

The 2023–2025 Evaluation Programme of the German Institute for Development Evaluation (DEval)

Thematic focuses, ongoing and scheduled evaluation projects

March 2023

The evaluations conducted by the German Institute for Development Evaluation are formalised by the multiannual and rolling evaluation programme, which is up-dated on a yearly basis. The information in the attached tables provides an overview of the ongoing evaluations and the evaluations scheduled to begin in 2023. The first table shows all ongoing evaluations from previous evaluation programmes, the second table outlines evaluations which (have already begun or will) begin in 2023 and the third part lists potential evaluation projects scheduled to begin in 2024 from previous consultation processes.

The consultation and planning process under the DEval Evaluation Programme

The multiannual Evaluation Programme (German abbreviation MEP) serves as a medium-term strategic framework for DEval's core activity. In order to strengthen the relevance, legitimacy and process reliability of evaluations conducted by DEval, the institute engages in a systematic consultation process on programme content and thematic focuses over two or three years. In this consultation exercise, which is conducted each year before submission of the annual programme update for ministerial approval, representatives of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) as well as members of the DEval Advisory Board are asked for their proposals. All proposals, along with inhouse ideas, are then assessed on the basis of the established evaluation criteria and examined for consistency with the agreed thematic focuses. There must also be an appropriate balance of different evaluation types. The planning process results in a DEval programme proposal, which is presented to the institute's Advisory Board and requires final ministerial approval.

The Advisory Board of the German Institute for Development Evaluation comprises members of the German parliament, academic scholars and representatives of civil-society organisations.

The 2023-2025 Evaluation Programme includes three **thematic focus areas** with the aim of generating cross-cutting evaluation findings in particularly relevant fields:

- 1) *Instruments and structures of German development cooperation*
- 2) *Private sector engagement in development cooperation*
- 3) *Fragile states, peacebuilding and conflict prevention*

From 2023 onwards, DEval will examine, if the topic and foreseeable focus of an evaluation or study may benefit from an interdepartmental approach.

Ongoing evaluations and evaluations scheduled for 2023-2025

PART I: Ongoing evaluations from previous Evaluation Programmes

PART II: Evaluations from the 2023-2025 Evaluation Programme to begin in 2023

PART III: Potential evaluation topics from previous consultation processes to begin in 2024

Part I: Ongoing Evaluations from Previous Evaluation Programmes			
Topic	Background and relevance of the evaluation according to DEval criteria (see annex)	Subject of the evaluation and current status	Thematic focus
Joint Ministerial Evaluation of Germany's Civil Engagement in Afghanistan	<p>Background: BMZ's civil engagement in Afghanistan is of high strategic and political relevance to German development cooperation. Considering the significant risks of development cooperation in conflict and post-conflict countries, the low number of strategic evaluations in the country and the expected learning potential, the country programme evaluation Afghanistan is also highly compatible with other selection criteria.</p> <p>Criteria: 1, 2, 3 and 4</p>	<p>Subject: The goal of the country programme evaluation is an independent and comprehensive analysis and assessment of the civil engagement in Afghanistan. According to current plans, the evaluation will focus on the interventions of financial and technical collaboration funded by BMZ.</p> <p>Status: in process</p>	Fragile states, peacebuilding and conflict prevention
Evaluation of the Promotion of Protected Areas by BMZ	<p>Background: The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) funds biodiversity with 400 million euros annually, making it one of the greatest bilateral donors worldwide in this area. Protected Areas are a particularly important area of biodiversity conservation.</p>	<p>Subject: In accordance with a modern understanding of sustainability, the evaluation will focus on the intended and unintended effects of the promotion of selected protected areas in partner countries of German development cooperation, as well as on their interlinkages.</p>	References to fragile states, peacebuilding and conflict prevention

	<p>Biodiversity targets to be achieved by 2030, provide for 30 per cent of the global land and sea area to be protected by 2030. As member of the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, Germany supports this target. The promotion of protected areas in developing countries by German development cooperation includes ecological, social and economic aspects. The evaluation of BMZ's promotion of protected areas is of high political relevance, especially in view of the discussions on the risks of this kind of intervention.</p> <p>Criteria: 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p>Accordingly, besides the ecological aspects, the evaluation will place special focus on the participation and development opportunities of the local population as well as on the observance of human rights.</p> <p>Status: in process</p>	
<p>The Promotion of Sustainable Supply Chains in German Development Cooperation</p>	<p>Background: In German development cooperation, the promotion of sustainable supply chains is implemented with a broad mix of instruments at different levels (national, partner countries, international). Cooperation with the private sector as part of this mix becomes increasingly important in this context. At the same time, at both national and international level it is becoming increasingly important to consider sustainability aspects (social, economic, ecological) as well as companies' compliance with human rights-based due diligence. Using the example of international textile supply chains, the evaluation will provide information on how and to what extent this mix of instruments is suitable for promoting human rights and environmental standards in these chains and for supporting companies in complying with their human rights-based due diligence.</p> <p>Criteria: 1, 3 and 4</p>	<p>Subject: Description and analysis of the portfolio for promoting sustainable textile supply chains in German development cooperation; Evaluation of a) impacts (also non-intended) of promoting supply chains with regard to human rights and environmental standards; b) compliance and promotion of human rights-based due diligence by companies; c) resilience of supported supply chains with regard to external disturbances (Covid-19).</p> <p>Analysis of relevance, coherence, effectivity and sustainability of the mix of instrumentsThe evaluation will also include case studies in partner countries with a focus on countries in which textile supply chains are supported by German development cooperation. Analysis of relevance, coherence, effectivity and sustainability of the mix of instruments.</p> <p>Status: in process</p>	<p>Private-sector engagement in development cooperation</p>

<p>Evaluation of the BMZ Emergency COVID-19 Support Programme</p>	<p>Background: The Covid-19 pandemic presents an enormous challenge to development cooperation. In view of the massive financial and economic implications of the pandemic for developing and emerging countries, BMZ has reacted timely and set up an Emergency COVID-19 Support Programme in the amount of 4.7 billion euros. The programme is a far-reaching, thematically varied 'crisis package' involving a wide range of actors (especially within the BMZ). The programme focuses on health, food security and the strengthening of international cooperation. The evaluation analyses the allocation of funds from the Emergency COVID-19 Support Programme and assesses the appropriateness of the expenditure applying the OECD DAC criteria.</p> <p>Criteria: 1, 2, 3 and 4</p>	<p>Subject: The evaluation of the Emergency COVID-19 Support Programme (CSP) will consider the programme as a whole as well as its individual instruments. Evaluation module 1 is focusing on the overall analysis of the portfolio of the Covid-19 Support Programme and will contain all measures allocated between April 2020 and December 2021. Special attention will be given to the individual financial cooperation measures and instruments applied. The concrete intervention or instrument that will be review</p> <p>Status: in process</p>	<p>Instruments and structures of German development cooperation</p>
<p>Evaluation of Climate Change Adaptation Measures</p>	<p>Background: Germany has long been committed to supporting climate protection and climate adaption measures. The promotion of climate adaptation measures is also of utmost importance in the context of German development cooperation. This strategic relevance is contrasted with an evaluation gap, since the climate adaptation measures have not yet been evaluated at strategic or cross-organisational level.</p> <p>Criteria: 1, 2, 3 and 4</p>	<p>Subject: Portfolio analysis, analysis of strategic coherence and the effectiveness of instruments and interventions which promote the adaptation to climate change</p> <p>Status (modular structure):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Portfolio and allocation analysis of climate change adaptation interventions (report published in 2019) 2) Evaluation of adaptation measures in agriculture, water and coastal protection (in process) 	<p>Instruments and structures of German development cooperation</p>

		<p>3) Evaluation of measures to deal with residual climate risks (report published in 2021)</p> <p>4) Synthesis report (in process)</p>	
Focus Report "Fragile States, Crisis Prevention, and Peacebuilding"	<p>Background: In the light of their continuing importance and topicality, fragility, crisis prevention, and peace-building are highly relevant for development cooperation. State fragility and violent conflicts are central barriers to sustainable development. Consequently, crisis prevention and peace-building are priorities of German development cooperation. Fragile contexts place high demands on planning, implementing, and evaluating development cooperation. The focus report will also contribute to reflecting and further developing the evaluation of development cooperation in fragile contexts.</p>	<p>Subject: The focus report synthesises DEval evaluations of the relevant thematic focus and combines it with external contributions. It investigates the implementation of development cooperation in fragile contexts and underlying strategies. Furthermore, the report identifies challenges for evaluations in fragile contexts.</p> <p>Status: in process</p>	Fragile states, peace-building and conflict prevention
Meta-Evaluation of DEval Country Portfolio Reviews	<p>Background: Following the implementation of country portfolio reviews at DEval in the context of a project financed by BMZ, a meta evaluation of the country reviews that were carried out is planned. The focus will lie on shared experience in designing portfolios across countries as well as on policy-making processes.</p> <p>In addition, BMZ has indicated a need for conceptual input on the design of country portfolio evaluations (LPE) in German development cooperation. Since country portfolio reviews (LPR) cover important aspects of LPE with, among other things, the relevance criterion, it seems reasonable to use the meta evaluation of LPR to derive indications for the beneficial design of LPE in German development cooperation.</p>	<p>Subject: The meta-evaluation synthesises results of country portfolio reviews. The cross-country synthesis identifies overall findings on structural challenges as well as potentials of German bilateral development cooperation. The study derives policy-relevant information against the backdrop of the 2030 Agenda and makes it available to policy-makers at BMZ. The synthesis is aimed at ensuring significant added value by combining the evidence generated in the individual country portfolio review.</p> <p>Status: in process</p>	Instruments and structures of German development cooperation

	Criteria: 1, 2, 4		
Pilot Evaluation of the Country portfolio evaluations (CPE)	<p>Background: For the strategic management of its country portfolios, findings from country portfolio evaluations are of great importance to BMZ. Apart from strategic evaluations and studies with a strong thematic, instrumental and strategic focus, DEval will therefore conduct country portfolio evaluations on a regular basis in the future (and receive the necessary funds to do so). In a first phase, DEval will start with a pilot evaluation. Relevance and potential for innovation and learning are considered high, as is feasibility.</p> <p>Criteria: 1, 2, 4</p>	<p>Subject: Country portfolio evaluations (LPE) analyse the entire bilateral development cooperation in a partner country as comprehensively as possible according to standard evaluation criteria in order to reach conclusions and recommendations for future direction of cooperation. Based on its past experience with country portfolio reviews (LPR) and other country-related evaluations, DEval will draft and carry out a first country portfolio evaluation. The country for the pilot evaluation is yet to be defined.</p> <p>Status: in process</p>	Instruments and structures of German development cooperation
Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Decentralisation Projects in Africa	<p>Background: The evaluation of decentralisation projects in Africa is highly relevant considering the substantial and longstanding BMZ portfolio in this area. The topic continues to be visible as an area of governance action within the BMZ 2030 core theme of "Peace and Social Cohesion". In light of the large evidence gap, the expected learning potential and the compatibility with the thematic focus on "Instruments and Structures of German Development Cooperation" the evaluation will be able to generate important insights into the understanding of effectiveness of decentralisation projects in Africa as an instrument of German DC.</p>	<p>Subject: Learning experiences at a strategic-conceptual level will be of particular interest (e.g. which approaches have worked so far?). Is it possible to categorise countries based on the suitability of specific approaches? Which standard indicators best measure impact at an aggregated level? What is the role of coordination with other donors, especially regarding the integration of technical and financial cooperation? Additionally, a plethora of questions revolves around design and impact of these projects. Decentralisation projects in Africa are subject to a great heterogeneity of contexts, designs and objectives. Therefore, the evaluation needs to address a wide range of</p>	Fragile states, instruments and structures of German development cooperation

	Criteria: 1, 2, 4	questions and set-ups in order to generate useful evidence. Status: in process	
Focus Report "Private Sector Engagement"	Background: As set out in the design guidelines of the DEval Evaluation Programme, the DEval thematic focuses will be concluded with a focus report. The focus report on Private Sector Engagement will synthesise knowledge from DEval evaluations and other sources. It is addressed to the broader expert public and primarily synthesises existing knowledge. With the aim of completing the focus report in 2023, planning of content and methods of the report should be started this year.	Subject: The focus report comprises contents on the topics private-sector engagement, for example in the areas of the promotion of supply chains, structured funds/blended finance and development partnership with private companies (such as the developpp programme). Existing findings can be supplemented with more in-depth analyses. For this purpose, the research on "mapping" different approaches and instruments used in private-sector engagement will be carried on. Status: in process	Private-sector engagement
Evaluation Study on the Effects of German / International Contributions to the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Developing and Emerging Countries	Background: In light of the growing climate crisis an effective contribution of development cooperation to climate protection in the countries of the global South is becoming increasingly relevant. The proposed macro-quantitative study in the field of climate protection (mitigation) aims to provide decision-makers in German development cooperation as well as in other donor countries with relevant and useful evidence on the subject thus promoting evidence-based policy-making. The study will expand DEval's existing and ongoing portfolio in the field of climate adaptation. Looking at climate protection from a higher level perspective it is important to consider the extent to which German (and international) development	Subject: Sincere there is partly insufficient or uncertain data on greenhouse gas emissions in developing and emerging countries, the DEval evaluation is expected to focus on the area of renewable energies/energy efficiency. It will examine to what extent German and international development cooperation has contributed to the expansion of renewable energies. Such an approach would both cover a significant part of Germany's climate change portfolio and fit well thematically with the new core thematic strategy on climate and energy. This approach would not only generate important evidence, but also make an internationally visible contribution.	Instruments and structures of German development cooperation

	<p>cooperation has effectively contributed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in developing countries. For this purpose, DEval will conduct this cross-national, primarily statistically guided, evaluative study. In addition to the contributions of German and international development cooperation, it will also take into account important local context factors such as the size, income level or political constitution of a country.</p> <p>Criteria: 1, 2, 4</p>	<p>Status: in process</p>	
Support of the BMZ for Voluntary Return and Reintegration	<p>Background: Since 2017, the BMZ has greatly expanded its support for the voluntary return and reintegration of migrants living in Germany without the right of residence or prospects of staying. The counselling centres in the countries of origin play a particular role in the reintegration process providing a central point of contact for migrants. They aim to support the sustainable reintegration of returnees, but increasingly also provide advice on regular migration routes.</p> <p>Criteria: 1, 2, 3, 4</p>	<p>Subject: The activities in this area of German development cooperation are manifold. Therefore, the clarification and design phase will also serve the purpose of narrowing down the subject and research interest of the evaluation.</p> <p>At this stage we anticipate that the evaluation will focus on questions regarding the effectiveness of measures to support the sustainable reintegration of returnees and associated development effects, as well as the promotion of regular migration.</p> <p>Status: in progress</p>	Fragile states, peace-building and conflict prevention and instruments and structures of German development cooperation
Attitudes of the General Public Towards Development Cooperation and Sustainable Development 2024	<p>Background: The DEval Development Policy Opinion Monitor regularly provides qualified feedback and orientation knowledge on the attitudes and behaviours of citizens in the policy field. . Thus it supports civil society and government actors with regard to the areas of development policy strategy, development education and communication. The study thereby allows to base discussions concerning public opinion on development policy on solid</p>	<p>Subject: The DEval Development Policy Opinion Monitor 2024 will continue to examine the German population's attitudes towards development policy, sustainable development and global challenges. Key topics will be attitudes towards development cooperation against the backdrop of the war in Ukraine and attitudes towards feminist development policy.</p>	References to all thematic focuses

	empirical evidence and minimises the risk of misperceptions. Criteria: 1, 2, 4	Status: in process	
PART II: Evaluations from the 2023-2025 Evaluation Programme to begin in 2023			
Data basis and Methodology of Efficiency Assessments in German Development Evaluation	Background: High quality project evaluations as undertaken by development organisations are of utmost importance for accountability and learning in development cooperation. Against this background, meta evaluations analyse the quality of project or programme evaluations and make recommendations to improve them. Evaluation syntheses assess the findings of project evaluations at a higher level and provide strategically relevant insights for decision makers. Criteria: 1, 2, 3 and 4	Subject: The proposed meta evaluation (if necessary supplemented by an evaluation synthesis) will analyse efficiency assessments in project evaluations of governmental (and possibly non-governmental) development organisations. The meta evaluation will focus on efficiency assessment practices and potential improvements as well as necessary conditions for improvements. The evaluation syntheses on the other hand will concentrate on cross-organisational efficiency of German development cooperation and the factors that influence efficiency or lack thereof. Status: in preparation	Instruments and structures of German development cooperation
Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights	Background: Global crises have caused setbacks in fighting maternal and infant mortality, teenage pregnancies and gender-based violence worldwide – especially those of vulnerable groups. These deficits in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of people in partner countries are addressed by German development cooperation within the dedicated action field SRHR. Criteria: 1, 2, 3 and 4	Subject: The subject of the evaluation is the action field SRHR and relevant interventions of German DC to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights. The evaluation is intended to contribute to advancing this field – for example by examining the effectiveness and sustainability of German DC also from the perspective of rights holders in partner countries. Status: in preparation	--

<p>Interventions for Promoting Circular Economy in German Development Cooperation</p>	<p>Background: The concept of a sustainable circular economy implies not only avoiding waste and recycling. Instead of a linear approach, it tries to organise economic processes in closed energy and resource circuits. Managing and using resources for ecologically sustainable development is of high and steadily increasing importance which raises the question of the significance and effectiveness of this increasingly relevant topic for German development cooperation.</p> <p>Criteria: 1, 2, 4</p>	<p>Subject: In addition to a review of the German portfolio, the evaluation will provide conceptual insights as well as conduct and synthesise effectiveness analyses to advance the knowledge on circular economy in German development cooperation.</p> <p>Status: in preparation</p>	<p>Private-sector engagement</p>
<p>Evaluative Study of Cooperation and Projects of Development Cooperation in the Area of (Renewable) Energy with African Countries</p>	<p>Background: The evaluation will focus particularly on interventions from the initiative “Green People's Energy for Africa.” It will aim to identify which interventions have proven beneficial to help enhance future portfolios of bilateral development cooperation.</p> <p>Criteria: 1, 2, 3 and 4</p>	<p>Subject: The evaluative study investigates the German development cooperation portfolio for promoting energy supply in rural Africa, with a special focus on (affordable) access to (green) energy. In addition to transnational analyses, DEval is planning to conduct 2-3 country case studies. These case studies will focus on approaches that have been applied to “Green People’s Energy” as well as to similar approaches and projects. The evaluative study will pilot the approach of a case study-based rapid assessment at DEval. An initial draft of the report for comments will be submitted after approximately twelve months and hence the study will be completed with only two meetings of the reference group.</p> <p>Status: in preparation</p>	<p>Instruments and structures of German development cooperation</p>

<p>Analysis of the Multilateral Engagement of German Development Cooperation</p>	<p>Background: The multilateral engagement of German development cooperation is of great strategic relevance. The BMZ's multilateral financial contributions include core funding for selected international organisations (compulsory fees and funds as well as non-earmarked, voluntary contributions). The goal of these contributions is to ensure that these organisations are able to operate and fulfil their mandated purpose. In addition, the BMZ sets its own agenda by earmarking multilateral funds for specific topics that it considers as significant for development cooperation or its own institutional objectives. Both, the BMZ evaluation guidelines and the new DEval strategy, intend to close the currently existing evidence gap gradually in order to examine the multilateral engagement's effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability.</p> <p>Criteria: 1, 2, 3 and 4</p>	<p>Subject: An initial analysis of this topic will focus on the existing portfolio. It will also consider national and international evidence on the effectiveness of non-earmarked and earmarked voluntary contributions to multilateral development cooperation (synthesis).</p> <p>Status: in preparation</p>	<p>Instruments and structures of German development cooperation</p>
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Part III: Potential Evaluation Projects from Previous Consultation Processes scheduled to begin in 2024

(to be re-examined in the 2024-2026 consultation process)

- Country portfolio evaluation (LPE)
- Health, social protection, population policy (including Health Systems Strengthening)
- Sustainable nutrition security and regional agricultural economic cycles in development cooperation
- Evaluation of the implementation of anti-corruption measures as a cross-sectoral issue of development cooperation
- Safeguarding: grievance mechanisms in German bilateral development cooperation
- Evaluation of development cooperation interventions in partner countries with a focus on digitalisation
- Evaluation of the BMZ Civil Peace Service

Annex: Explanation of the evaluation criteria

Each proposed project is assessed on two levels before a decision is made on which projects will be part of the multiannual evaluation programme.

Firstly, the project content is considered against the following criteria:

1. Strategic and political relevance: advisory or decision-making requirements (on the part) of BMZ and/or political importance: high political visibility of the field to be evaluated.
2. Evidence gap: low coverage by existing evaluations and studies in the subject area.
3. Risk: probability or existence of concrete risks of any kind.
4. Innovation and learning potential: availability of empirically sound knowledge of effectiveness, especially with a view to future engagement

Secondly, additional selection criteria are evaluability, efficiency and coherence of the potential evaluation projects forming the programme:

- Evaluability refers to the logistical, methodological and financial feasibility of the evaluation project (mainly with DEval staff).
- Efficiency addresses the question of whether or not an evaluation is the best and most cost-effective way to tackle the specific research topic .
- Coherence refers to the coherence of the content and methodological approaches of the evaluation programme by taking into account the current thematic focuses.