

AGENDA ITEM VIII. ONGOING WORK
Opportunities and entry points for engagement

This document has been prepared by the Secretariat for discussion during the eighth session of the 12th Meeting of the DAC Evaluation Network.

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Opportunities and entry points for engaging with development co-operation providers and partner countries

Introduction

The OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) is actively working to broaden engagement with emerging economies and partner countries. The Secretary General places high priority on increasing work with non-OECD economies. Partners in the OECD's enhanced engagement group (Brazil, China, Indonesia, India, and South Africa) are invited to DAC Senior- and High-Level Meetings.

Building on our strategic reflections last year, and previous experiences working beyond the DAC donor community, the Evaluation Network is likewise seeking to expand partnerships and open up to mutually beneficial collaborations beyond our current membership.

Today we will discuss how we can build on past experiences to broaden our interaction with other partners.

Members are invited to discuss:

1. What advice do you have for stronger engagement with a differentiated group of countries?
2. Do you have any ideas, specific evaluation contacts or joint projects that could serve as useful entry points for collaboration in specific countries?
3. Would members be interested in broadening participation at the next network meeting (8-9 February 2012)? What discussion topics would be of interest?

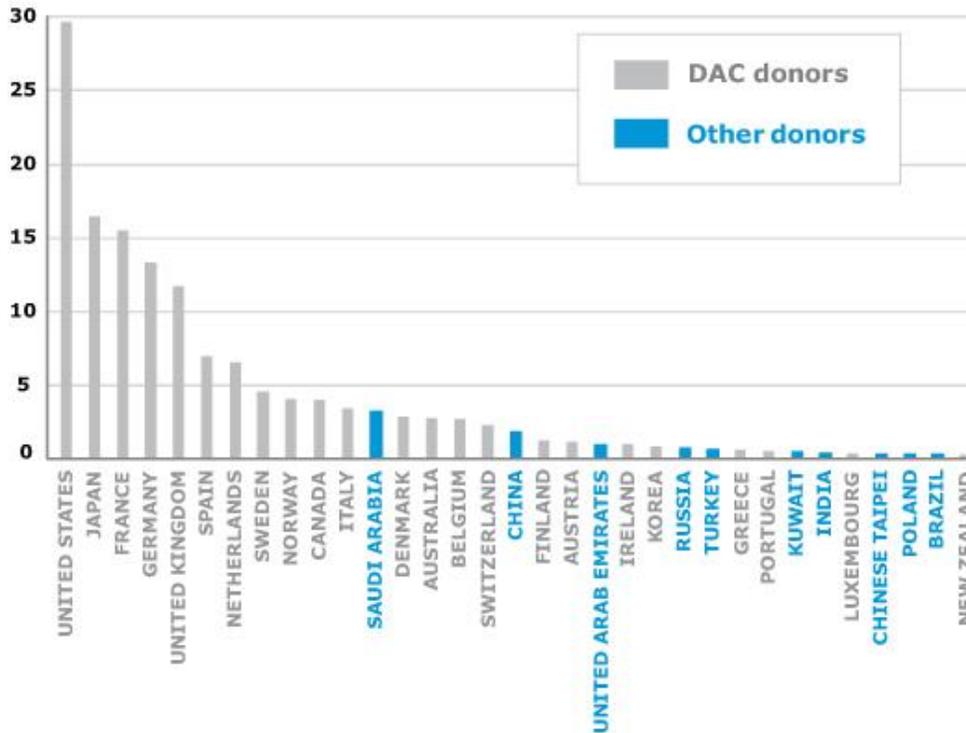
Background: The changing landscape of development financing

The landscape of development support is changing, with many new important actors rising to the fore. Development support from countries beyond the “traditional donors” of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) is rising rapidly and, in some cases, exceeds the contributions made by individual DAC members. In 2009, Saudi Arabia provided USD 3.25 billion in gross ODA, exceeding the gross ODA volumes of 12 of the 24 DAC countries. In the same year, China provided an estimated USD 1.9 billion in gross ODA, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) USD 1.04 billion (Source: [OECD DAC](#)). At present, 20 countries beyond the DAC membership report their aid flows to the DAC. The chart below gives an idea of how the development co-operation flows from the biggest non-DAC providers compared to DAC donors in 2009.

The DAC adopted a statement at the recent DAC Senior Level Meeting, “[Welcoming New Partnerships in International Development Co-operation](#)” that supports the contribution of all providers of development co-operation resources and expertise, and states that the DAC, “hopes to forge new relationships with these new partners through open dialogue without preconditions.” It goes on to clarify that countries can be both recipients and donors of development aid, and that providing development assistance does not affect ODA recipient status. Efforts are intensifying to engage and deepen the dialogue with these countries.

Donors' gross ODA in 2009

(Current USD billion)



Note on the chart: Figures for China, India, Russia and Brazil are estimates based on official documents published by their respective governments.

Network engagement: Building on past efforts

The Evaluation Network has unique strengths to share, including its members' vast experiences and expertise in the set-up, management and conduct of development evaluation. The network has been a leader on joint evaluation and has much to share in terms of encouraging and managing collaborative evaluations. The network also has valuable resources on quality standards, capacity development and evaluation systems.

The Evaluation Network has worked with many developing country partners and other development actors – in a variety of ways – over the years. Previous engagement was mostly *ad hoc* on a needs basis – focusing on areas of mutual interest. Much interaction with country partners took place through participation in joint evaluations. The EVALNET's work on evaluation capacity development (ECD) has been another major entry point for broader engagement. Building on the 2006 mapping of network ECD work carried about by Japan for EVALNET, the secretariat reviewed lessons and experiences in 2009. Lessons from this review have been compiled and shared widely.

Contact with other development co-operation providers has been more limited. Participation of different actors in meetings has been welcome, with delegates from China, Vietnam, Afrea, the Gates Foundation and the African CoP on MfDR, among others, participating in past meetings. In 2003, a large meeting was held with some 300 participants from non-governmental organisations (NGOs) revealing a strong appetite for exchange of evaluation practice and sharing of experiences.

Overview of potential partners

Other providers of development support

There are numerous potential areas of collaboration with other providers of development assistance, beyond the current EVALNET membership. Several emerging donors have expressed interest in learning from our experience and engaging in more evaluation work, including during Special Reviews of non-members carried out by the DAC peer review teams. While some of these countries' institutional capacities are still quite low – many do not have an established evaluation department – they are similar to our current membership in terms of set up and identity. As the established network for bilateral development evaluation and a key reference in the international evaluation community, we are very well placed to provide leadership in this field and support new donors as they develop evaluation policies and strategies.

- The **United Arab Emirates** has expressed interest in our work and informally requested to attend a meeting. In 2010, UAE provided, for the first time, whole-of-government reporting of its aid flows at the activity level to the DAC, making it the first country outside the DAC's membership to report in such detail ([Link to full brief on UAE aid](#)). We are currently collaborating with the UAE Office for Coordination of Foreign Aid, the Islamic Development Bank and the AfDB in producing an Arabic version of the *Quality Standards for Development Evaluation*. This work will also feed into the Arab Coordination Group.
- **Arab Coordination Group Institutions:** At their [joint meeting](#) in Kuwait City on 10 May 2009, [Arab Coordination Group Institutions](#) and members of the DAC agreed on an Action Plan for Stronger Partnership. A meeting 4/5 July will bring together these two groups in London to discuss common interests, including support to the Middle East and north Africa region. Evaluation of public policies is closely linked to transparency and accountability and therefore has important links with very topical issues in the region.
- **India** has set up an independent evaluation office and is working to strengthen public sector capacities in this area. Informal contacts have been taken.
- **China** is strengthening its national evaluation system (though not necessarily on aid), involvement in joint evaluations, [the China-DAC Study Group](#), supported by the International Poverty Reduction Centre in China (IPRCC) and DAC members, was created in 2008 to promote mutual learning on growth and poverty reduction.
- **Brazil:** The Brazilian Co-operation Agency expressed interest in the work of the Evaluation Network, but there are political sensitivities around their engagement with the DAC and they have some reservations with the Paris Declaration. It would likely be most effective to engage where possible on specific substantive or technical issues of mutual interest, such as Haiti reconstruction, capacity development or triangular cooperation.
- **South Africa** has been involved in several joint evaluation and is an emerging provider of development support and capacity development. The national public sector evaluation system is quite strong, though again, not necessarily within the parts of the government dealing with aid.

Developing country partners

Engagement with developing country partners could build on the links and relationships forged through joint evaluations, including notably the recently e Evaluation of the Implementation of the Paris Declaration (PDE). The PDE has brought together an exceptionally wide range of developing country stakeholders in a joint, country-led process. Many partners have emphasized how useful the process has been in-country and that they have learned a lot through learning-by-doing.

Much could be learned from the PDE experience and this network would be a strong group to build on. A proposal has been made to gather PDE stakeholders to discuss the experience in an event back to back with the next EVALNET meeting in 8-9 February 2012.

Other recent or ongoing evaluations (i.e. conflict and fragility, budget support, Haiti) could also be a basis on which to build stronger links with evaluation contact points.

- **The International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding** hosted by the OECD DAC works to establish international objectives for peacebuilding and statebuilding in countries affected by conflict and fragility. The dialogue is co-chaired by DAC members and fragile states and seeks to give fragile states a voice in setting the agenda for international support for peacebuilding and statebuilding. There may be entry points for evaluation in terms of providing evidence to inform their ongoing work on making peacebuilding support more effective and strengthening engagement in contexts of fragility and conflict. Given the strong developing country leadership in this group, it might also serve as a source for country-led evaluation initiatives. The group is meeting in Monrovia in mid-June.
- The **OECD-MENA Governance Programme** aims at modernising public governance in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) by strengthening the capacity of public officials to design, implement and monitor public governance reforms. It works to strengthen public management systems and improve transparency – including with a specific initiative on evaluation capacities. A regional centre for evaluation capacity, hosted by the Moroccan government, was launched last year (though it is not yet functioning). Several other initiatives are underway to support national capacity efforts and create a regional evaluation association in the MENA region.

Evaluation networks, foundations and other organisations

Another group of actors in international evaluation are the national, regional (such as Afrea) and international (such as IOCE) evaluation associations and other organisations such as 3iE and IDEAS. There may be potential for deepening our work with these groups, particularly in areas such as professional competencies for evaluators or capacity development.

The Gates Foundation has participated in previous meetings, but could not make it to this meeting. Other important foundations are also interested in information exchange and evaluation knowledge sharing; broader engagement could be sought with these institutions.