

## EvSum210

### JOINT FUNDING SCHEME

[The Project](#) - [The Evaluation](#) - [The Main Findings](#) - [Related Studies](#)

## The Project

The project was introduced in 1975 to provide support, normally on a £ for £ basis, to British voluntary agencies funding developmental projects of direct help to the poor, particularly in rural areas. Estimated expenditure by ODA in 1981/82 was £2.17m, with Oxfam-sponsored projects accounting for half of this. Support is usually limited to projects costing between £3,000 and £100,000 each over the initial maximum three year period, but where the period is extended to five years the upper limit is £150,000. In order to reduce the administrative costs the major users receive a block grant. This allows considerable discretion in the choice of projects, but ODA retains the right of veto.

## The Evaluation

The evaluation was undertaken by Mr G Armstrong and Mr K Osborne, respectively ODA Economic Adviser and Consultant. The terms of reference were to review the operation of the JFS, concentrating in particular on Kenya and Bangladesh. The work comprised desk research, discussions with ODA staff and representatives of the major users and field visits to Kenya and Bangladesh.

## The Main Findings

- The JFS does not influence the policies of the agencies or the selection of projects but, as there were more than enough eligible projects, the main effect was to encourage a wider range of projects.
- While projects objectives were expressed clearly, assessment of project performance was hindered by a lack of information. However, it was evident that objectives were often clearly unattainable in full. Over-ambitious objectives, dependence on external finance and manpower and lack of genuine community involvement were common.
- Most projects fell within the criteria of the scheme, but a number obviously required support over a longer period than suggested and permitted. It was recommended that more care should be taken in determining whether projects are capable of becoming independently viable.
- In general, the limits on the length and size of funding were found satisfactory and should be retained.

## Related Studies

In 1981, a similar programme of education, community and productive projects located in Chile, managed by the Triple Agency Sub-committee (TASC comprising representatives from CAFOD, Christian Aid and Oxfam) was evaluated (EvRpt151). In this case, project funding was 100% ODA's, allocated without any Chilean Government sanction.

The programme was found to be successful and cost-effective despite high overheads and delays and uncertainties caused by ODA's financial procedures.

'Productive' projects experienced considerable difficulties in planning and management and were the least successful while community projects, tapping the energies of the local community, were the most successful. The study makes many detailed recommendations.