

Ministry of Foreign Affairs - EVAL

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Meeting in the Council for Development Policy 16 May 2017

Agenda item 5

1. **Overall purpose:** For discussion
2. **Title:** Evaluation of development cooperation:
Draft Evaluation Programme 2017-2018
3. **Presentation for Programme Committee:** N/A
4. **Executive Summary:**

In accordance with the evaluation policy, the purpose of evaluation is to provide accountability for Danish support to development cooperation and to generate learning based on evidence of what works and what does not work and hence improve future development cooperation.

The evaluation department is presenting a draft evaluation programme within an annual budget of DKK 15 million.

The evaluation department intends to enhance evaluation of humanitarian assistance, which will constitute an important focus in 2017-2018 with several evaluations being initiated. Country evaluations are undertaken where Denmark is phasing out of development cooperation and will continue in 2017-2018. Furthermore, evaluations are planned of the Investment Fund for Developing Countries (IFU), the water sector cooperation in Uganda and the Africa Programme for Peace.

Real-time evaluations in Mali, Myanmar and for the Danida Market Development Partnership Programme are being initiated in 2017.

Draft Evaluation Programme 2017-2018

In accordance with the policy for Evaluation of Development Cooperation (February 2016), the purpose of evaluation is to provide accountability for Danish support to development cooperation and to generate learning based on evidence of what works and what does not work and hence improve future development cooperation.

Evaluations are commissioned by the Evaluation Department (EVAL) and undertaken by external consultants who are responsible for the contents of the evaluations and their recommendations. All evaluations are published with a management response from the ministry. MFA management undertakes a systematic follow-up to the recommendations two years after the evaluation. An annual budget of DKK 15 million is available for evaluations and explorative evaluation studies. Since March 2016, EVAL is also responsible for MFA's support to development research and the fellowship programme administered by Danida Fellowship Centre.

Within a timeframe of 5-7 years all types of bilateral development cooperation should be evaluated – that is all modalities, engagement areas, sectors, and larger and important themes. In addition to observing this overall principle, the evaluation programme is based in part on specific requests from operational units and on the basis of priority areas of the new Danish Strategy for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Action.

EVAL has the ambition to strengthen its role as mediator of knowledge both from evaluation and research. During 2017 new ways to link MFA to development-related knowledge will be explored, including enhanced efforts to link researchers and experts directly to relevant MFA processes in a timely and efficient manner. Furthermore, new ways of communicating evaluation and research results will be explored further.

Evaluation of Humanitarian Assistance

With the increased emphasis on humanitarian assistance, EVAL will enhance its focus on this area, including the need to provide learning on better linking humanitarian and development efforts. An overall evaluation of the Danish Humanitarian Strategy was published in 2015 and one of the recommendations was to enhance evaluative work in relation to the growing humanitarian portfolio. An evaluation of the joint **Regional Development and Protection Programme in Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq** will be initiated during 2017, and aims to provide inputs to a second phase of this pilot programme. The programme focuses on the humanitarian-development nexus and can provide valuable lessons learned for future interventions.

Moreover, steps have been initiated to engage in a **joint evaluation with Danish NGO partners** within the humanitarian portfolio in order to document results and experience within a thematic focus area. Cash transfers in humanitarian aid, working with local partners and use of needs assessment are possible subjects for this joint evaluation.

Finally, EVAL is in dialogue with **UNHCR** in order to engage in a joint evaluation of work of strategic importance to both UNHCR and Denmark.

Other minor evaluation studies will be considered jointly with HMC during 2017.

Other evaluations and studies

The Danish partnership with Ghana is under transition and Denmark is in the process of phasing out the development cooperation. A **joint evaluation of the Danish-Ghanaian Development Partnership** is under preparation and will be initiated late 2017 or early 2018. The evaluation will be undertaken jointly with National Development Planning Commission in Ghana.

EVAL has been requested by the Department for Growth and Employment (VBE) to undertake an **evaluation of IFU** in 2018. Discussions are currently on-going with VBE and IFU regarding how to plan this evaluation in order to provide a relevant input to IFUs further work.

An evaluation of **Danish support to the water sector in Uganda** is planned for 2018. Denmark has been an important partner in the Ugandan water sector for over 25 years and the evaluation is an opportunity to assess this long-term partnership and the results obtained.

Finally, an evaluation will be undertaken of the **Africa Programme for Peace**. The programme was initiated in 2004, and a fourth phase is being planned for the period 2018-2021.

Furthermore, the Evaluation department will undertake explorative studies, which may eventually lead to larger evaluations, including a study on experience with long-term advisers and a study on decentralisation efforts.

In relation to the Danish-hosted international **anti-corruption** conference in 2018, EVAL is with the organisers considering commissioning an analysis on a topic not yet defined related to anti-corruption, which can be used for the conference.

Recently published evaluations

From November 2015 to April 2017 the following evaluations have been published at www.evaluation.um.dk:

- Evaluation of Capacity Development in Danish Development Assistance (July, 2016)
- Evaluation of Danida Support to Value Chain Development (August, 2016)
- Evaluation of the results of the Africa Commission: Realising the Potential of Africa's Youth (September, 2016)
- Evaluation of the Danish Neighbourhood Programme 2008-2015 (March, 2017)

- Evaluering af Danidas oplysningsbevilling 2012-2016 (March, 2017)
- Evaluation of Danish Support to Energy and Environment in South-East Asia (May, 2017)
- Evaluation: Vietnam-Denmark – Transformation of a Partnership (May, 2017).

The following studies have been published:

- Results-based aid approaches (February, 2016)
- Private Capital for Sustainable Development: Concepts, Issues and Options for Engagement in Impact Investing and Innovative Finance (March, 2016)
- Analyse af migration og flygtningebevægelser til Europa (March, 2016)
- Lessons learned from promoting gender equality in Danish development cooperation (May, 2016)
- Danish Development Cooperation from a Partner Country Perspective (October, 2016)
- Lessons Learned on the Danish Human Rights-Based Approach (January, 2017).

Evaluations to be finalised in 2017

Joint Evaluation of Budget Support to Ghana. EVAL is part of a EU-led evaluation of budget support to Ghana in the period from 2005 to 2015. The evaluation looks at general budget support as well as sector budget support to selected sectors, including health, decentralisation and agriculture. The evaluation is expected to be finalised in June 2017.

Evaluation of Danish support to Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. To assess Denmark's engagements in the area of human rights and to learn from past experiences in order to inform future work, the Evaluation Department is commissioning an evaluation of Danish support to human rights as part of Danish foreign policy and development cooperation. The evaluation will serve both learning and accountability purposes, with the main emphasis on providing inputs to further strengthening efforts to promote and protect human rights. The evaluation is expected to be finalised in June 2017.

Evaluation of Danish-Bolivian Cooperation. Danish development cooperation with Bolivia is coming to an end in 2018. Denmark has been an active development partner and deeply engaged in the economic and political development that the country has gone through. The evaluation will document this broad engagement and the changes Denmark has contributed to with a view to communicating the results.

Evaluation of Danish-Nepalese Cooperation, 1991-2016. Danish development cooperation with Nepal is coming to an end in 2018. Denmark has been an active development partner and deeply engaged in the economic and political development that the country has gone through. The evaluation will document this broad engagement and the changes Denmark has contributed to with a view to communicating the results.

Evaluation of Danish Engagement in Mozambique 1992-2016. Danish development cooperation with Mozambique is being phased out by 2018. Denmark has been an active development partner in Mozambique with a very broad engagement and a strong political profile. The evaluation will document this broad engagement and the changes Denmark has contributed to with a view to communicating the results.

Real-Time Evaluations

The Evaluation Department has introduced the concept of Real-Time Evaluations (RTE), which are evaluations undertaken concurrently with programme implementation. The purpose of RTEs is to provide utility-focused evaluations and encourage evaluative thinking as part of programme implementation and results measurement.

A portfolio of four quite different RTEs has now been established. EVAL is not expecting to push for further RTEs until these have advanced sufficiently to enable a broader assessment of this new evaluation tool.

The **Kenya** country programme real-time evaluation (RTE) has been initiated in conjunction with the start-up of the implementation for the country programme as of 2016. An external evaluation team will follow the implementation of the programme and once a year provide inputs as to changes in the context, the assumptions and the risks for the programme and assess progress towards achieving development outcomes within specific focus areas. Results for the evaluation will be fed into the programme with a view to adapting the programme based on evidence.

In 2017, a Real-Time Evaluation will be initiated in relation to the country programme in **Mali**. The RTE will focus on selected aspects of the country programme, including decentralisation, peace and reconciliation efforts. The complex and uncertain context for the Mali country programme warrants this special effort to assess progress towards outcomes while also assessing the programme context during implementation.

Furthermore a RTE will be undertaken 2017 – 2021 for the development engagement addressing co-management of fisheries resources in **Myanmar** in order to address the pilot nature of this programme as well as the volatile situation in parts of the country.

Finally, the new **Danida Market Development Partnerships (DMDP)** programme involving cooperation between civil society organisations and private companies will be the subject of a real-time evaluation from 2017 to 2020. As part of the RTE, development processes and progress towards outcomes will be assessed for the first five DMDP-projects in order to enhance learning at both project and programme level during the first three years of implementation.

International collaboration

EVAL is participating in international evaluation collaboration in the Eval-net group in OECD-DAC and regular meetings with heads of evaluation in the Nordic-plus group and in EU. Furthermore EVAL participates in the Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP) and results measurement for private sector development through Donor Committee on Enterprise Development (DCED). EVAL will furthermore follow the international discussion on how the Sustainable Development Goals will influence future development evaluation work.

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