

The 2019 – 2021 Evaluation Programme of the German Institute for Development Evaluation

Thematic focuses, ongoing and scheduled evaluation projects

January 2019

The evaluations conducted by the German Institute for Development Evaluation are formalised by the **multiannual and rolling evaluation programme**, which is updated on a yearly basis. The information in the attached tables provides an overview of the ongoing evaluations and the evaluations scheduled to begin in 2019. The first table shows all ongoing evaluations from the 2018-2020 evaluation programme, the second table outlines evaluations which begin in 2019 and the third part lists potential evaluation projects scheduled to begin in 2020 according to current plans.

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 (including members of parliament, academic scholars and representatives of civil society organisations) 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 2019-2021 Evaluation Programme embraces three **thematic focus areas** with the aim of generating cross-cutting evaluation findings in highly relevant fields. The thematic focus on sustainability as a cross-cutting topic of development cooperation from the 2018-2020 Evaluation Programme will end with the publication of the corresponding focus report which is scheduled for the second half of 2019. With the new multi-annual thematic focus on private sector engagement in development cooperation DEval takes up one of the most important current trends within both German and interational development cooperation.

Thus, the current thematic focus areas are:

- 1) *Instruments and structures of German development cooperation*
- 2) *Fragile states, peacebuilding and conflict prevention*
- 3) *Sustainability as a cross-cutting topic of development cooperation (ending in 2019)*
Private sector engagement in development cooperation (starting in 2019)

Ongoing evaluations and evaluations scheduled for the period 2019 - 2021

PART I: Ongoing evaluations from previous Evaluation Programmes

PART II: Evaluations from the 2019-2021 Evaluation Programme to begin in 2019.

PART III: Potential evaluations from previous consultation processes to begin in 2020

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
Evaluation synthesis of German development cooperation in countries affected by conflict and/or fragility	<p>Background: high political relevance of development cooperation in countries affected by conflict and/or fragility; substantial challenges for the implementation and evaluation of development cooperation</p> <p>Criteria: no. 2, no. 4</p>	<p>Subject: extent to which critical junctures affect allocation; effect of state fragility on success and evaluation of development cooperation; comparison of concepts of state fragility.</p> <p>Status: reporting phase</p>	Fragile states, peace building and conflict prevention
Climate change adaptation	<p>Background: Germany has long been committed to supporting the climate protection and climate adaptation measures. In the context of German development cooperation, the promotion of climate adaptation measures are thus of utmost importance. The strategic relevance is supplemented by an evaluation gap, due to the fact that the climate adaptation measures have not yet been evaluated neither at a strategic nor at a cross-organisational level.</p> <p>Criteria: no. 1, no. 2, no. 4</p>	<p>Subject: portfolio analysis, analysis of strategic coherence and the effectiveness of instruments and measures which promote the adaptation to the climate change.</p> <p>Status: conception phase</p>	Instruments and structures of German development cooperation

Focus report on sustainability	<p>Background: highly relevant due to the increased content-related importance of sustainability against the background of the Agenda 2030. With the Agenda 2030, sustainability was designated the guiding principle of global human action. This will impose new requirements upon both the planning, implementation and evaluation of development activities. The focus report shall thus contribute to reflect on the evaluation of sustainability in developmental contexts.</p> <p>Criteria: no. 2, no. 4</p>	<p>Subject: Based on the assessment of DEval evaluations on this key subject, on external contributions and concrete examples, it is demonstrated how the principles of the Agenda 2030 are implemented in development cooperation and which methods and evaluation approaches could be useful for the evaluation of sustainability as stipulated in the Agenda 2030.</p> <p>Status: reporting phase</p>	Sustainability
Wastewater sector Vietnam	<p>Background: complex challenges in planning, supervising and managing broad multiannual technical and financial cooperation programmes (esp. infrastructure sector); high relevance regarding instrumental and institutional aspects of German development cooperation</p> <p>Criteria: no. 1, no. 3, no. 4</p>	<p>Subject: evaluation of a long-term technical and financial cooperation programme regarding the construction and operation of wastewater treatment plants in provincial towns in Vietnam</p> <p>Status: reporting phase</p>	Instruments and structures of German development cooperation
<p>Programme evaluation in the SDG era:</p> <p>Development of a standard instrument for the implementation of country portfolio reviews.</p>	<p>Background: evaluation gap in the system of German development evaluation concerning country portfolios and programmes, which leads to considerable evidence and management deficiencies, particularly in view of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) of the Agenda 2030.</p> <p>Criterion: no. 4</p>	<p>Subject: initial pilot review on the thematic focus of sustainable economic development in Nepal; development of a standard instrument for country portfolio reviews and pilot implementation</p> <p>Status: reporting phase</p>	Sustainability
Effectiveness of German	<p>Background: politically highly relevant topic for BMZ and the federal government as a whole; linkage between managing short-term refugee crises and long-term support for</p>	<p>Subject: evaluation of German development interventions dealing with conflict-driven migration crises with a focus on the Partnership for Prospect</p>	Fragile states, peace building and conflict prevention as well

<p>development cooperation in dealing with conflict-driven migration crises</p>	<p>refugees (structural development cooperation) as one of the main challenges of development cooperation.</p> <p>Criteria: no. 1, no. 2, no. 3, no. 4</p>	<p>(Employment) Initiative in the Middle East, success factors</p> <p>Phase I: analysis of international evaluation literature on the linkage between humanitarian aid and long-term support in conflict-driven migration crises; BMZ / German development cooperation portfolio analysis and initial explorative field research</p> <p>Status: evaluation report published in 2018 (phase I)</p> <p>Phase II: in-depth analysis of the effectiveness of German development cooperation regarding conflict-driven migration crises by focusing on the government's Partnership for Prospect (Employment) initiative in the neighbouring countries of Syria, featuring two country case studies</p> <p>Status: data collection phase (phase II)</p>	<p>as instruments and structures of German development cooperation</p>
<p>German development cooperation from a partner perspective (Phase II)</p>	<p>Background: high political and strategic relevance in the context of current and future performance of the German development cooperation system; by using a mixed-methods approach, perceptions by decision makers in developing countries concerning the performance of German development actors will be assessed systematically.</p> <p>Criteria: no. 1, no. 2, no. 4</p>	<p>Subject: This joint study between DEval and AidData is based on an international survey on experience-based perceptions of decision-makers in partner countries regarding the performance of German official development cooperation compared with other developing partners. The quantitative findings are complemented by case studies in selected developing countries.</p> <p>Status: data collection phase</p>	<p>Instruments and structures of German development cooperation</p>
<p>Trilateral cooperation in German</p>	<p>Background: high political relevance to assess the strategic direction, efficiency, potentials and risks of this specific form of development cooperation with emerging countries for the benefit of third beneficiary countries</p>	<p>Subject: increasing participation of emerging countries in development cooperation facilitates a new form of development cooperation by which the comparative advantages of emerging and industrial nations are</p>	<p>Instruments and structures of German</p>

development cooperation	Criteria: no. 2, no. 4	combined to achieve better results. Apart from the objective to improve the efficiency of programme activities, German development cooperation is also aiming at creating a common understanding of development policy with emerging countries and to open the dialogue about standard processes, criteria and values. Status: analysis phase	development cooperation
Structured funds	Background: high political relevance to assess instruments for mobilising additional private capital to finance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), employment support, the development of local financial systems and capital markets. Criteria: no. 2, no. 3, no. 4	Subject: effectiveness of structured funds as an instrument of financial cooperation. Analysis of the function of risk sharing regarding the financial and developmental additionality and respective risks. Status: data collection phase	Instruments and structures of German development cooperation; sustainability
Attitudes towards development cooperation and sustainable development in Germany (phase II)	Background: issue of strategic relevance as the challenges based on global sustainable development as well as on public and media criticism of development cooperation, constantly require up-to-date empirical insights regarding relevant attitudes of the German population towards developmental issues. The two-year term study should contribute to strengthen the feedback loop between the German population and development policy makers and provide orientational knowledge to improve both the drafting and communication of policies. Criteria: no. 1, no. 2, no. 4	Subject: The first edition of DEval's opinion monitor for development policy (phase I until 2018) provided German development policy makers with central findings about the attitudes and public opinion of the German population towards development policy, development cooperation, and sustainable development. During phase II the descriptive analysis of key indicators (support for development cooperation, efficiency assessment, civic engagement, etc.) will be continued. In addition, an in-depth analysis of some particular aspects will be conducted by focusing, inter alia, on development cooperation-related media consumption and content, the effects of (media) information on attitudes, citizens' expectations regarding development cooperation's sectoral focusses and	Stand-alone with reference to several thematic focuses

		impacts as well as the question how people assess effectiveness of development cooperation. Status: conception phase	
Institutional evaluation of Engagement Global	Background: high political relevance of the engagement of civil society in development cooperation; assessment of the set-up and positioning of Engagement Global as a service provider supporting engagement of civil society in development cooperation. Criteria: no. 1, no. 2, no. 3, no. 4	Subject: benefits for target groups; set-up and effectiveness of Engagement Global; positioning of Engagement Global as a service provider supporting engagement of civil society in development cooperation; steering and governance. Status: data collection phase	Instruments and structures of German development cooperation
Contribution of German development cooperation to gender equality in post-conflict contexts	Background: high political relevance due to interlinkage between two particularly important cross-sectoral topics of German development cooperation; of high strategic interest, particularly in the context of the forthcoming revision of the Gender Action Plan and the National Action Plans to implement Resolution 1325. Criteria: no. 1, no. 4	Subject: gender mainstreaming in German development cooperation in contexts characterised by earlier violent conflicts. Status: conception phase	Fragile states, peace building and conflict prevention
Sustainable economic development Myanmar	Background: The objective of the first phase of the project (carried out in 2014-2015) was to create the prerequisites for a future impact evaluation of the programme "sustainable economic development" as the first German programme after re-establishing the cooperation with Myanmar. On that basis, an impact evaluation of the programme will be carried out. Criteria: no. 2, no. 4	Subject: Apart from the evaluation of the specific programme "sustainable economic development" in Myanmar, the evaluation addresses the issue of how to improve the prerequisites for the impact assessment of programmes of German development cooperation in the context of the Agenda 2030. Status: scheduled launch in the second half of 2019	Instruments and structures of German development cooperation with reference to sustainability and, where appropriate, fragile states, peace building and conflict prevention

Part II: Evaluations from the 2019-2021 Evaluation Programme to begin in 2019

Topic	Background and relevance of the evaluation according to DEval criteria (see annex)	Subject of the evaluation and current status	Thematic focus
Reform partnerships in German development cooperation, final report and allocation study	<p>Background: Reform partnerships are exemplary for the reorientation of German development policy. With reform partnerships, the BMZ aims to implement the Marshall Plan and Compact with Africa. Therefore, they possess a high political relevance (criterion 4). Implementation of the initial partnerships has only just begun. In view of the high relevance for overarching development policy strategies of BMZ, however, it is likely that this partnership approach will be applied in other partner countries in the near future. Hence, the learning potential is very high (criterion 2).</p> <p>Criteria: No. 1, No. 2, No. 4</p>	<p>Subject: Reform partnerships focus on enhanced cooperation with selected partner countries in Africa. Their aim is to improve the framework conditions for private investment and thus increase economic growth and employment. The prerequisite for stronger support from the BMZ is that partner countries adhere to principles of good governance and foster favourable framework conditions for the private sector. Since reform partnerships are a new approach of German development cooperation, the evaluation follows a formative approach and focuses on learning aspects. The evaluation will generate findings and recommendations for future partnerships both with regard to selection criteria and the design of reform partnerships. Additionally, the evaluation findings will be fed, wherever possible, into the ongoing implementation processes of already existing partnerships in order to increase the probability of achieving the partnerships objectives.</p> <p>Status: preparatory phase</p>	Instruments and structures of German development cooperation with reference to private-sector engagement in development cooperation
Meta evaluation and synthesis evaluation of the cooperation between	Background: The cooperation between development cooperation and actors of the private sector in order to achieve developmental objectives manifests itself in various forms. Instruments and programmes are applied in both, financial and technical cooperation and the development of	Subject: The main objective of this meta evaluation and evaluation synthesis is to assess the existing evaluations of the cooperation between German development cooperation and the private sector. To do so, German – and potentially also international – evaluations as well as	Private-sector engagement in development cooperation with reference to

development cooperation and the private sector	<p>new approaches in this thematic area has become an issue of strategic relevance. As a result, the increasing importance of this topic, the diversity of methods and instruments as well as the new forms of cooperation require a quality analysis of existing evaluations and further development of evaluation methods and standards in this field of development cooperation. Given the increasing importance of the topic, the existing evaluation evidence should be synthesised for strategic purposes.</p> <p>Criteria: no. 1, no. 2, no. 4</p>	<p>rigorous impact studies about the cooperation with the private sector, will be considered. There are three main evaluation purposes: 1) to contribute to the quality assurance of German evaluations in this increasingly important area, 2) to further develop evaluation methods and standards in this field of development cooperation and 3) to create strategic evidence regarding the effectiveness of these approaches at a more aggregated level via an evaluation synthesis.</p> <p>Status: scheduled to begin in the second half of 2019</p>	instruments and structures of German development cooperation
Strategy evaluation "Human rights in German development cooperation" - final report and allocation study	<p>Background: Human rights are a central guiding principle of German development cooperation. Within its human rights strategy, BMZ has formulated ambitious goals with regard to both respecting human rights when cooperating with state, civil-society, and private sector actors and with regard to the active promotion of an improved human rights situation in partner countries. At the same time, development cooperation increasingly faces context conditions that require adapting its human rights approach. These context conditions include (a) protracted crises often resulting in flight and migration, (b) stagnation or erosion of liberal democratic structures, (c) competition by new donors (esp. China) and (d) specific human rights challenges when cooperating with the private sector.</p> <p>Criteria: no. 1, no. 2, no. 3, no. 4</p>	<p>Subject: current state of the implementation of the human rights strategy in German development cooperation. This includes the analysis of the implementation of human rights-based conditionalities in ODA allocation. The analyses aim to support the constructive adaptation of the human rights approach. Apart from official state-level development cooperation the evaluation also aims to include civil society and cooperations with the private sector in its scope.</p> <p>Status: preparatory phase</p>	Instruments and structures of German development cooperation with reference to private sector engagement in development cooperation
Synthesis study on donors' exit strategies	<p>Background: Germany is in the process of strategically re-positioning its development policy. One emphasis of this process is to make Germany's development cooperation more effective and create stronger incentives for partner countries by means of concentration and more selective</p>	<p>Subject: systematic analysis of existing experience and evidence on how to organise the exit from areas of activity of development cooperation. This serves to identify lessons learned and to formulate recommendations on how concentration processes of</p>	Instruments and structures of German development cooperation

	<p>allocation of resources. Against the backdrop of the diverse landscape of Germany's development cooperation, this strategic re-orientation will necessitate concentration processes in terms of geography, instruments and topics. This process will provide opportunities for increased effectiveness as well as substantial risks and therefore must be designed in a strategic and evidence-based manner.</p> <p>Criteria: no. 2, no. 4</p>	<p>Germany's development cooperation are to be selected, prepared, and organised in order to achieve their objectives while avoiding negative (side-) effects.</p> <p>Status: preparatory phase</p>	
<p>Synthesis study on the REDD+ forest and climate protection programme</p>	<p>Background: The REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) forest and climate protection programme is the most important international forest protection programme designed to provide financial incentives to developing and newly industrialising countries to refrain from deforestation or to engage in reforestation and sustainable forest use. Germany has long been involved in REDD+ interventions, which are an essential instrument of climate protection. Against the background of this strategic relevance, the question of the significance and effectiveness of this instrument arises. The quite large number of existing studies and reports on REDD+ interventions has not yet provided an overall evaluation of Germany's contribution.</p> <p>Criteria: no. 1, no. 4</p>	<p>Subject: The impacts of REDD+, which is also supported by German Development Cooperation, are controversial. As an increasing number of scientifically based evaluations and studies on REDD+ are available, DEval will evaluate the existing findings on important effectiveness issues of the German REDD+ activities in a summary synthesis evaluation. Estimated start is the first quarter of 2019.</p> <p>Status: preparatory phase</p>	

<p>Study on the allocation patterns of German ODA resources</p>	<p>Background: The allocation patterns of German foreign aid resources is a topic of continuous debate in political, academic and practical communities related to development cooperation. In this regard, one of the crucial questions is, whether institutional features, socioeconomic neediness, geostrategic positioning or economic relations of developing countries have systematic impacts on German ODA allocation. Moreover, the question through which "channels" or instruments German ODA resources are allocated to different countries is present in this debate.</p> <p>Against this background, the study focuses on the allocation of German development cooperation.</p> <p>Criteria: no. 2, no.4</p>	<p>Subject: The purpose is to identify allocation patterns and potential changes of such patterns over the past two or three decades. In this context, it will be examined to which extent institutional features, socio-economic needs as well as geo-strategic and economic characteristics of developing and emerging countries have systematically influenced German ODA allocation. In addition, the use of different channels respectively instruments of German development cooperation as well as the geographical diversification of ODA resources will be examined.</p> <p>Status: preparatory phase, scheduled to begin in the second half of 2019</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 2020

(to be re-examined in the 2020-2022 consultation process)

- Municipal town-twinning programmes
- Country programme evaluation Afghanistan (at a cross-departmental level)
- Evaluation of the programme "Perspektive Heimat" of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- Evaluation of the education strategy of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- Effects of the (German) promotion of national parks on the neighbouring population

Annex: Explanation of the evaluation criteria

There is a two-step assessment process to identify an evaluation project for inclusion in the multiannual Evaluation Programme.

First, project content is considered against the following inclusion criteria to determine acceptance for the Evaluation Programme:

1. Coverage: evaluation density in relation to the overall scope of the German development cooperation portfolio.
2. Innovation and learning potential: availability of empirically sound knowledge of effectiveness, especially with a view to future engagement
3. Risk: probability or existence of concrete risks of any sort
4. Strategic and political relevance: advisory or decision-making requirements (on the part) of BMZ and/or political importance: high policy visibility of the field to be evaluated.

Further selection criteria are evaluability, efficiency and coherence of the potential evaluation projects:

- Evaluability refers to the logistical, methodological and financial feasibility of the evaluation project (mainly with DEval's own human resources).
- Efficiency, i.e. whether an evaluation is the best and most cost-effective way of meeting the respective information and knowledge needs
- Coherence refers to the coherence of the evaluation programme by taking into account the current thematic focus