



ROOM DOCUMENT 6

IMPACT EVALUATION
Report on work by NONIE (Network of Networks Impact Evaluation Initiative)

This note has been prepared by DFID and the World Bank for information at the 6th meeting of the DAC Network on Development Evaluation, 27 – 28 June 2007.

The note contains three parts:

- I. Summary of the NONIE Workshop on 24/25 May
- II. Composition of sub-groups
- III. Draft Work Plan

**NONIE WORKSHOP
THE HAGUE MAY 24-25TH 2007**

I. SUMMARY

Areas of agreement from day 1 (review of guidance)

- ▶ Meaning of impact: stick to DAC definition
- ▶ Impact evaluation implies a counterfactual (though sometimes implicit)
- ▶ There are a variety of approaches to impact evaluation... but all should adopt mixed methods, and all should be quality impact evaluations
- ▶ Need 'protocol' for establishing what impact approach most appropriate for what evaluation topics/questions
- ▶ Drawing on work of sub-group 1 and 2, an introductory chapter of the Guidance will provide an overview and address this question
- ▶ Audience for guidance is development evaluation practitioners – so needs to be accessible. There will be a separate 'policy brief', based on the Guidance, for policy makers

Developing the Guidance

- ▶ SG 1 to work on choice of approach which will be part of an introductory chapter
- ▶ SG 2 and 3 to continue work on their respective areas
- ▶ Guidance to include examples and links to best practice evaluations

Website

- ▶ Website is up at The address is <http://www.worldbank.org/ieg/nonie> (password no longer required)
- ▶ It will be public once NONIE members have had a chance to review and comment

Working together (joint evaluation)

- ▶ Agreed joint work important for impact evaluation, building on previous success in joint evaluations
- ▶ Want to identify a systematic program of work, but will also search for immediate opportunities
- ▶ Means of working will be both single sector multi-country within a common framework, and multi-donor single country
- ▶ IEG will review NONIE database to identify 'gaps' and propose possible areas of joint work

3IE

- ▶ Divergent views on possible role and contribution of 3IE and how NONIE can best relate to this initiative; but agreement that existence of 3IE, if it comes to be, should not circumscribe NONIE's activities
- ▶ It was, however, agreed that we should seek coherence between 3IE and NONIE
- ▶ DFID will communicate with others who were in Leading Edge Group, passing on the concerns expressed by some members and how LEG members see the rationale and respective roles of 3IE and NONIE (i.e. ensuring coherence)

Partner country participation

- ▶ Agreement to prioritize partner country participation for several activities: Task Team and SG membership, consultation process, capacity building relationships, and joint studies
- ▶ Working in a truly participatory way will strengthen NONIE, and also build the profile of the associations in international evaluation
- ▶ NONIE will work with the regional evaluation associations to identify possible partners, but will also ensure government participation
- ▶ A new SG will work to further this agenda

Governance and financing

- ▶ IEG to be secretariat
- ▶ DFID to be chair for one year term; plan to have partner country chair once this becomes feasible
- ▶ Pledges of further support in cash or in-kind from IOB, Sida, BMZ, DFID and, possibly, AFD (BMZ possibly to host next year's May meeting in Berlin). (NORAD has subsequently pledged support).

Next steps

- ▶ Prioritize partner country participation through new SG
- ▶ Secretariat to provide each SG a brief on its future direction
- ▶ Outputs to be combined in a single Guidance to be taken to consultation amongst individual networks and the wider constituency
- ▶ Identify areas of common work; plan to initiate first joint IEs this year
- ▶ All members feedback on drafts and website
- ▶ NONIE to meet again linked to proposed IE workshop (organized by World Bank) in Washington in October/November, and then again in May next year.

**II. Network of Networks Impact Evaluation Initiative (NONIE)
Proposed sub-groups, March-October, 2007**

Sub-Group	Area of work	Description	Members
1. Guidelines 1	Experimental and Quasi-experimental approaches to impact evaluation	This sub-group will develop the section of the guidelines relating to experimental and quasi-experimental approaches. The guidelines should be clear as to when these methods are desirable and when they are not appropriate, and outline the practical implications of adopting them and any pitfalls. The draft submitted by IEG prior to the November 2006 meeting was a preliminary draft of this topic.	IOB (2 nd) OVE/IADB IEG NORAD
2. Guidelines 2	Developing approaches to impact evaluation	It is widely recognized that many interventions supported by development agencies are not amenable to impact evaluation using the approaches covered by the 'Guidelines 1' subgroup; e.g. policy influence, macro reforms, institutional development activities, and harmonization. This sub-group will develop guidelines on approaches to impact evaluation for these areas.	GEF IFAD FAO (1 st) UNDP AfrEA AFD
3. Guidelines	Impact evaluation of new aid instruments and country programs	Agencies are concerned with being able to demonstrate the impact of the 'new aid modalities' such as budget support and SWAPs. They also want to be able to assess impact of their assistance at the country level. This sub-group will draw on the work of the other two groups to provide guidelines on these issues.	OVE/IADB IOB (1 st) IEG DFID EBRD
4. Consultation Process	Consultation process for guidelines	As agreed at the November 2006 meeting in Paris and subsequent discussions of the Task Team, the guidelines should be subject to a broad process of consultation. This sub-group shall identify stakeholders with whom consultations should be held and identify the means by which those consultations should be held.	WHO AfrEA
5. Common program and priority areas	Moving forward with impact evaluations	An ultimate purpose of NONIE is to ensure a more substantial program of impact evaluations is carried out in the future, preferably in a coordinated or joint manner. This subgroup will make proposals for both the means by which this program should be undertaken and the content of the program (or at least means for identifying content).	DFID WHO FAO (2 nd) UNDP Debazou Yantio
6. Information-sharing platform	Development of resource platform to support impact evaluation of NONIE members and other agencies	This sub-group will outline ideas for what is to be included on a website to support impact evaluation. Possible areas include: resources for IE, database of IEs, information-sharing on planned activities.	IEG DAC secretariat Debazou Yantio

III. NONIE Draft Workplan (version: 6 June 2007)

Area	Responsibility	Specific activities	Timeframe
Production of Guidance	Sub-Groups 1-3	Produce full draft	Mid-September
	Secretariat	Combine into single document, with introductory material by end of October.	Mid-October
Building partner country participation and relationships	Sub-Group 7	Following on agreement in The Hague, to work with regional associations to expand partner country membership, ensuring a spread of government participation	Additional members in place end July
	Sub-Groups 4 and 7	Identify other forms of engagement with partner countries, and potential partners	On-going
Promoting a program of impact evaluations	Sub-Group 5	Develop means of collaboration for impact evaluation	On-going
	Secretariat	Review coverage of existing IEs to identify a suitable sector for a multi-country, single sector IE	End-June
	All task team members	Identify potential single sector, multi-donor IEs	On-going
	All task team members	Promote use of guidance within own agencies	Once Guidance completed
Planning of NONIE meetings	Secretariat	Arrange venue for November meeting and announce date	End June
	Chair and Secretariat	Set agenda	Early October
Consultation processes	Sub-Group 4	Propose consultation processes for NONIE activities and outputs	End October
Developing NONIE website	Sub-Group 6	Further develop website	On-going
	Secretariat	Website maintenance	On-going
Relationship with 3IE	All task team members	Review 3IE documents (distributed by DFID) and pass further comments to the Chair	By mid-June
	Chair	Discuss with former LEG members complementarities between NONIE and LEG and report back to NONIE members	On-going
Review of existing impact evaluations	Secretariat	Maintain database	On-going
	Secretariat	Summarize findings from existing IEs on a thematic basis	Draft March 2008

