



SESSION NUMBER & TITLE
Parallel Session 13 - The role of joint evaluations as a tool for boosting development effectiveness country system
SESSION TAKE AWAY
The session will highlight the tangible benefits of partnerships in yielding results for common stakeholders post pandemic. The session will highlight the lessons learned from the joint evaluations conducive to faster partnership creation to accelerate recovery and boost the country development effectiveness agenda.
SUBTHEME
Innovations in evaluation
ORGANIZATION/S
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISDB • SFD • GEF • ADB
PANELIST/DISCUSSANT #1: [Anupam Anand, Senior Evaluation Officer Independent Evaluation Office, Global Environment Facility (GEF)]
<p>2 KEY MESSAGES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protected areas are essential for global biodiversity conservation and play a crucial role in climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts. They provide various ecosystem services, including water supply, food security, protection of crop relatives, maintenance of fish stocks, and carbon storage. Well-managed protected areas are vital for maintaining biodiversity and addressing climate change. 2. Joint evaluations between different organizations, such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Independent Evaluation Office (IEO), can be challenging but are valuable for assessing the impact of support on conservation efforts. Challenges include harmonizing methodologies, addressing data sharing issues, coordinating communication, engaging stakeholders, and formulating recommendations that satisfy all parties involved. Overcoming these challenges can lead to more comprehensive and effective evaluation efforts.
PANELIST/DISCUSSANT #2: [Ahmed Abdelgawad, Evaluation Specialist, Islamic Development Bank (ISDB)]
<p>2 KEY MESSAGES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Providing tangible recommendations that support future interventions and align with the country's goals can be welcomed by stakeholders, even if evaluations are generally met with resistance. 2. Evaluation is about representing the voices of beneficiaries and stakeholders, and skilled evaluators can present facts and evidence in a way that serves their interests.
PANELIST/DISCUSSANT #3: [On behalf of SFD: Ahmed Abdelgawad, Evaluation Specialist, Islamic Development Bank (ISDB) case study]
<p>2 KEY MESSAGES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Importance of Joint Evaluation for Collaborative Projects:

- Emphasizes the significance of joint evaluation in assessing collaborative projects. In this case, the evaluation focuses on the Electricity Transmission Development Project in Bahrain, which was jointly funded by multiple entities, including the Saudi Fund for Development, Islamic Development Bank, Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, and the government of Bahrain. The joint evaluation is conducted five years after the project's completion to assess its sustainability and effectiveness.
2. The Purpose of Joint Evaluation:
- Clarifies that joint evaluation does not aim to reduce the number of evaluations but rather to enhance the efficiency of evaluations while promoting partnership and learning. Joint evaluations are seen as a means to efficiently assess projects that involve multiple funding entities, resulting in improved collaboration and the utilization of lessons learned to enhance future projects. Key points related to this message include:

PANELIST/DISCUSSANT #4: [Gambhir Bhatta, Evaluation Capacity Development (ECD) Consultant, ADB]

2 KEY MESSAGES

1. **Emphasis on Supporting Country Systems:** Development partners and donors should prioritize and support the systems within the recipient countries rather than focusing primarily on their own systems. This implies that strengthening the recipient country's infrastructure and capacity can lead to more effective joint evaluations and development efforts.
2. **Enhancing Collaboration and Joint Evaluation:** The need for improved collaboration and joint evaluation efforts among development partners and donors. By emphasizing support for the systems within recipient countries, this approach can contribute to more successful and coordinated evaluations of projects and initiatives.

MODERATOR: [Sonia Chand Sandhu, Principal Evaluation Specialist, IED, ADB]

3 KEY MESSAGES

1. Joint evaluations are a valuable tool for enhancing development effectiveness, particularly in the context of country systems and post-pandemic challenges. They promote collaboration, align priorities, and optimize timelines and methodologies across different stakeholders and donors.
2. The focus of joint evaluations should shift from contesting or attributing specific outcomes to leveraging contributions from various parties. Emphasizing contribution over attribution allows for a more cooperative and effective evaluation process.
3. While joint evaluations offer significant benefits, success in joint evaluations depends on building effective teams, navigating organizational mandates, coordinating data sources, and prioritizing the voices of beneficiaries and stakeholders. By focusing on leveraging and contributing, rather than solely following donor mandates, joint evaluations can better support country systems and development goals.

Q&A SUMMARY

1. How do national systems contribute to harmonization, and have you seen big donors supporting these systems, and if yes, what are the strategies?
 - National systems are essential for coordinating efforts, and they should be owned by the country. These systems involve many stakeholders, including big donors. Efforts like the Global Evaluation Initiative are working to make these national systems better by assessing various aspects, setting clear goals, and improving the capacity of government agencies responsible for monitoring and evaluation. This makes evaluations more effective and helps donors and governments work together smoothly.
2. **Ownership and Recognition:** National systems should be owned by the country itself, and various stakeholders, including big donors like multilateral development banks, play a role in

these systems. Strengthening national systems is gaining recognition for effective development outcomes.

3. Global Evaluation Initiative: The Global Evaluation Initiative is working on enhancing national evaluation and monitoring systems at the country level. This involves multisectorial assessments, clear country objectives, indicators, and milestone setting.
4. Initial Engagement through National Systems: Donors typically begin their engagement with a government through the country's own national system. Investment in planning and capacity strengthening in government agencies for monitoring and evaluation is crucial for achieving desired outcomes.
5. Importance of Standardized Indicators: Measuring progress in areas like protected areas is made simpler with standardized indicators, such as Indicator 15.3.3 for forest cover changes. Standardized indicators facilitate harmonization, promote ownership by countries, and enhance objectivity and transparency in analysis. This approach can be a model for harmonizing indicators in various areas.
6. How can we differentiate between the various levels of joint evaluations, including project-level, sectoral or thematic, and system-wide, while ensuring alignment with national government priorities and systems?
7. How can evaluation offices effectively negotiate and collaborate on joint evaluations, especially when it involves reconciling different mandates, audiences, and theories of change?

Experience

1. Sri Lanka:

- Sri Lanka has successfully addressed harmonization issues by aligning with international standards while maintaining national ownership. The country's approach involves adhering to international requirements and standards, such as the OECD criteria, in the preparation of their implementation framework for the National Immigration Policy. The donor community and stakeholders have positively responded to Sri Lanka's approach, making it easier to collaborate and work with various groups.

2. OECD

- Evaluations should follow national government plans and priorities. Aligning evaluations with national resources and priorities is crucial. The evolution of joint evaluations has shifted from donor coordination to country-led evaluations. Emphasizing alignment with national systems and government leadership is important. Evaluations should serve the overall sustainable development process led by national governments. Avoid becoming overly donor-centric and prioritize national ownership and leadership in evaluations.

SESSION COORDINATOR

Michelle Angielina Dantayana