



eval news

No. 12

EVAL activities in the second half of 2009 have included the finalisation of six evaluations. In addition, two evaluation studies on micro-credit and on business development and a report on Project and Programme Completion Reports have been published. Special attention is currently being paid by EVAL to ensure that all evaluations are as far as possible feeding into ongoing policy processes and/or processes aimed at developing new phases of support. Below you will find information pertaining to the recently concluded evaluations and studies as well as information on forthcoming publications and events organised by EVAL either alone or in cooperation with others.

During the past six months, the evaluation of support to secondary education in Nepal was presented to key stakeholders in Nepal in July 2009 and key findings and recommendations have been used to inform the preparation of a new phase of support to secondary education in Nepal. The support to financial services in Tanzania and the evaluation study on microcredit were presented and discussed at a public meeting in Copenhagen in September 2009. Support to financial services in Tanzania was also on the agenda at one of the recent meetings in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs aimed at debating the new Danish strategy for development policy. The evaluation of the LDCF was presented at meetings in November 2009 with the international reference group in Barcelona and to the LDCF Council in Washington.

The preparation of the biannual evaluation programme for 2010-2011 has been initiated and will culminate in the publishing – in Feb-

ruary or March 2010 – of the final programme for the two year period. The programme will include a mixture of evaluations conducted jointly with partner countries and with other development partners and will have a certain level of flexibility so as to accommodate new priorities that may come up.

RECENTLY CONCLUDED EVALUATIONS

Evaluation of the Decentralisation of Danish Aid Management

EVAL-responsible: Ole Winckler Andersen

Evaluation Team: Goss Gilroy Inc./Orbicon

The evaluation focuses on experience from the decentralisation of the administration of Danish development cooperation. The evaluation covers Ghana, Benin, Burkina Faso, Uganda, and Zambia.

All evaluations and studies can be downloaded from www.evaluation.dk. At the web-site you will also be able to find the short management response to each evaluation which is published as part of the Danish summary of all evaluations. TORs for new evaluations are posted on the website when evaluations are launched. We welcome comments to the TOR and evaluation processes from various partners. Comments can be forwarded to eval@um.dk.

Evaluation of Danish Support for Financial Services in Tanzania

EVAL-responsible: Ole Winckler Andersen
Evaluation Team: Oxford Policy Management
The overall objectives of the evaluation are to assess the outcomes achieved from the Danish support to financial services in Tanzania since 2003 and to distil key lessons from the Danish support with regard to strategies and approaches to support for financial services.

Joint Follow-up Evaluation of the Links between Relief, Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD)

EVAL-responsible: Eva Broegaard
Evaluation Team: Channel Research
This evaluation is a follow-up to the evaluation of the links between relief, rehabilitation and development which was part of the large, international evaluation of tsunami disaster support carried out in 2005-06 by the Tsunami Evaluation Coalition. The main purpose of the evaluation is to contribute to learning from interventions related to a large scale and complicated disaster, particularly about modes of planning and operation by different actors.

Joint External Evaluation: Operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund for Adaptation to Climate Change

EVAL-responsible: Margrethe Holm Andersen
Evaluation Team: COWI A/S and IIED
The evaluation of the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) managed jointly by EVAL and the GEF Evaluation Office focuses on the efforts by the LDCF to support development and implementation of National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPAs) and on initial lessons learned regarding financing and implementation of climate adaptation activities in LDC's. Case studies included Vanuatu, Mali, Malawi, Bangladesh and Sudan.

Joint Evaluation of the Secondary Education Support Programme

EVAL-responsible: Eva Broegaard
Evaluation Team: COWI A/S
The Secondary Education Support Programme (SESP) in Nepal came into effect in 2003 as a joint programme implemented under the aegis of the Government of Nepal with support from the Asian Development Bank and Denmark. The overall objective of the evaluation is to contribute to an improved foundation for the design of effective secondary education reform measures and intervention strategies.

Thematic Evaluation of Support by Danish NGO's to Civil Society in Ghana and Ethiopia

EVAL-responsible: Eva Broegaard
Evaluation Team: Nordic Consulting Group
The objective is to assess the results achieved and the various approaches applied for support by Danish NGOs to civil society in Ghana and Ethiopia within the overall thematic area of democratic development and popular participation in the development process. Further, the evaluation assesses the monitoring and evaluation systems, and how useful they are for documenting and disseminating knowledge on results.

OTHER RECENTLY CONCLUDED STUDIES

2009/4 Synthesis of Impact Evaluations of Microcredit

EVAL-responsible: Ole Winckler Andersen and Gitte Robinson
Team: Copenhagen Business School
The main objective of the evaluation study is to analyze what can be said about the impact of microcredit programmes. The analysis is based on existing research and evaluations. A related objective is to assess the methodology used in current microcredit evaluations undertaken by donors.

2009/5 Synthesis of Evaluations on Support to Business Development

EVAL-responsible: Ole Winckler Andersen
Team: Andante evaluation and Copenhagen Business School
Support to the business sector has taken place through a wide range of different instruments and modalities. The main purpose of this evaluation study is to provide an overview of lessons learned based on evaluation findings, relevant studies and peer reviewed research articles.

Analysis of Programme/Project Completion Reports 2007-2008

EVAL-responsible: Margrethe Holm Andersen
Team: Development Associates A/S
The objectives of this study are to summarize key features and lessons learned from Programme and Project Completion reports up-loaded in 2007 and 2008, provide an overview of key issues raised in the PCRs which may warrant follow-up by Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Danida and to recommend further adjustments to the PCR-system used by the MFA.

EVALUATIONS AND STUDIES IN THE FINALISATION PROCESS

The evaluations listed below are in the finalisation process and will be published later in 2009 or early 2010. For more information on these evaluations, please consult www.evaluation.dk or the previous editions of eval news.

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

EVAL-responsible: Gitte Robinson and Margrethe Holm Andersen
Evaluation Team: Universal Management Group (Canada)

The purposes of this evaluation is 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 has delivered its intended objectives and desired impact; and to identify lessons learnt about the strengths and weaknesses of the joint approach. Findings and recommendations will feed into the design of the next joint strategy and will provide general lessons for this type of collaboration. The evaluation will be 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 evaluation covers Danida-support for rural transport infrastructure in Nicaragua. The main objective is to assess the socio-economic impact at household and community level of the transport infrastructure interventions. The issue of sustainability and long-term impact will be investigated as well. Further, the evaluation will assess effects related to capacity and organisation at community, municipal, regional and to some degree national level. The evaluation is expected to be finalised in spring 2010.

Joint Donor Evaluation of Development Cooperation with Niger

EVAL-responsible: Ole Winckler Andersen and Margrethe Holm Andersen

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

The joint evaluation of development cooperation with Niger will assess the overall effect of support rendered and strategies followed by Denmark, Belgium, the European Commission, France and Luxembourg in seven sectors and in relation to four cross-cutting themes. The evaluation will examine the re-

sults and impact of aid on poverty reduction and examine the extent of donor coordination, complementarities and synergy. A revised draft evaluation report is expected by mid January 2010.

ONGOING AND NEW EVALUATIONS

Information about the focus and status of new evaluations is presented below. See www.evaluation.dk for Terms of Reference and further information about ongoing evaluations. All new assignments above 500,000 DKK are posted at www.danidacontracts.dk

Joint Evaluation of Benin's Education Sector Policy 2004-2008

EVAL-responsible: Ole Winckler Andersen and Gitte Robinson

Evaluation Team: Ecorys

This joint evaluation focuses on the new ten year education policy in Benin. It is commissioned by Denmark, France and the Netherlands and aims at assessing the policy itself as well as the relevance, coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of the support provided by development partners during the period 2004-2008. The evaluation will draw lessons from the first phase of the support and thus inform the preparation and formulation of the second phase. The evaluation is led by AFD (France). A draft evaluation report is expected by early March 2010.

Evaluation of Programmatic Approaches to Support for the Environment in Africa

EVAL-responsible: Margrethe Holm Andersen

Evaluation Team: Orbicon and ITAD

The main purposes of the evaluation are 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 and to promote lesson learning for future

strategies on and implementation of environmental support. The management group for the evaluation comprises staff from EVAL and representatives from three partner countries: Zambia, Egypt, and Tanzania. A draft evaluation report is expected in April 2010.

Joint Evaluation of Anti-Corruption Efforts

EVAL-responsible: Eva Broegaard

Evaluation Team: ITAD

The main purpose of the 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 will be assessed. The first country study will focus on Bangladesh and is currently underway. Additional country studies will be carried out during the winter 2009 and spring 2010. The evaluation is expected to be finalised by the end of 2010.

Joint Evaluation of the Danish Bhutan Country Programme

EVAL-responsible: Ole Winckler Andersen and Gitte Robinson

Evaluation Team: PEM Consult and Oxford Policy Management

The overall objective of this evaluation is 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 beyond. The evaluation is managed by the Evaluation Department (EVAL) and the Research and Evaluation Division (RED) of the Gross National Happiness Commission of Bhutan. It is expected that a draft report will be ready in May 2010.

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

EVAL-responsible: Ole Winckler Andersen

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 will be conducted between September 2009 and July 2010 and is led by the Policy and Operations Evaluation Department, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It will be guided by an Evaluation Steering Committee comprising representatives of donors including Denmark, other development agencies and the Government of Southern Sudan.

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 of the implementation of the declaration. It is expected that case studies will be

conducted in 24 partner countries and seven agencies. The secretariat for the evaluation is managed by Niels Dabelstein (nda@diis.dk) and is located at the Danish Institute for International Studies. 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/evaluationnetwork.

Other ongoing studies

Evaluation studies on gender and value chain development and on local governance and decentralisation will be prepared during 2010. All evaluation studies are published on the web-site www.evaluation.dk.

EVAL also currently participates in a peer review of the UNIDO evaluation function. The peer review is conducted by an international panel of peer reviewers supported by Kabell Consulting. The purpose of the Professional Peer Review is to provide the UNIDO management, 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 quality of its work. The peer review report will be published in Spring 2010.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

EVAL participates on a regular basis in meetings organized by various international evaluation networks. Most recently meetings have been conducted in the Nordic+ Evaluation network and in the ALNAP network on humanitarian assistance. EVAL also participated in the most recent meeting in the Swedish Evaluation Association with a presentation on experience with synthesis evaluations.

UPCOMING EVENTS

In November 2009, EVAL will organise a meeting with the Danish resource base on i.a. the evaluation programme for 2010-2011. A public meeting on experience with support to agriculture is also under preparation. This meeting will be held on 26th April 2010 in Eigtveds Pakhus, Asiatisk Plads 2. Updated information about recent and upcoming events can be found at www.evaluation.dk. Comments or suggestions are most welcome.

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