentre only ten kilometres below the surface and close to the capital Port-au-Prince and urban centres of Leogane and Jacmel, the earthquake was the most powerful the country had experienced in 200 years. In response, a massive relief and recovery effort has been undertaken by a complex array of national and international actors.

2. If done right, evaluation of relief and development efforts in Haiti can contribute to learning and support accountability for the results on the ground. Operations in-country can be informed by evaluations of past and ongoing humanitarian relief efforts. A results focus should be incorporated into recovery programmes from the outset to strengthen programme quality and facilitate management and evaluation.

3. However, the accountability pressures of such high-profile crises can also have negative effects. Following the Indian Ocean tsunami and other recent crises, including those in Myanmar and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, one of the main experiences of operational staff was ‘evaluation overload’— where the evaluative effort was too often fragmented and incoherent. Such fragmentation not only results in duplication and wasted effort, but can overwhelm local systems and undermine capacities. In Haiti, similar pressures to account for the results of the massive aid effort have begun to appear and are likely to intensify in the coming months and years. Parliaments, media and the public will all be asking what results have been achieved and whether humanitarian and development co-operation have effectively supported Haiti to “build back better”.

Haiti Evaluation Task Force working to improve coherence and utility of evaluations

4. The DAC Network on Development Evaluation, the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), and the Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP) are working together to support a coherent and collaborative approach to evaluation in Haiti. A small task force of interested members have been moving forward on a number of fronts since the joint meeting in London 18-19 May 2010.

5. It was clear from the outset that all three networks are committed to working towards a more collaborative approach. Conversations were frank and highlighted the complex and extremely challenging conditions for relief and long term development in Haiti. The group agreed that collaboration should be prioritized, duplicative efforts avoided and individual evaluation efforts (if they must be done) linked to a shared evaluation framework.

6. Drawing on existing principles and standards of good humanitarian donorship and development evaluation, DAC donors should work together to support a collaborative approach to evaluation in Haiti, engage with the Haitian government and other partners and maximize opportunities for drawing larger lessons about the humanitarian aid system. Donors must also work harder to incorporate lessons from past disasters and recovery efforts, to ensure that past mistakes are not repeated.

Progress on specific work areas

7. During the London meeting, the group agreed to a number of follow-up actions, including creation of a task force, with representation from all three networks. The task force agreed to take action on a number of specific ideas and has been moving forward

Shared context analysis completed

8. A shared, peer reviewed context analysis was completed in early 2010 and has been widely disseminated. The context analysis includes a basic shared evaluation framework to inform individual evaluations and joint efforts. [<http://www.alnap.org/pool/files/haiti-context-analysis-final.pdf>] This joint context analysis synthesises background material, research and evaluations for those involved in assessing the earthquake response. A shared context analysis and evaluation framework can help reduce duplication and support joint thinking and work. Using a common basis for analysis will also make it easier to share and compare findings from evaluations carried out by different agencies. The context analysis has already been used in a number of contexts, including by the evaluation team that is assessing SDC Emergency Relief.

9. You are welcome to use this paper in designing, planning and implementing evaluations or other learning and accountability mechanisms in Haiti, and it may also be of value for briefing staff joining the operational response. The paper is intended to be a shared resource to be used and circulated as you see fit. Any comments will be gratefully received.

Sharing evaluation plans and the ALNAP Haiti Learning Portal

10. This task force will continue to expand the Haiti evaluation web platform (hosted by ALNAP) where evaluation plans can be shared. <http://www.alnap.org/current/Haitilearningportal.aspx> Please email the Secretariat if you have plans to add: megan.kennedy@oecd.org

Exploring the opportunity for a joint evaluation

11. Norway, Ireland, Sweden, OXFAM and OCHA (with support from the Secretariat) are exploring the scope for a joint evaluation. A concept note has being developed by Norway and the Secretariat to stimulate discussion on the scope and focus of possible joint work. Initial responses from our members, NGOs, cluster leads and others have shown that there is strong interest in better understanding effects of the overall response on beneficiaries, at the outcome or impact level.

Evaluation support function in Haiti

12. The Haiti Evaluation Task Force developed a Concept Note (available on the EVALNET website) on supporting evaluation in Haiti. The Task Force also agreed that it was necessary to discuss the ideas put forward in the Concept Note with stakeholders in Port-au-Prince. A team composed of Hans

Lundgren (OECD-DAC Secretariat), Patrick McManus (IrishAID) and Caroline Heider (Vice Chair of UNEG) supported by Francois Grünewald (Groupe URD) visited Haiti from 18 to 22 October 2010 to carry out these consultations

13. The objective of the mission was to determine the need for evaluation support in Haiti, to discuss the various evaluation support services that may be demanded and, if an evaluation support office was needed, issues around its location..

14. The team met a cross-section of stakeholders from the Haitian Government and civil society, bilateral and multilateral donors, the UN system, and non-governmental organizations. Nonetheless, the team recognizes that these consultations were limited and do not reflect a full-fledged stakeholder analysis, which may be part of next steps if the proposal for supporting evaluations in Haiti goes ahead.

Findings Concerning the Evaluation Support Office

15. There was no uniform perspective among the various stakeholders on the role and importance of evaluation: some were supportive and gave much importance to evaluation, others felt otherwise. In spite of varied views among the stakeholders about evaluation, the following issues were commonly raised:

16. **Co-ordination/planning of evaluation missions:** Several stakeholders reported that already there were many evaluation missions arriving in Haiti (one stakeholder reported that they were receiving two per week). In this context stakeholders were of the view that, while it would be difficult to know of all evaluations being planned, some degree of scheduling of mission visits would be of great benefit.

17. **Learning:** The importance of learning was highlighted by all stakeholders, many of whom remarked that not enough was learned, too many mistakes were repeated, the daily pressures did not allow enough time for reflection on what works and what needs to change, and too little time was available to actually follow up on evaluation recommendations. There are no mechanisms in place to hold stakeholders accountable for follow-up action, though a number of them felt it would be important to have such mechanisms in place. The potential is great for an Evaluation Support Office (ESO) to contribute to sharing lessons, including across stakeholders, producing synthesis evaluation briefs to highlight common findings, and pro-actively share evaluation findings, recommendations and lessons with stakeholders.

18. **Strengthening and Empowering Haitian Stakeholders:** There was common agreement among stakeholders, including Haitians, that the weakness of the government institutions heightened the importance of working with and through government (ownership) and to develop capacities, whenever possible building on existing institutions rather than creating new ones. At the same time, it was recognized that the many international actors attract well qualified Haitians to work with them, or that Haitians who receive scholarships/training tend to leave the country altogether. This situation creates ultimate challenges for capacity development in any sector. Any effort at strengthening evaluation in Haiti will have to be mindful of this context and develop approaches to work within the structures to empower and strengthen them.

19. **Information Gap:** All stakeholders remarked the absence of systematic and comprehensive information systems that allowed stakeholders to understand which projects were ongoing where, who

was doing what, etc. In part, the government's statistical office was affected by the earthquake, but even prior to the earthquake no comprehensive system existed to give an overview of the various agents and their projects. The ESO and Haiti Web Portal have the potential to contribute to filling this gap, but will equally face the challenge of a fragmented aid system, which does not recognize or report to one place. To contribute in this area the support office will need to reach out to find information (for instance, actively search for evaluations already available) and to communicate to the stakeholders.

20. The potential evaluation support services identified in the Concept Note were generally found to be appropriate, although the fourth function (research) was not commonly mentioned by stakeholders. A preliminary stakeholder map lists the various services as mentioned by each stakeholder group and can be used to refine the list, if necessary, of potential functions for an evaluation support office. One additional point made, was that giving careful consideration as to how these services will be provided, will make all the difference for acceptability and utility.

21. The location of the ESO will be essential to ensuring its credibility and usefulness. Stakeholders had varying views on what would be the best location. Given the complex and evolving nature of the institutional framework, the team found it was essential that any future work on the ESO would continuously observe the institutional landscape, build useful alliances and opportunities to provide evaluation support, and explore a variety of options for operational form, including networks, internet platforms, etc. These alternatives should not be seen as exclusive alternatives to a physical office, but rather as possible compliments to an ESO because many stakeholders felt having a presence was essential to making a difference.

22. The team, invariably, came across issues that reached beyond its immediate concern of evaluation support to Haiti, but linked up well with other work streams of the Haiti Evaluation Task Force, including the following:

- A sense that the humanitarian system was not learning but repeating old mistakes which raises questions to the evaluation community about making its work more effective.
- Common agreements (e.g. the Paris Declaration and the Good Humanitarian Donorship), were generally not referred to and responses continue to apply standard approaches that in general may be considered good practice, but do require (often missing) contextualization. Local solutions and local actors continue to be under- utilized or simply ignored.
- The need to integrate relief—recovery—reconstruction—development assistance, from the planning through implementation and evaluation to ensure a coherent approach to the challenges faced by Haiti.
- A need to evaluate broader issues, which could lend themselves to joint evaluations, such as sector-based evaluations (education, food security, shelter), and the social impact of aid (important but seemingly not addressed by any evaluations).

Conclusions and Recommendations

23. The mission team confirms that there is an existing demand and likely increasing pressure for evaluation in Haiti. Further, a large majority of stakeholders in Haiti are supportive of the idea of providing support services on evaluation and that this should entail a physical presence of some sort.

24. However, given the complex and evolving institutional context, the team recommends that a progressive approach to the development of the evaluation support service be adopted. The approach should be highly participatory with respect to key Haitian stakeholders, be responsive to the context and itself be about building evaluation capacity.

25. The mission team notes that commemoration activities are being planned in Haiti for the first anniversary of the January 12th earthquake. Mindful of and sensitive to the importance of this time to the Haitian people, this may provide an appropriate opportunity to advance this work and therefore the team recommends that, as a next step, the Haiti Evaluation Taskforce organise in Haiti an Evaluation/learning event on or around this date.

26. This Evaluation/learning event should have a number of objectives:

- To provide an opportunity to share lessons from evaluative work to date
- To stimulate debate about how to strengthen an evaluative and learning culture in Haiti
- To make recommendations about the operational form, location and functions of a future evaluation support service in Haiti
- The outputs of this event should guide the Task Force and other stakeholders as to next steps thereafter

Next steps

- Members are strongly encouraged to support this collaborative effort on evaluation in Haiti, in particular by joining up evaluation efforts in order to reduce the burden on Haitian counterparts.
- Interested members are invited to engage further by joining the joint task force. If you are interested please contact the Secretariat: megan.kennedy@oecd.org

Further information can be found at: www.oecd.org/dac/evaluationnetwork under “Haiti Earthquake”.

c. Peer Reviews of Evaluation in United Nations Organizations

A Joint Effort of the DAC Evaluation Network and the UN Evaluation Group

This joint note has been prepared by Ted Kliest and Rob van den Berg, co-chairs of the Joint Task Force on Professional Peer Reviews, for information at the 11th Meeting of the DAC Network on Development Evaluation.

The DAC Evaluation Network (EVALNET) and the UN Evaluation Group (UNEG) have joined forces to support professional peer reviews of the evaluation function of UN organizations. The DAC/UNEG Joint Task Force on Professional Peer Reviews was instrumental in developing a framework for peer reviews based on previous experiences and internationally recognized standards. Peer reviews are conducted by an independent peer panel consisting of professional evaluators with the support of expert advisors. Lessons from earlier peer reviews will be continuously incorporated in the approach to be applied in the future. More recently the framework was revised to become a fully owned UNEG framework for peer reviews.

Peer reviews conducted so far

The peer review approach was piloted in assessing the evaluation function of UNDP in 2005 and of UNICEF in 2006. In 2007 a general framework for peer reviews was established on the basis of the experiences with the reviews of UNDP and UNICEF. This framework can be adapted according to the context of the specific organization whose evaluation function will be reviewed. Subsequently peer reviews were undertaken of the evaluation function of WFP (report published in 2007), OIOS (report published in 2009), GEF (rep published in 2009) and UNIDO (report published in 2010). On the basis of lessons emerging from these peer reviews, the framework has been revised and presented to the Annual General Meeting of UNEG in May 2010. All reports have been distributed widely and are available on the UN Evaluation Group web site at www.uneval.org (in the Evaluation Function section).

Planned peer reviews

For the longer term perspective the following organizations have expressed an interest to undergo a peer review: UNV, UNEP and FAO (most probably in 2012). The Task Force is currently engaging with these organizations to establish a timeframe for the reviews.

The future of peer reviews

As standard procedure the Joint Task Force takes stock of experiences following each peer review. This has resulted in the update of the approach and methodology of the reviews as reflected above, which includes embedding the peer review instrument into UNEG. At its Annual General Meeting (May 2010), UNEG confirmed the utility of the peer reviews and adopted the modified approach as being the model for UNEG. This implies inter alia that UN organizations wishing to undergo a review will seek funds for the exercise, whilst assuring the independence of the peer panel implementing the review. It was also confirmed that future panels would consist of professional evaluators from UNEG and DAC EVALNET – as

has been the practice thus far. It was decided that the UNEG Task Force on Evaluating the Evaluation Function will take up the further work on peer reviews. Rob van den Berg (Director of Evaluation, GEF) who has represented UNEG as co-chair of the Joint Task Force would be succeeded in 2011 by Rachel Bedouin (Evaluation Department, FAO).

Rob van den Berg and Ted Kliet

Co-chairs of the Joint Task Force on Professional Peer Reviews

**d. OECD DAC MANAGING AID SEMINAR:
HOW CAN EVALUATION BE USED BETTER TO RESPOND TO
ACCOUNTABILITY AND POLICY-MAKING NEEDS IN DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES?**

Following the first Managing Aid Seminar, held in 2009 back-to-back with the DAC High Level Forum, the Secretariat is planning a second opportunity to share experiences and good practices on the effective management of development co-operation. This Managing Aid Seminar will focus on the role of development evaluation in strengthening accountability and supporting policy making in aid agencies.

The evaluation of official development programmes has grown tremendously over the past two decades as the public and taxpayers increasingly demand credible assessments of “whether aid works”. DAC members face mounting pressure to maximise value-for-money and provide quality evidence about how development assistance is actually improving the lives of the world’s poorest. Global efforts to strengthen mutual accountability for the outcomes of development co-operation have also contributed to a growing interest in evaluation.

In this context, DAC donors have committed to strengthening their evaluation systems with the goals of improving transparency, strengthening accountability relationships and supporting evidence-based policymaking and aid management. Many bilateral agencies now invest considerable resources in evaluation, both at the headquarters level and in the field. The average DAC member spends USD 2.4 million (median USD 1.7 million) on their central evaluation unit alone. Together, the members of the DAC spend \$75 million each year and produce more than four hundred reports in their main evaluation departments alone – and considerably more on evaluations carried out in country offices and programme units.

However, findings of DAC Peer Reviews and feedback from members of the DAC Evaluation Network show that a gap exists between what management and policy makers say they want and what evaluation departments are currently providing. It is clear that development agencies are not always using evaluations optimally. Lessons from evaluation are too often not translated into practice. Management response systems for implementing change are weak in many agencies. What are the causes of these gaps between evaluation and policymaking? How can evaluation findings be leveraged to support accountability to donor publics, evidence-based decision making and better management of aid? How can agencies become more receptive to critical evaluation findings? How can evaluations be carried out and communicated more effectively to help agencies better learn and contribute to development results?

The Secretariat of the OECD DAC is beginning to plan an event to address these questions and discuss how evaluation can be better used in member agencies to improve development results, and support learning and accountability. Such an interactive event will bring together development policy makers and agency management (the users of evaluation) with the evaluation community (the producers). The goal is to share experiences and discuss in a frank and open setting how best to maximise the use and improve communication of evaluation evidence. We will also consider the possibility of including a thematic session to discuss evaluation findings for a relevant policy area of mutual interest, for example budget support or peacebuilding.

As the Secretariat develops this event further, we welcome your comments and suggestions. These should be sent to megan.kennedy@oecd.org and hans.lundgren@oecd.org.

e. Evaluation of the Paris Declaration Phase II Update to the DAC Network on Development Evaluation

Niels Dabelstein, The Paris Declaration Evaluation Secretariat
10 November 2010

Since the Inception Report submitted in May the Core Team and the Secretariat have focused on the following activities:

1. Supporting the full launching and implementation of the national evaluations and donor/agency HQ studies:

This has included several regional workshops, intensive consultations with national teams and regular maintenance, updating, ensuring team access and monitoring the use of the trilingual Extranet for Teams and other members of the International Reference Group. Guidance notes have been produced in response to demonstrated needs:

- i. Country evaluation inception reports – 2 June, 2010
- ii. Issues of attribution and contribution in the PDE Phase II Evaluation – 11 Aug. 2010
- iii. Tackling Question 3c Institutional capacity and social capital – 19 Aug. 2010
- iv. Use of evidence in country and donor evaluations - 3 Sept. 2010
- v. Approach to handling the Evaluation of the PD in the context of fragile situations – 28 October 2010

2. Supplementary Studies

a. Latin America Survey: After a late summer lull, the actual survey process is progressing and new efforts (FORO / OAS) are underway to speed up the flow of survey responses in order to flesh out the base of information on aid effectiveness in Latin American and Caribbean countries. The deadline for receiving results, 24 September, 2010 was not met as several countries provided data rather late. The survey results will be available for the synthesis work.

b. Special Study on resources beyond the current reach of the PD: The report brings together interesting information and insights, especially about some little-known sources of development finance. It also confirms and underlines the lack of transparent and reliable data regarding many sources. The report has been posted on the Extranet in English, French and Spanish, and will be posted on the DAC Website shortly.

3. Documenting and learning from the evaluation process

Following the agreement at the Management Group Meeting in May the Secretariat has contracted Michael Q. Patton, Utilization Focused Evaluation to follow, analyse and document the evaluation process and the utilization of the evaluation. The Secretariat and the Core Team will work with him and his colleague, beginning at the Emerging Findings workshop in December, to seek synergies between

learning from the whole international evaluation, and ways of capturing and embedding the experience within countries and regions.

4. External Reviewers

At its meeting in May the Management Group decided, building on the successful experience in Phase 1 of the Evaluation, to establish a review panel comprising three eminent development thinkers, evaluators, academics or practitioners to review the draft and final Synthesis Report along three lines similarly to Phase 1:

- Are the findings, conclusions and recommendations grounded on adequate evidence and analysis?
- Are the conclusions and recommendations of strategic and policy relevance?
- Does the Synthesis Report communicate the key messages effectively and persuasively?

The Management Group has invited the following three persons who have all accepted to sit on the Panel:

Prof. Dr. Dewi Fortuna Anwar: Dr. Anwar was recently appointed Deputy Secretary for Political Affairs to the Vice President of Indonesia. She has been Associate Director for Research, The Habibie Center since November 1999. She is also a Researcher at the Centre for Political and Regional Studies, the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (PPW-LIPI), Jakarta. Between 1993 and 1999, she was Head of Regional and International Affairs and in November 1998 was promoted to Research Professor at PPW-LIPI. From 1992 to the present, she is a Research Executive, Centre for Information and Development Studies (CIDES), Jakarta. Other positions include Assistant to the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, The State Secretariat, Indonesia and Assistant to the Vice President for Global Affairs, The Secretariat of the Vice President, Indonesia. Her other activities include from 1997 to present: Council Member, Australia-Asia Institute and in 2001 she became an International Council Member, The Asia Society. Between 1998 and-1999, Member of Indonesia's People Consultative Assembly (MPR)

Dr. Mary Chinery Hesse was Chairperson of the Accra High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness and was Vice-Chair of the Ghana National Development Planning Commission. She is a Commissioner of the Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance in Africa, and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation-UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Between 1989 and 1999 she was Deputy Director General of the International Labour Organization. Before that she was Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in Sierra Leone, Tanzania, the Seychelles and Uganda. Before joining the United Nations she was Principal Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, and Secretary of the National Economic Planning Council.

Lord George Mark Malloch-Brown, KCMG, PC, was until November 2009 Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office with responsibility for Africa, Asia and the United Nations. In 1994 Malloch Brown joined the World Bank as Vice-President for External Affairs, which included responsibility for relations with the United Nations. In 1999, he moved back to the United Nations where he was appointed Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) by the recently elected Kofi Annan. During his time he spear-headed a number of reforms, including following up the creation of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG),

5. Contributions to dissemination

The most important direct contribution of the Core Team to dissemination of the Evaluation will be in preparing a strong synthesis report (and free-standing Executive Summary) capable of reaching specialized audiences (at policy and operational levels) and wider, non-specialized publics. The Core Team also plays a role in encouraging Country and Donor Coordinators, Reference Groups and Teams to aim for similar qualities in their reports and plan from early on to promote vigorous dissemination and debate in country.

Following the 'trailer PDE film' (parts can be viewed on the Extranet) a proposal was developed by IOD PARC for a second stage of documentary filming and shared with the EMG for their consideration. The EMG concluded that it did not wish to proceed with the project in the form proposed. The Secretariat has explored a range of possibilities for using the filmed interviews and other existing material from other sources to produce several short videos for the dissemination web-site (and possibly wider distribution). The Management Group has now approved a less ambitious, and considerably cheaper, project that builds on existing material and limited new filming.

The Secretariat and members of the Core Team participate in and present the PDE at the Regional Launch Workshops for the 2011 PD Monitoring exercise. So far such workshops have been held in Cap Verde, Tunisia, Cambodia and Guatemala.

The Secretariat also participates in the WP-EFF meetings and Cluster D – on Monitoring Progress.

6. Preparing the Synthesis phase

During the period from September to December 2010 the components of the evaluation will be drafted, discussed, quality assured and completed, and the emerging findings of the overall evaluation must be validated with the direct participants, laying the base for the synthesis report to be drafted by April 2011. The objectives, criteria, requirements and standards for carrying out this work were specified in the Inception Report approved by the EMG and IRG in May (summarised in Box 1 below). To meet these requirements, the Core Team has now prepared a detailed approach and tools for analysing, compiling and synthesizing the evaluation results (reflecting a number of key lessons from Phase 1)

7. The current status for country evaluations and donor/agency studies

Two countries (Sri Lanka and Kyrgyz Republic) have not been in a position to proceed with evaluations. The majority of countries were later than scheduled in finally selecting their evaluation teams, and in turn producing inception reports. By 5 November 26 of 28 reports have been received in various stages of completeness. Many of them are embargoed pending clearance by the National Reference Groups. All reports will be placed on the Extranet as we receive clearance from the National Coordinators.

The draft Emerging Findings Report will be distributed on 16th November in English with the French and Spanish versions following a few days later.

One country and one Agency report are still outstanding, but will be delivered by the end of the year.

8. Emerging Findings Workshop

As previously announced The Emerging Findings Workshop / 3rd Meeting of the IRG will take place in Bali, Indonesia 7 – 10 December 2010. All IRG members, National Coordinators and country/donor evaluation team leaders have been invited. At this time we have about 130 confirmed participants

The draft Emerging Findings Report which will be the main document for the workshop will be distributed on 16th November in English with the French and Spanish versions following a few days later.

Evaluation of the Paris Declaration Phase 2		
Critical Milestones		
Updated 10 November 2010		
Period/Date	In country and donor/agency HQ	Core Evaluation Team
1 Dec 2009	IRG endorsement of Evaluation Framework and Generic Terms of Reference	
2010		
Dec 2009/ Jan 2010	Establish National Reference Groups and approve TORs for Country Evaluations/Donor HQ Studies	Core Evaluation Team support to National Evaluation Coordinators as required
Dec 2009/ Mar2010	Select and contract evaluation Teams (Many somewhat delayed)	
Feb – Mar	Core Team mission to coordinate with advanced Cambodian evaluation and early South Pacific workshop for Team Leaders and National Coordinators with Core Team/EMG	
26 March	Core Evaluation Team circulates draft operational matrix including methodology paper/package to workshop participants and to IRG/EMG for comments by 9 April. (Participants in the sub- regional workshops had the opportunity to comment and discuss this at the workshops).	
April	Sub-regional/national workshops for Team Leaders and National Coordinators with Core Team/EMG	

30 April	Core Team submits Inception Report including revised operational Matrix including methodology paper/package to IRG for comments by 10 May (noting that input from the delayed SEA and LA workshops still needed to be taken into account.)	
11 – 13 May	Core Team and EMG meet to finalise Inception Report and operational Matrix including methodology paper/package	
31 May	Country and Donor/Agency HQ Teams submit inception reports (Many somewhat delayed)	Core Evaluation Team support to National Evaluation Teams and Coordinators as required
April – Oct	Conducting Country and donor/agency headquarters-level evaluations	
15 Oct	Submission of first draft report including summary of findings by each country team and donor/agency headquarters-level team to EMG and CET	Core Team analyses, QAs, and compiles emerging findings draft by 8 Nov. for review & translation
Oct – Dec	Consultation, validation and finalisation of reports in countries and donor/agency HQ	Core team circulates consolidated emerging findings in 3 languages by 19 Nov. Prepares up-dating as more drafts come in
7 – 10 Dec	Meeting/workshop of country and donor/agency headquarters study team leaders, Core Team and International Reference Group to discuss emerging findings and the plan for the synthesis (Bali, Indonesia) (EMG and CET working on site from 6-11 Dec.)	
31 Dec	Submission of country and donor/agency-level reports	
2011		
Jan – Apr	Dissemination of evaluation results in countries	Analysis, up-dating, compilation, QA on inputs and drafting Synthesis Report. (Draft by 8 March. for review, QA & translation, to be circulated 6-7 April)
27-28 April (TBC)	Meeting of the International Reference Group to comment on the draft Synthesis Report	
April – May	Dissemination of evaluation results in countries	Finalisation of Synthesis Report

May – Sep	Dissemination activities/inputs to preparations for High Level Forum
29 Nov – 1 Dec	4 th High Level Forum in Pusan, Korea

f. Aid for Trade

Update on the evaluation of aid for trade

As part of the OECD's efforts to improve the effectiveness of aid-for-trade projects and programmes and develop good practices in the evaluation of aid for trade, a meta-evaluation based on 162 evaluations available in the OECD DERE database was commissioned. Evaluations for Vietnam, Ghana and the Transport and Storage sector were analysed in detail. The study provides an overview of, and a perspective on (i) the operations DAC donors and international agencies have implemented and, most importantly, (ii) how evaluations have been conducted, in terms of methodology and topics covered.

The impact of trade was not explicitly considered in most evaluations. Furthermore when the impact on trade was mentioned, it was most often only briefly invoked on the basis of theoretical or hypothetical links but it was neither measured, nor verified. When it was, in general terms, the operations' impact on entrepreneurs, exporters and/or importers was hardly ever evaluated. DAC guidelines were followed relatively closely in most evaluations, which thus analyzed the impact, relevance, efficiency and sustainability of operations as well as their impact in terms of a series of cross-cutting issues such as gender or environment. Problems highlighted include a lack of *ex ante* robust assessment of the operation to be undertaken. Objectives tend to be defined without the preliminary work required for making the operation "assessable". There was no stable pattern in the way donors evaluated their operations. This implies that the current guidelines are not precise enough, or not implemented strictly enough.

The next Global Review of Aid for Trade will be held in July 2011 at the World Trade Organisation and will be based on the joint OECD/WTO publication Aid for trade At a Glance which will report on the outcomes and impacts of aid for trade.

g. Impact Evaluation



NONIE Meeting 2011 28 – 29 March, Paris, France

NONIE was formed to promote quality impact evaluations of Official Development Assistance (ODA). NONIE comprises the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development / Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) Network on Development Evaluation, the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), the Evaluation Cooperation Group (ECG) and the International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE) – a network drawn from regional evaluation associations.

The annual meeting is open to members and non members in order to share different perspectives on impact evaluations.

The main topics are still to be determined through a consultation of members. The cross-cutting aspects to be discussed will concern:

- **Quality** of impact evaluations, through a reflection on concepts, methods and processes;
- **Learning** from completed impact evaluations, meta-analysis and synthetic reviews of evidence;
- **Support** to impact evaluations communities (supply and demand sides) in developing countries;
- **Donors' experience** on impact evaluations (management, partnership, funding, use ...).

A number of topical sessions will be organised. Papers and presentations can be submitted by external contributors as well as NONIE members. A call for proposals will be issued end of November.

The NONIE Blog on impact evaluations:

Before the meeting takes place, we'd like to liven up the debate on impact evaluations by creating the NONIE blog: please stay informed and contribute to the debate by posting your comments!

If you want to receive information on this event and on the blog, please **send your contact** references to: nonie2011@gmail.com





International Initiative for Impact evaluation *Improving lives through impact evaluation*

3ie's mission

Increase development effectiveness through better use of evidence in developing countries

Some headline figures

- US\$26.5 million committed to undertake 66 new impact studies, selected from over 700 proposals
- Over 100 new systematic reviews to be completed by the end of next year
- A network of over 100 members, associate members and partners
- Over 1,300 downloads of 3ie working papers in the first nine months of 2010
- An expert roster of over 150 leading researchers on impact evaluation and online database of over 200 impact studies

Supporting the production of new evidence of what works and why

3ie promotes the production of high quality evidence from impact evaluations by funding new studies. High quality impact evaluations are built around a credible counterfactual with an evaluation design based on the underlying program theory to learn what works and why, and also at what cost.

3ie runs highly competitive international calls for proposals to identify the most policy relevant, highest quality new studies. To date we have received over 700 proposals, from which we are funding 66 new studies (see Box 1). We receive many more proposals than we have funds to finance. Impact studies take time, but ten new studies should be completed by the end of next year.

The purpose of 3ie is not to produce studies but to change policy to improve lives. 3ie continues to experiment with different approaches to engage policy makers and program managers, such as the new Policy Window which identifies priority interventions to be evaluated and then matches these interventions with research teams. Thematic calls for proposals for studies of social protection and sanitation are currently under consideration.

Box 1 Some topics addressed in on-going 3ie studies

- Raising agricultural productivity with low cost farm equipment in Africa
- Paying for environmental services in Mexico and Uganda
- Post conflict resolution in Sierra Leone
- Day care and female labour supply in Mexico
- Raising the age of marriage in Bangladesh
- Increasing male circumcision to reduce HIV/AIDS incidence
- Supporting rural livelihoods in Bihar
- Female empowerment in Mauritania

3ie also provides quality assurance services. These services include helping identify experts to undertake studies, reviewing terms of reference and impact study reports. So far during 2010 3ie has received 76 requests for quality assurance services, and many more people have used our online expert roster of over 150 impact evaluation specialists.

Synthesizing existing evidence

The evidence from high quality impact studies is brought together in systematic reviews. 3ie has supported 11 such reviews, of which four are completed, in diverse areas such as increasing primary school enrolments, reducing female genital mutilation and building social cohesion in Africa. The program of on-going reviews has been greatly expanded with interest from other agencies. 3ie provided quality assurance for DFID's pilot systematic reviews and is currently managing a joint AusAID-DFID-3ie call for proposals for up to 59 new reviews. There will be close to 100 completed reviews by the end of 2011.

Building the culture and capacity to produce and use impact evaluations

3ie supports building capacity to conduct new impact studies primarily by encouraging international collaborative research, including South-South partnerships, to develop the skills and experience of researchers in developing countries. 3ie also conducts short awareness raising workshops for policy makers and program managers in developing countries and development agencies. These workshops have been run in over a dozen countries including China, Egypt, India, South Africa and Zambia, with upcoming courses in Argentina and Pakistan, and for DFID research staff. 3ie is developing a training of trainers approach to expand coverage of these workshops.

Several other 3ie activities promote a culture of producing and using impact evaluations, including (i) our on-line database which currently has over 200 impact studies and is growing all the time, (ii) publication of working papers which are typically more conceptual pieces, (iii) impact evaluation guidelines – such as the CEDE guidelines on the design and presentation of randomized control trials –(iv) policy briefs, which have been used by DFID staff in meeting the new requirement to refer to existing evidence when making new proposals, and (v) we are partnering with ODI to assist researchers communicate with policy makers, and (vi) the *Journal of Development Effectiveness*.

We are working with our Associate Members and partners – a network of close to 100 organizations actively engaged in the production of impact evaluations in developing and developed countries – to develop communities of practice and online impact evaluation resources.

3ie’s organizational structure

3ie membership is open to agencies implementing development programs, with a total budget greater than US\$1 million. We currently have 19 members. The membership meets annually to discuss 3ie’s overall direction and appoints the Board.

Box 2 Benefits from 3ie membership

- Send clear signal of commitment to the results agenda and evidence based development policy
- Support production and dissemination of global public good of knowledge about what works
- Access to a greater range of quality assurance services from 3ie, including workshops for staff
- Shape the development agenda by joining discussions on 3ie’s future direction

3ie’s headquarters are in New Delhi, India. We recently opened an office in London, responsible for our review program, and a liaison office in Washington D.C. Having operated with a small but dedicated staff in our first two years of operations 3ie is now scaling up to cope with our rapidly growing program. By the end of next year we will have 22 staff in our Delhi office, 5 in London and 2 in Washington D.C.

Contact: 3ie@3ieimpact.org