



eval news

No. 13

Since the last issue of eval news, EVAL has published four evaluations, two evaluation studies and a report concerning the international peer review of the evaluation function in UNIDO. All evaluations and evaluation studies can be downloaded from www.evaluation.dk. EVAL is currently involved in a number of evaluations and evaluation studies, which are at different stages of preparation, implementation or finalisation. Below you will find information pertaining to the recently concluded evaluations and studies; information on ongoing and new evaluations and studies as well as on events organised by EVAL either alone or in cooperation with others.

The evaluations published since the last issue of eval news include the Evaluation of the UNHCR Joint Organisational Strategy 2007-09; the Impact Evaluation of Danida Support to Rural Transport Infrastructure in Nicaragua; the Joint Evaluation of the Danish-Bhutanese Country Programme 2000-2009 and the Joint Evaluation of the Joint Assistance Strategy for Zambia (JASZ) 2007-2010. All four evaluations have been presented at seminars or public meetings in the relevant countries and used to influence new phases of development cooperation.

The two evaluation studies published include an evaluation study entitled “Evaluating aid effectiveness in the aggregate: A critical assessment of the evidence” and an evaluation study on “Gender and value chain development”.

In spring 2010, EVAL hosted a public meeting on the experiences with support to agriculture in development cooperation. An international seminar focussing on impact evaluations of in-

frastructure interventions was organised and co-hosted by EVAL, the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3iE) and the Faculty of Life Science at the University of Copenhagen. Presentations from the meetings can be found at www.evaluation.dk.

The evaluation programme for 2010-2011 includes a mixture of evaluations conducted jointly with partner countries and with other development partners. The planning of the evaluation programme for 2011-12 was initiated in October 2010. As part of this process, the preliminary ideas for the new evaluation programme will be presented and discussed at a public meeting to be held at the Danish Institute for International Studies in Copenhagen on 23rd November 2010. Information on how to register for up-coming events can be found on the website. Comments and suggestions concerning ongoing and future evaluation activities from partners are welcome and may be forwarded to eval@um.dk.



Finally, we would like to welcome three new staff members to EVAL: Lone Hansen (accounting and publicity); Jeanineke Dahl Kristensen (evaluations) and Ninja Ritter Klejnstrup (student).

RECENTLY CONCLUDED EVALUATIONS

Joint External Evaluation of the UNHCR Joint Organisation Strategy 2007-2009

EVAL-responsible: Gitte Robinson and Margrethe Holm Andersen

Evaluation Team: Universalia Management Group (Canada)

The purpose of this evaluation was to assess the experience of the joint organisation strategy (JOS) between UNHCR and three of its development partners (Canada, UK and Denmark), to determine the extent to which the JOS had delivered its intended objectives and desired impact, and to identify lessons learnt regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the joint approach. Findings and recommendations were used to inform the design of the next joint strategy and also provided general lessons for this type of collaboration, which can be used e.g. when joint organisation strategies with other multilateral organisations are being developed. Published in December 2009.

Evaluation of the Impact of Danida Support to Rural Transport Infrastructure in Nicaragua

EVAL-responsible: Eva Broegaard

Evaluation Team: Orbicon A/S and Goss Gilroy Inc., Canada

The impact evaluation covered Danida-support to rural transport infrastructure in Nicaragua. The main objective was to assess the socio-economic impact of the transport infrastructure interventions at household and community level. The issue of sustainability and long-term impact was also investigated. Further, the evaluation assessed effects related to capacity and organisation at community, municipal, regional and to some degree national level. Published in September 2010.

Joint Evaluation of the Danish Bhutanese Country Programme 2000 - 2009

EVAL-responsible: Ole Winckler Andersen and Gitte Robinson

Evaluation Team: PEM Consult and Oxford Policy Management

The overall objective of this evaluation was to assess and document the relevance and effectiveness of Danish support to poverty reduction and democratization in Bhutan during the period of 2000-2009, with special focus on the outcomes of the support given, and on the sustainability of these outcomes. The findings and recommendations will feed into adjustments of the development cooperation with Bhutan during 2008-13 and the subsequent phasing out of Danish assistance to Bhutan. The evaluation was managed by EVAL and the Research and Evaluation Division (RED) of the Gross National Happiness Commission of Bhutan. Published in September 2010.

Evaluation of the Joint Assistance Strategy for Zambia (JASZ) 2007-2010

EVAL-responsible: Ole Winckler Andersen and Gitte Robinson

Evaluation Team: Oxford Policy Management

The overall aim of the evaluation, conducted by Danida, Sida and Irish Aid, was to provide an assessment of the Joint Assistance Strategy for Zambia (JASZ) - particularly the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the strategy - and to identify lessons learnt, best practices and recommendations to inform the Sixth National Development Plan and the design of the next JASZ. Additionally, the evaluation was intended to contribute with inputs for Phase II of the Joint Evaluation of the Paris Declaration. Published in October 2010.

OTHER RECENTLY CONCLUDED STUDIES

Evaluating Aid Effectiveness in the Aggregate

The general effects of aid have been analysed in numerous studies. The purpose of this Evaluation Study was to discuss and summarize

available empirical analyses that attempt to estimate the impact of foreign aid on economic growth. The study draws on a previous evaluation study (Evaluation Study 2009/1), which focused on methodological issues. Published in January 2010.

Gender and Value Chain Development

The overall purpose of this Evaluation Study was to examine which gender issues are important when and where in value chain development. The report is based on findings of existing evaluations complemented by other relevant studies. The focus is on development interventions that explicitly or implicitly employ a value chain approach. Coverage is not limited to gender-specific interventions, but also includes evaluations and lessons learned from more generic value chain interventions insofar as they address (or reflect upon) gender issues. Published in June 2010.

Peer Review of the Evaluation Function of UNIDO

The purpose of the Professional Peer Review was to provide UNIDO management, the Board and the evaluation group (EVA) with an independent assessment of the evaluation function in the organization, focusing on the functioning of EVA and the independence, credibility and usefulness of evaluations made. The Peer Review was conducted by an international panel of peer reviewers supported by Kabell Consulting. Published in May 2010.

EVALUATIONS IN THE FINALISATION PROCESS

The evaluations listed below are in the finalisation process and will be published later in 2010 or early 2011. For more information, please consult www.evaluation.dk

Joint Donor Evaluation of Development Cooperation with Niger

EVAL-responsible: Margrethe Holm Andersen

Evaluation Team: SEE (Luxembourg), Baastel, Iram and Dnet Consult

The joint evaluation of development cooperation with Niger from 2006-08 has assessed the overall effect of support rendered and strategies followed by Denmark, Belgium, the European Commission, France and Luxembourg based on a review of a limited number of interventions within seven sectors and within four cross-cutting themes during the years 2006-2008. The evaluation uses the Paris Declaration principles and the OECD/DAC evaluation criteria to evaluate the overall impact of aid on poverty reduction and to examine issues of donor coordination, complementarities and synergy. The overall aim is to support donors in making development cooperation with Niger more effective. To be published in December 2010.

Evaluation of the Special Initiative on Protracted Refugee Situations (PRS) – Tanzania Study

EVAL-responsible: Gitte Robinson

Evaluation Team: Nordic Consulting Group A/S

In 2008, the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) launched a Special Initiative on Protracted Refugee Situations (PRS) to energize efforts to promote durable solutions and improvements in the life of these refugees. The initiative focuses on five situations in different parts of the world where refugees have been living in exile for long periods of time. The overall aim of this evaluation is to assess how UNHCR has exercised its mandate in finding durable solutions, the catalytic role it has played in engaging other players, and the progress it has made in improving the quality of refugee life. The evaluation studies achievements and challenges, and will identify examples of good practices and innovative approaches, to be incorporated into future activities. While this evaluation focuses on the PRS initiative in Tanzania, other similar evaluations are in the pro-

cess of being conducted in other PRS locations. To be published in December 2010.

Evaluation of Programmatic Approaches to Support for the Environment in Africa

EVAL-responsible: Margrethe Holm Andersen

Evaluation Team: Orbicon and ITAD

The main purpose of this evaluation is to analyse achievements (results and where possible also impact) and challenges linked to the use of programmatic approaches in the field of environment in Danish partner countries in Africa, during the period 1996-2009. The evaluation has a special focus on Egypt, Tanzania and Zambia, where field work was conducted, but also includes lessons learned from Kenya, Mozambique and South Africa. The evaluation aims at promoting lesson learning for future strategies on, and implementation of, environmental support. The evaluation will feed into the development of a new Danish action plan for environment and climate change. To be published in December 2010

Evaluation of Danish support to Women in Africa

EVAL-responsible: Eva Broegaard

Evaluation Team: Nordic Consulting Group and Orbicon

The overall objective of the evaluation is to contribute to the continued improvement of the support to gender equality in Africa, by assessing results and identifying lessons learned from the overall approach and the specific experiences of the activities funded under the "Women in Africa"- grant. The evaluation is expected to assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the portfolio of activities; both at the overall level and by looking more in depth at selected activities. The evaluation is expected to help enhance the foundation for future selection of activities and partners, by assessing the added value of the approach and the funded activities. To be published in January 2011.

ONGOING AND NEW EVALUATIONS

Full TOR for ongoing evaluations can be found at www.evaluation.dk. Various other evaluations on i.e. budget support in Tanzania, Public Financial Management and the Farmers Field Schools approach in Bangladesh are currently under preparation. All new assignments above 500,000 DKK are announced at www.danidacontracts.dk.

Joint Evaluation of Anti-Corruption Efforts

EVAL-responsible: Eva Broegaard

Evaluation Team: ITAD

The main purpose of the joint evaluation is to assess anti-corruption interventions in 5 countries (Bangladesh, Nicaragua, Tanzania, Vietnam and Zambia) in order to identify lessons learned concerning what works in what contexts. Efforts supported by ADB, Danida, DFID, Norad and Sida are being assessed. Expected to be published in the first half of 2011.

Multi-donor Evaluation of Support to Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Activities in Southern Sudan

EVAL-responsible: Ole Winckler Andersen and Gitte Robinson

Evaluation Team: ITAD

The overall aim of this multi-donor evaluation of support to conflict prevention and peace building activities in Southern Sudan is to assess donor policies, strategies and activities in Southern Sudan following the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in January 2005. The evaluation commenced in September 2009 and is led by the Policy and Operations Evaluation Department, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is guided by an Evaluation Steering Committee, comprising representatives of donors including Denmark, other development agencies and the Government of Southern Sudan. Expected to be published in February 2011.

Evaluation of the Implementation of the Paris-declaration, Phase 2

EVAL-responsible: Margrethe Holm Andersen

Evaluation Team: IOD

The second phase of the joint evaluation of the implementation of the Paris Declaration has been initiated and will focus on the effects and, to the extent possible, the impact of the implementation of the declaration. Case studies are being conducted in 22 partner countries and seven agencies. The secretariat for the evaluation is managed by Niels Dabelstein (nda@diis.dk). The management group is comprised of Sweden, the Netherlands, USA, Sri Lanka, Malawi and Columbia. EVAL is a member of the international reference group. For more information see www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation-network.

Evaluation of Danish engagement in and around Somalia, 2006-2010

EVAL-responsible: Margrethe Holm Andersen

Evaluation Team: ITAD and LDP with local consultants from Ethiopia and Somalia

The overall objective of the evaluation is to assess the relevance and effectiveness of the combined range of activities supported, in view of the policy paper on the Danish engagement with Somalia, and in view of other relevant strat-

egies, including the Strategic Framework for the Regions of Origin Initiative (ROI) and the Strategy for Danish Humanitarian Action 2010-15. The evaluation aims at contributing to the continued improvement of Danish support to peace and development in Somalia.

Evaluation of the Danish Neighborhood Programme

EVAL-responsible: Eva Broegaard and Ole Winckler Andersen

Evaluation Team: To be selected

The objective of the evaluation is to assess and document the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency, and to the degree possible, the impact and sustainability of the Danish Neighbourhood Programme, both at the level of the programme as a whole, the individual projects and the individual activities. Focus will be on the programme's efforts to promote growth and employment through support to private sector development. The evaluation will identify lessons learned and best practices used to inform the future of the programme.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

EVAL participates on a regular basis in meetings organized by various international evaluation networks and aims at contributing to interna-

tional evaluation work through the organisation of meetings and workshops with participation from the international evaluation community. Thus in March 2010 EVAL hosted a public meeting on experience with support to agriculture. The meeting brought together development practitioners, researchers, representatives of partner countries, donor agencies and their evaluation departments to discuss experience in the field, and possible ways forward.

In May 2010 a workshop on evaluation of infrastructure interventions was conducted in cooperation with the Faculty of Life Science at the University of Copenhagen and 3IE. presentations focused on the methodological problems and opportunities of the highly relevant and demanding impact evaluations were presented and debated by key members of the global evaluation community.

Other ongoing studies

Two Evaluation Studies are presently being prepared. A joint assessment with Sida of support to football schools will be published in the beginning of 2011. The second Evaluation Study focuses on the use of different quantitative methods in impact evaluations. All evaluation studies are published on the web-site www.evaluation.dk and www.evaluering.dk.

EVALUATION DEPARTMENT

STAFF

- The Department's staff as per September 2010:
- Ole Winckler Andersen, Head +45 33920236 olewin@um.dk
- Margrethe Holm Andersen, Deputy +45 33921041 marand@um.dk
- Eva Broegaard, Technical Advisor +45 33921085 evabro@um.dk
- Gitte Liebst Robinson, Technical Advisor +45 33920165 gittro@um.dk
- Jeanineke Kristensen, Technical Advisor +4533920276 jedakr@um.dk
- Lone Hansen, Secretariat +45 33921083 lonhan@um.dk
- Ninja Ritter Klejnstrup, Student +45 33921061 ninkle@um.dk

CONTACT

Comments or suggestions are most welcome. Please send a mail to eval@um.dk with a copy to marand@um.dk

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