

March 2008

Evaluation

DFID Department for
International
Development

EVALUATION DEPARTMENT

**FORWARD WORK
PROGRAMME 2008/09**

Department for International Development (DFID)

EVALUATION DEPARTMENT (EvD):

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 08/09

1. This is a brief summary of the **2008/9 workplan for DFID's Evaluation Department ("EvD")**.

More information on particular studies is available from EvD: please contact Lynn Quinn, Abercrombie House, Eaglesham Road, East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 8EA, lquinn@dfid.gov.uk.

2. The context within which EvD works is changing rapidly. The new **Independent Advisory Committee on Development Effectiveness (IACDI)** is now responsible for agreeing EvD's workplan and DFID's central evaluation priorities. For more information on IACDI see

www.dfid.gov.uk/aboutdfid/evaluation-iacdi-info.asp. At the same time, EvD will be **working more with other donors and partners** on joint evaluations. This is in order to comply with the principles of the Paris Declaration, which was signed by over 100 donors and partner governments in 2005 and commits donors to better joint working. (For more information on the Paris Declaration, see http://www.oecd.org/document/15/0,2340,en_2649_3236398_354015541_1_1_1,00.html).

3. This year, EvD is leading on the development of an updated evaluation policy and strategy for DFID (see box) which will take into account this new context.

4. For these reasons, 2008/9 is a transition year for EvD. IACDI have agreed that **EvD's 2008/9 workplan will mainly concentrate on work already agreed and underway**.

A NEW EVALUATION POLICY AND STRATEGY FOR DFID

During 2008, EvD will be working with others to develop a new cross-DFID evaluation policy and strategy. This will cover both the work of EvD and reviews and evaluations carried out elsewhere in the Department. The *policy* will set out the main guiding principles for DFID evaluation. The *strategy* will cover a limited period (probably 3 years) and will set out the approaches and resources needed for evaluation and review across the whole of DFID. It will look at practical questions such as:

- How best to conduct project and programme reviews and evaluations, and how best to pull together the results so that both DFID and its partners can learn better from past experience
- How to evaluate DFID's work with multilateral partners such as the World Bank and EU, which accounts for nearly half of DFID funding
- How to get better information and data to use to measure the impact of DFID's work
- How best to evaluate DFID's policies,
- How to use evaluations better to influence decision-making
- How best to focus DFID's limited evaluation resources

EvD will be looking for views from outside DFID on the policy and strategy. There will be opportunities to contribute views and comment on draft papers (July to Sept). **Interested readers should please contact Julia Compton, jcompton@dfid.gov.uk**

5. IACDI has also agreed that from 2009/10 there should be an agreed 3 year rolling work plan for EvD and that before this is agreed there should be a period of public consultation on priorities. This consultation will start in the second half of 2008: please check this website for news.

6. The main **elements of the 08/09 evaluation study programme** include: Country Programme Evaluations; Evaluation of central DFID/HMG policies; and other thematic and sector studies.

7. EvD seeks to maintain a balance between short and long thematic studies and to allow some **flexible funding for work on themes that arise during the year**. This includes taking opportunities which may arise to join in with new evaluations led by other donors and partners which are of interest to DFID.

8. Planned evaluation studies are summarised in the table below. Work already agreed and underway includes DFID Country Programme Evaluations on **Ethiopia, Afghanistan, DRC, Sudan and Cambodia** as well as a cross country synthesis, and thematic studies on donor support for addressing **public financial management, anti-corruption, social exclusion, climate change (baseline)**, and the effect of the **Paris Declaration** (including studies on **fragile states** and **statistical capacity building**). New areas of work proposed (these will be 'scoped' and if at all possible started in 2008) include setting indicators of success and baselines for DFID's new (2008) policies on **Climate Change, Aid for Trade and Growth**, as well as evaluations on donor support for partner countries' **public sector governance reform** and **human resources for health**. DFID is seeking donor partners to tackle the latter two topics jointly, and this may take some time, so it is possible that they may not get underway this year.

9. Apart from evaluation studies, other areas of EvD work include:

- a) Further work on strengthening **communications and follow-up** of evaluations. EvD now has a 'recommendations tracker' which includes the response of DFID's operational departments to recommendations, and records follow-up actions. DFID has agreed to provide IACDI with an annual report of the actions taken. All EvD's evaluations are published on the DFID website (<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/aboutdfid/evaluation.asp>)
- b) Continued work with international development assistance networks, for example the **OECD-Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Evaluation network, the European Union and 'Nordic Plus' evaluation groups**, to develop and manage a programme of joint donor evaluations.
- c) support for **capacity building in evaluation**. EvD supports international and developing country evaluation associations and international training in evaluation. Another current area of support is the International Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group for HIV and AIDS, which EvD supports jointly with the AIDS and Reproductive Health team. Capacity building is still a relatively minor area of work for EvD, but it is recognised that developing both DFID staff and partner country capacity for M&E is vital for DFID's accountability for results. The evaluation strategy will explore the potential for more work in this area.

- d) Developing a major workstream on support for **evaluation of multilateral work**, as part of the evaluation strategy. This is a relatively minor area of work for EvD at present, but we have agreed to increase our work in this area and recently (Dec 07) placed a 'Seconded National Expert' in the European Commission's evaluation department.
- e) **Support to IACDI.** This includes providing the secretariat for IACDI meetings, producing position papers on issues of interest to IACDI such as independence and quality and establishing and maintaining a dedicated IACDI website. The minutes of IACDI meetings and their annual report to the Secretary of State will also be published.
- f) EvD has also provided support to DFID's **Quality Assurance Processes for DFID projects and programmes.** This has included contributing to the Quality Assurance Group which looks at new Country Assistance Plans, and providing comments on evaluation plans for new projects above £7.5M.
- g) **Working with other UK Government Departments** to evaluate areas which concern them as well as DFID, such as trade, conflict, AIDS and climate change. In 2008/9 EvD is hosting a secondee from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office who is working on climate change and evaluating policy influencing.
10. EvD often involves **external partners** in steering groups for its evaluations. Individuals are normally chosen to represent particular institutions, for example UK NGO consortia such as BOND, BOAG, the UK Aid Effectiveness Network and more specialist groups such as the AIDS Consortium and the Gender Action Network. Joint evaluations may involve wider groups of international partners. EvD also frequently consults the public on individual evaluations it is running, including asking for comments on draft documents. **For more information, or if you want to know how you can input views into a particular evaluation, please check our website or contact Lynn Quinn, Communications Officer, EvD, see contact address in paragraph 1 above.**

PLANNED EVALUATION STUDIES 08/09

Evaluation topic	Background and justification	Planned reports (08/09)
A. Country Programme Evaluations (CPEs)		
Started 07/08: Pakistan, West Balkans and Sierra Leone Starting 08/09: Ethiopia, Afghanistan, DRC, Sudan and Cambodia	This is a rolling programme of country studies, now in its fourth year. These evaluations will contribute to and inform DFID's next Country Assistance Plan cycle, as well as meeting DFID accountability requirements. Annual synthesis reports pull together thematic lessons (the first four in this group will feed into a synthesis on fragile states). The CPE team is also looking at new ways of working in future, as part of the new DFID evaluation policy and strategy.	Pakistan (Apr 08), West Balkans (Jun 08), Sierra Leone (July 08) Ethiopia (Oct 08), Afghanistan (Sept 08), DRC (Feb 09), Synthesis (Dec 08)
B. Evaluation of DFID Policies		
Social exclusion policy stocktake	Underway. Social Exclusion is a key constraint to progress against the Millenium Development Goals and to poverty reduction. This mid term stocktake will look at progress with implementation of DFID's 2005 social exclusion policy (http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/social-exclusion.pdf) and make recommendations for improvements.	Country case studies (Oct 08), Final report (Jan 09)
Climate change delivery plan baseline study	Being 'scoped'. New climate change strategy being developed, due in May 08. Action on climate change is a major UK White Paper commitment. This study will look at the current situation ("baseline") to lay the basis for evaluating performance and achievement over 2008-11. Cross-Whitehall mapping of climate change activities and resources is underway.	Baseline report, if possible by Dec 08
Growth and Aid for Trade policy baseline studies	These DFID policies will be developed during 2008 and EvD will work with the policy teams to help them define indicators to measure success, and to measure the current ("baseline") situation.	To be determined – late 08 or early 09
C. Other sectors and themes		
Climate change joint donor work	Underway. DFID is supporting the Global Environment Facility international workshop on evaluating climate change in May 08, including preliminary work on an evaluation framework for climate change 'adaptation' interventions. This is likely to lead to further work during 08/09.	Workshop paper May 08
Paris Declaration evaluation (joint OECD DAC)	Underway. Provisionally committed for phase II. A joint DAC evaluation of implementation of the five Paris Declaration principles will conclude in Sept. 2008 prior to the Accra High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. In addition to its own donor case study (DFID corporate systems), DFID has led two joint thematic studies: Paris Declaration and fragile states, and statistical capacity building (also in this table). Remaining work in 08/09 will mainly be scoping for Phase II work in 09/10	Phase I: DFID case study (April 2008); (Joint) Fragile States study; (Joint) Stats. Capacity Building study.
Anti corruption – cross Whitehall study	Scoping underway. Tackling corruption is central to the White Paper and there is external and parliamentary interest in how the problem is tackled in the aid programme and by partner countries. The evaluation will map DFID policy and cross-UK Government strategy, with a focus on the international architecture for tackling corruption.	Inception Report and Evaluation framework, April 2009

Evaluation topic	Background and justification	Planned reports (08/09)
Anti-corruption – joint donor study	Underway. Norway is leading this joint 6-donor study, which will focus on in-country approaches to tackling corruption.	Literature Review and Evaluation Framework by Oct. 2008
Public Financial Management (joint donor study)	Committed. Public financial management (PFM) concerns the taxing, spending and debt management of government, which in turn influences resource allocation and income distribution. The objectives of the evaluation will be to examine how donors can effectively contribute to the successful strengthening of PFM in our partner countries.	Literature Review (Aug 2008) Main Evaluation (May 2010)
Public sector governance reform (PSGR)	New. Governance reform in partner countries is a major area of spending and a key commitment in the White Paper. This stock take will assess the extent to which investments made through donor funded PSGR programmes have built state capability, accountability and responsiveness in delivering services and creating the enabling environment for economic growth. Donor partners are being sought for this work, so study timing depends on this.	i) Mapping report of DFID's PSGR work (June 08) ii) Approach paper for a joint evaluation of country cases with other donors (July 08 tbc)
Fragile states joint donor thematic study (managed by EvD)	Underway, Phase II provisionally committed. The first phase of this study, managed by EvD under the Paris Declaration evaluation, started in 07/08 and will report in June. A second phase is expected in 09/10 and scoping for this will take place in 08/09. DFID is also mapping its own support for this area in a separate desk study, and will also synthesise the results from Country Programme Evaluations of fragile states. <i>Bilateral spending in fragile states is rapidly increasing and is important for DFID and other donors to assess the effectiveness of the approaches adopted in country programmes and learn lessons.</i>	Phase I report for Paris Declaration – July 08. Mapping study - June 08. Synthesis of CPEs – 2009
Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding (CPPB): piloting new evaluation guidance (joint DAC)	Underway. Conflict prevention and peacebuilding programmes are fundamental to DFID's work in fragile and conflict states. However evaluating the effectiveness of such programmes is difficult, and two DAC networks (conflict and evaluation) have joined to produce draft guidance on this. The guidance is being piloted using ongoing donor evaluations. A joint donor evaluation is planned for Sri Lanka in 2008, for which EvD has provided some advisory support, and the guidance is also being piloted in CPEs and other DFID evaluations and reviews.	No published products in 08/09, but comments will feed into revised guidance in 09
Human resources for health	Being 'scoped'. New. This area is critical for the delivery of key Millenium Development Goals including MDG5 on reducing maternal mortality. DFID is looking for international partners to evaluate this area.	Dates to be confirmed.
Education	Agreed in 2007/8, scoping underway. A White Paper priority and an area of high and increasing spend for DFID, including the 2005 Chancellor's Initiative which will require doubling of expenditure to a total of £8.5B by 2015. This short desk review will assess the effectiveness of expenditure over the past few years to inform this rapid scaling up.	Mapping and Framework paper by Dec. 2008
Education Fast Track Initiative (joint)	Joint donor evaluation 2008/09. FTI is a joint donor initiative hosted within the World Bank, to which DFID contributes (c. £50M pa). This evaluation covers an important potential means	First paper, April 2009.

Evaluation topic	Background and justification	Planned reports (08/09)
	of scaling up DFID funding. DFID is a leading member of the steering group.	
Evaln. of support to partner countries' statistical systems (joint, managed by EvD)	Phase II, provisionally committed. The first phase of this study, managed by EvD under the Paris Declaration evaluation, started in 07/08 and will report in May. A second phase is expected in 09/10 and scoping for this will take place in 08/09. <i>This study supports a key objective of DFID's Results Action Plan. Enhanced support to building statistical capacity is critical for achieving a harmonised and country led approach to improving accountability.</i>	Phase I report for Paris Declaration – June 08.
Short review of constraints and opportunities for increasing harmonisation and alignment of evaluation work	Provisionally committed. This study was originally has been developed by EvD and agreed by partners in the OECD-Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Evaluation Network. DFID is currently managing the process together with the DAC Secretariat.	Report to DAC Evalnet meeting, November 08
D. Flexible funding		
	Based on previous recommendations, some flexible funding and staff time has been set aside to support new evaluation topics which arise during the year, to respond to demand.	To be decided

EVALUATION PUBLICATIONS January 2006 - March 2008

Evaluation of DFID Country Programmes – CASC (Central Asia, South Caucasus & Moldova)
Evaluation of DFID Country Programmes - Pakistan
Review of DFID Private Sector Infrastructure Investment Facilities
Synthesis of Country Programme evaluations 2006/07
Evaluation of DFID Country Programme - West Bengal
Evaluation of DFID Country Programme – Indonesia
Evaluation of DFID Country Programme – Nepal
Evaluation of DFID Country Programme - Caribbean Regional Study
Evaluation of DFID Country Programme - Russia
Interim Evaluation of Taking Action: The UK Government's Strategy for Tackling HIV/AIDS in the Developing World - Final Report and Working Papers on Tracking UK spending and activities and Measuring Success, 7 country case studies
Evaluation of DFID Country Programme - Kenya Country Study
Evaluation of DFID Country Programmes: Vietnam Country Study
DFID's 2005 Agriculture Policy - Interim Evaluation
Evaluation of DFID Country Programme – Synthesis of 2005-06 Evaluations
Evaluation of the Development Effectiveness of DFID's India Programme 2000-2005
Evaluation of DFID's Policy & Practice in support of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (3 vols)
Evaluation of DFID Country Programmes – Mozambique Country Study
Developing Capacity? An Evaluation of DFID Funded Technical Cooperation for Economic Management in sub-Saharan Africa – Synthesis Report
Evaluation of DFID Country Programmes: Bangladesh Country Study
Project Completion Report Synthesis 2000-2005
Internal Review of DFID's engagement with the conflict in Northern Uganda
Evaluation of DFID Country Programmes: Ghana Country Study
Evaluation of DFID Country Programmes: Malawi Country Study
Evaluation of DFID Country Programmes: Rwanda Country Study

Joint Studies

Citizens' Voice & Accountability: Literature Review and Briefing paper
Joint Evaluation of General Budget Support: Main Report, Synthesis plus Country Studies in Burkina Faso; Malawi; Mozambique; Nicaragua; Rwanda; Uganda; Vietnam.
Evaluating Coordination, Coherence & Complementarity of the EC's Country Strategy Papers with National Development Priorities

Working Papers

Private Sector Infrastructure Investment Evaluation: Literature Review and assessment of evidence base
Security & Justice Sector Reform Programming in Africa
Evaluating DFID'S Policy on Tackling Social Exclusion: Baseline, Framework & Indicators
Review of Environmental Screening
Citizens' Accountability & Public Expenditure: A Rapid Review of DFID Support

DFID, the Department for International Development: leading the British government's fight against world poverty.

One in five people in the world today, over 1 billion people, live in poverty on less than one dollar a day. In an increasingly interdependent world, many problems – like conflict, crime, pollution, and diseases such as HIV and AIDS – are caused or made worse by poverty. DFID supports long-term programmes to help eliminate the underlying causes of poverty. DFID also responds to emergencies, both natural and man-made. DFID's work aims to reduce poverty and disease and increase the number of children in school, as part of the internationally agreed UN 'Millennium Development Goals'.

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