DAC Network on Development Evaluation

Draft Annotated Agenda for the 14th Meeting of the DAC Network on Development Evaluation

27-28 November 2012
14th Network Meeting, 27-28 November 2012

GENERAL MEETING INFORMATION

The meeting will be held in Room 6 of the OECD Conference Centre.

Chair of the Network on Development Evaluation: Mr. Martyn Pennington (European Commission)

The meeting will take place from 9:30-13:00 and 14:30-18:00 on Tuesday 27 November 2012 (with refreshment breaks mid-morning and mid-afternoon). On Wednesday 28 November the meeting will take place between 9:30 and 13:00 (with a coffee break). Simultaneous English-French / French-English interpretation will be provided for the meeting during the plenary sessions. The informal session, without interpretation, will take place 14:00-16:00 on Wednesday 28 November.

Participants should confirm their participation by registering on EMS or via e-mail to the Secretariat (alexandra.chevalier@oecd.org) as soon as possible to ensure that security is informed and entry badges can be provided.

All documents for the meeting will be available on the Evaluation Network’s member website: www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/members. Contact the Secretariat for password.
DRAFT AGENDA OUTLINE

Tuesday 27 November 2012
Morning Session 9:30 – 13:00

I. OPENING SESSION
Welcome to new members, adoption of agenda and summary record (13th meeting).

11.00 Refreshments break

II. SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS
How to synthesise evaluation findings and share lessons? Discussion of quantitative and qualitative approaches in reviews. Presentation of recent studies.

Afternoon Session 14:30-18:00

III. LESSONS ON DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION
Discuss 12 lessons list, with presentations on developing internal capacities for evaluation and support to partner capacities. Small group discussions and report back.

Evening: Launch of the DAC Guidance on Evaluating Peacebuilding Activities in Settings of Conflict and Fragility, Hosted by Norway at the Buffet du Parc, OECD

Wednesday 28 November 2012
Morning Session 9:30 – 13:00

IV. RESULTS MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS - AN EVALUATION PERSPECTIVE
Present and discuss evaluation findings, future work.

11.00 Refreshments break

V. NEWS BOARD: Updates on ongoing work on multilateral effectiveness, the Evaluation Insights series, monitoring and evaluation of aid programmes related to private sector, impact evaluation, evaluating climate change adaptation, methodological approach to budget support evaluation and communication.

VI. EVALNET'S FUTURE WORK
Presentation from Secretariat of agreed work programme (2013/14) and mission statement.

VII. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Informal Session 14.00 – 16.00

- Presentation of the Strategic Impact Evaluation Fund (SIEF) (14.00 – 14.30)
- Meeting of the Task Team Evaluation Capacity Development (ECD) (14:30 - 16:00)
I. OPENING SESSION

The Chair will open the meeting and invite new members and guests to briefly present themselves, followed by adoption of the agenda [DCD/DAC/EV/A(2012)2] and approval of the 13th meeting summary record [DCD/DAC/EV/M(2012)1].

For new (and not so new) members, the Network Vice-Chairs William Carlos and Henri Jorritsma will present an overview of the network, highlighting what EVALNET has to offer and how members can get the most out of it.

II. SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS

Building on the discussion on systematic reviews at the last network meeting, this session will delve further into the issues of synthesising research evidence to answer policy-relevant question about what works and what doesn’t in international development. This session will look at methods for reviewing both qualitative and quantitative research. DFID will present its programme on systematic reviews and discuss quality standards for reviews. Some examples of findings from recent work on systematic reviews and from a synthesis of evaluation findings on HIV (not using the SR methodology and standards) will also be presented. Members will be asked to share examples from their own experience with systematic reviews and synthesis of evaluations, and discuss:

1. How best to synthesise evidence and share lessons?
2. Examples of systematic reviews or syntheses and how they were used to inform policy making.

III. LESSONS ON DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION

The Secretariat will present a draft document: Evaluating Development Co-operation: 12 Lessons from the OECD DAC. The publication is part of a series of 12 Lessons booklets, collecting experience and insights from DAC experience and peer reviews. The aim of the publication is to help DAC members, our country partners and other providers of development assistance, by identifying good practice and providing concrete examples of how it can be achieved.

The document is targeted to senior management. It should capture the most important aspects of evaluation for a development agency (not the evaluation unit itself). It is an opportunity to take stock of experience and current thinking among EVALNET members and to send a strong message to development
policy makers about the place of evaluation in today’s development context. EVALNET has been asked to contribute to this secretariat-led work.

Members will be invited to respond to the overall list in plenary:

Are these the most pertinent lessons? Do they capture your experience with creating a strong evaluation function that contributes to building a learning culture, and a more accountable, more effective development agency?

1. Are there other important lessons on evaluation that you think should be included?
2. Do you have specific experiences or examples to share?

Breakout groups

Following the plenary discussion, we will break into small groups for in-depth discussion on three groups of lessons. Each group will be invited to discuss the proposed lessons and share experiences. A note taker and reporter should be nominated. Each group should write down examples of member experiences (to share with the secretariat) and prepare a 5 minute report back of key messages from the discussion to share in plenary.

1. Strategic framework - Setting evaluation policy and defining the role of evaluation, protecting independence and credibility, contributing to a culture of learning across the organisation. (CC13)
2. Delivering quality evaluations - What questions should evaluation answer and how? A look at selecting methods, evaluability and resourcing evaluation. (Meeting room CC6)
3. Capacities and incentives for evaluation - How to support mainstreaming of evaluation across the development organisation? How to create incentives and build capacities for staff production and use of quality evaluation? How to support and involve partner countries? (Meeting room CC6)

Each group will report back to the plenary on the key messages from their discussion.

LAUNCH OF DAC GUIDANCE ON EVALUATING IN SETTINGS OF CONFLICT & FRAGILITY (18:00 - 20:00, Buffet du Parc, OECD)

During a reception hosted by Norway, the OECD DAC Chair Brian Atwood will present the new Guidance on Evaluating Peacebuilding Activities in Settings of Conflict and Fragility- Improving Learning for Results (OECD 2012). Members and guests will be invited to share how they will take this work forward in their institutions. Hard copies of the document will be available for participants. More information on this work is available at: http://oe.cd/aid4peaceresults.

Wednesday 28 November 2012 – Morning Session

IV. RESULTS MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS – AN EVALUATION PERSPECTIVE

This session will take an evaluative perspective on managing for development results in donor agencies. The Secretariat will introduce the session. Janet Vähämäki (Consultant) will present findings
from a recent review of results based management: Review: Results Based Management in Development Cooperation (2011).

Members will be invited to present findings from recent evaluations and their own reflections on results management systems. Highlights of recent work will be shared by: Riitta Oksanen (Finland) on the evaluation of the Results-Based Approach in Finnish Development Cooperation and the Independent Evaluation Department of the Asian Development Bank on their evaluation of the Bank’s experience with managing for development results (MfDR). Marie Moland Gaarder (Norad) will highlight findings from an annual report on the general lack of data and systems to assess performance and how this hampers attempts to evaluate rigorously.

V. NEWS BOARD

The news board item provides an opportunity for brief updates on important ongoing work and to gather input from members to take the work programme forward. Written updates will be provided on: Multilateral effectiveness and the UNEG-DAC peer reviews of evaluation functions, the Evaluation Insights series, monitoring and evaluation of private sector support, impact evaluation, and work on evaluating climate change adaptation in the OECD Environment Directorate.

Brief presentations will be made on the following items:

- **Evaluating budget support:** A revised methodological approach has been developed, drawing on experience from piloting the new method in Zambia, Mali and Tunisia (More information and the evaluation reports are available on the website: http://oe.cd/dacbudgetsupport). The methodological note will be presented to the network for agreement as a valuable way forward for joint work on evaluating budget support. An update on ongoing and future evaluations will be provided by the European Commission.
- **Report back on Workshop: Communicating Evaluation Results:** Nick York (DFID) will share the outcomes of a recent meeting co-hosted by DFID, the DAC Informal Network of Development Communicators and EVALNET in London.
- **Presentation of the Strategic Impact Evaluation Fund (SIEF):** Andrea Cook (DFID) will briefly present the trust fund and highlight how DAC members can engage. This topic will be covered in more detail during the informal session.

VI. EVALNET'S FUTURE WORK

The Secretariat will present the agreed work programme for 2013/14 and the recently revised mission statement for the network. Members will be invited to propose topics for collaboration and contributions to work. Members can also propose topics for joint evaluation at this time and flag ideas for celebrating next year’s 30th Anniversary of the DAC Network on Development Evaluation.

VII. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Close of formal Meeting
INFORMAL SESSION 14:00 - 16:30

14.00 – 14.30 Presentation of the Strategic Impact Evaluation Fund (SIEF)

Christine Kolbe and Andrea Cook (DFID) will provide information on the SIEF including:

- details of the four human development evaluation clusters supported by SIEF
- results of the first call for proposals and lessons learned
- opportunities for capacity building
- how DAC members can get involved in SIEF

SIEF is designed as a multi-donor trust fund providing a source of funding and expertise for donors and our developing country partners to commission impact evaluations with high policy relevance. The presentation will be followed by questions and answers.

14:30 - 16:00 Evaluation Capacity Development (ECD) Task Team Meeting (Meeting room)

The task team meeting will be chaired by Riitta Oksanen (Finland). The purpose of the meeting is to review ongoing work on supporting capacities for evaluation in developing countries and to discuss plans for further work in 2013.