

The 2021 – 2023 Evaluation Programme of the German Institute for Development Evaluation

Thematic focuses, ongoing and scheduled evaluation projects

January 2021

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 2021. The first table shows all ongoing evaluations from previous evaluation programmes, the second table outlines evaluations which (have already begun or) will begin in 2021 and the third part lists potential evaluation projects scheduled to begin in 2022 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 in-house 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 2021-2023 Evaluation Programme embraces three thematic focus areas with the aim of generating cross-cutting evaluation findings in highly relevant fields.

The current thematic focus areas are:

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

Ongoing evaluations and evaluations scheduled for the period 2021 - 2023

PART I: Ongoing evaluations from previous Evaluation Programmes

PART II: Evaluations from the 2021-2023 Evaluation Programme to begin in 2021.

PART III: Potential evaluations from previous consultation processes to begin in 2022

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
Effectiveness of German development cooperation in dealing with conflict-driven migration crises	<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 refugees (structural development cooperation) as one of the main challenges of development cooperation.</p> <p>Criteria: no. 1, no. 2, no. 3, no. 4¹</p>	<p>Subject: Evaluation of German development interventions dealing with conflict-driven migration crises with a focus on the Partnership for Prospect (Employment) Initiative in the Middle East and 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>Fragile states, peacebuilding and conflict prevention; instruments and structures of German development cooperation</p>

¹ For more information on the evaluation criteria, see page 13.

		<p>Phase II: In-depth analysis of the effectiveness of German development cooperation regarding conflict-driven migration crises by focusing the government's Partnership for Prospect (Employment) initiative in the neighbouring countries of Syria, featuring two country case studies</p> <p>Status: reporting phase (phase II)</p>	
Reform partnerships in German development cooperation	<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 are of 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 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 fairly 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 partnership objectives.</p> <p>Status: in preparation</p>	Instruments and structures of German development cooperation with reference to private-sector engagement in development cooperation
Synthesis study on exit processes in development cooperation	<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</p>	<p>Subject of the study is the systematic analysis of existing experience and evidence on how to organise the exit from activity areas of German development cooperation. This serves to both identify lessons learned</p>	Instruments and structures of German

	<p>countries through a more selective and concentrated allocation of resources. Against the backdrop of Germany's development cooperation's highly diverse portfolio, this strategic re-orientation will require concentration processes in the future on various levels (geographically, thematically, instrumentally). Such processes will provide both opportunities for increased effectiveness as well as substantial risks and must therefore be designed in a strategic and evidence-based manner.</p> <p>Criteria: no. 2, no. 4</p>	<p>and formulate recommendations on how concentration processes of Germany's development cooperation are to be prepared and organised in order to achieve their objectives while at the same time avoiding negative (side-) effects.</p> <p>Status: reporting phase</p>	development cooperation
Allocation patterns of German development cooperation	<p>Background: Allocation patterns of German and international ODA are subject of the political, academic, and public debate. The debate revolves around the strategic question of how to focus ODA funds, the characteristics of developing and emerging countries that influence allocation patterns, and the choice of funding channels and instruments.</p> <p>Criteria: no. 1, no. 2, no. 4</p>	<p>Subject: The study examines the allocation of German ODA funds. It aims at identifying patterns and trends of aid allocation in the last two to three decades. More specifically, the study investigates the extent to which good political institutions, socio-economic needs, and other geo-strategic and economic characteristics of developing and emerging countries influence German aid allocation. This includes an analysis of funding channels and instruments as well as spatial patterns of German development cooperation.</p> <p>Status: in process</p>	Instruments and structures of German development cooperation
Interministerial strategic evaluation of the AA- and BMZ-engagement in Iraq	<p>Background: As part of its crisis engagement in Iraq, the German federal government intends to further establish monitoring and evaluation as an important tool for learning and quality assurance, accountability and strategic steering (see Federal Government Report on Iraq Engagement 2018, p.9). In this context, an interministerial evaluation of the engagement of the Federal Foreign Office (AA) and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in Iraq will be carried out.</p>	<p>Subject: independent and comprehensive analysis and evaluation of the engagement of the two ministries in Iraq. The evaluation focuses on the bi- and multilateral programmes funded by both institutions in the areas of humanitarian aid, stabilisation, reconstruction and development cooperation in the period 2014-2019. In addition, intersections between the areas of engagement are examined and the different steering entities of the AA-BMZ engagement in Iraq are assessed.</p>	Instruments and structures of German development cooperation

	Criteria: No. 2, No. 3, No. 4	The joint strategic evaluation is carried out by a consortium with the participation of DEval and AA contractors. DEval, however, will take the lead regarding the evaluation of the BMZ portfolio. Status: in process	
Evaluation of the promotion of protected areas by the BMZ	Background: 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 the relevant interventions. Criteria: no. 2, no. 4	Subject: In accordance with a modern understanding of sustainability, this evaluation will focus on both, intended and unintended effects or the interlinkages of the promotion of selected protected areas in developing countries financed by German development cooperation. In addition to ecological aspects, a special focus will accordingly be placed on participation and development opportunities for the local population and on the observance of human rights. Status: expected to start in Q2 /2021	Instruments and structures of German development cooperation with reference to fragile states, peace-building and conflict prevention
Evaluation synthesis of private sector engagement in development cooperation	Background: The private sector engagement in development cooperation manifests itself in various forms to achieve development objectives. Instruments and programmes are applied in both, financial and technical cooperation and the development of 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 in this field of development cooperation. Given the increasing importance of the topic, the existing evaluation evidence should be synthesised for strategic purposes. Criteria: no. 1, no. 2, no. 4	Subject: assessment of the existing evaluations on private sector engagement in development cooperation. Therefore German – and potentially also international – evaluations as well as rigorous impact studies on private sector engagement 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 deduce implications for 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 aggregate level by conducting an evaluation synthesis. Status: in process	Private-sector engagement in development cooperation with reference to instruments and structures of German development cooperation

Sustainable economic development Myanmar	<p>Background: The objective of the first phase of the project (carried out in 2014-2015) was to create better preconditions for measuring impact on programme level within the context of the first bilateral programme after re-establishing the cooperation with Myanmar in the area of sustainable economic development. The preparatory phase assessed the current framework conditions of the evaluation. Due to the planned exit of German development cooperation in Myanmar within the context of BMZ-2030 and the Covid-19 pandemic which limits possibilities for data collection, the focus of the evaluation has been adjusted. Hence, the new focus primarily addresses the update of procedural reforms and the introduction of an evaluation format for bilateral programmes.</p> <p>Criteria: no. 2, no. 4</p>	<p>Subject: The evaluation deals with the instruments for impact oriented planning and assessing bilateral programmes in German development cooperation. It a) analyses to what extent instruments enable impact oriented planning, b) assesses in how far the currently existing evidence base sufficiently allows for measuring progress and achievement of objectives and c) supports the development of an evaluation format on programme level. The programme on sustainable economic development will serve as main case study for the evaluation. In addition, a survey and interviews among regional departments of BMZ will be conducted.</p> <p>Status: in process</p>	Instruments and structures of German development cooperation;
The promotion of sustainable supply chains in German development cooperation	<p>Background: German development cooperation promotes sustainable supply chains through a broad mix of instruments on various levels (nationally, internationally and on the level of partner countries). Thus the cooperation with the private sector as part of this mix becomes increasingly important while at the same time the significance of sustainability aspects (socially, economically, ecologically) and the compliance with human rights-based due diligence by companies is also increasing. 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 generating benefits for the target groups of German development cooperation. It will also be analysed if the mix can ensure and promote the compliance with</p>	<p>Subject: description and analysis of the portfolio for promoting sustainable textile supply chains in German development cooperation; Evaluation of a) impacts (also unintended) of the promotion of 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). The 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 and effectivity of the mix of instruments.</p> <p>Status: in process</p>	Private-sector engagement in development cooperation

	<p>environmental and social standards by development cooperation and companies.</p> <p>Criteria: no. 2,3, and 4</p>		
Meta-evaluation of project evaluations	<p>Background: The high importance of project evaluations in Germany's development cooperation requires regular and cross-organisational quality assurance in order to guarantee learning and accountability from evaluation and to ensure methods and to develop standards of project evaluation.</p> <p>Criteria: no. 1, no. 2, no. 3, no. 4</p>	<p>Subject: The subject of the meta-evaluation is a cross-organisational analysis of the quality of project evaluations in Germany's development cooperation systems. The analysis includes both findings from project evaluations of implementing organisations as well as civil society organisations.</p> <p>Status: in process</p>	Instruments and structures of German development cooperation
Attitudes of the general public towards development cooperation and sustainable development in Germany (phase II)	<p>Background: Issue of strategic relevance as the challenges 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.</p> <p>Criteria: no. 1, no. 2, no. 4</p>	<p>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 focuses and impacts; as well as the question on how people assess effectiveness of development cooperation.</p> <p>Status: reporting phase</p>	Stand-alone with reference to several thematic focuses

<p>Contribution of German development cooperation to gender equality in post-conflict contexts</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Criteria: no. 1, no. 4</p>	<p>Subject: Gender mainstreaming in German development cooperation in contexts characterised by earlier violent conflicts.</p> <p>Status: reporting phase</p>	<p>Fragile states, peacebuilding and conflict prevention</p>
<p>Strategy evaluation "Human rights in German development cooperation"</p>	<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. This encompasses using human rights as conditionalities for German development cooperation. 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 aims to support the constructive adaptation of the human rights approach. Apart from official state-level development cooperation, the evaluation should also include civil society and the cooperation with the private sector.</p> <p>Status: reporting phase</p>	<p>Instruments and structures of German development cooperation with reference to private-sector engagement in development cooperation</p>
<p>Local development cooperation: Evaluation of the "Service Agency Communities in One World"</p>	<p>Background: The relevance of cities and municipalities for German development cooperation and the implementation of Agenda 2030 has steadily increased in recent years. This is also reflected in the newly-established title on the "support of local development engagement" in the German federal budget. An</p>	<p>Subject: The evaluation will focus on the "Service Agency Communities in One World" (SKEW), which is part of Engagement Global. It will examine its support and assistance activities for local municipalities in Germany engaged in development policy and their partner municipalities in the Global South. Questions concerning the relevance and coherence of the portfolio of SKEW as</p>	<p>Instruments and structures of German development cooperation</p>

	<p>overarching evaluation of local development policy is still lacking.</p> <p>Criteria: no. 1, no. 2, no. 4</p>	<p>well as selected assumptions concerning the effectiveness of local development policy are central focuses of the evaluation.</p> <p>Status: in process</p>	
<p>Attitudes of the general public towards development cooperation and sustainable development (phase III)</p>	<p>Background: Issue of strategic relevance as the challenges of global sustainable development as well as public and media criticism of development cooperation continuously require up-to-date empirical insights on relevant attitudes of the German population towards development policy issues; the study is intended to strengthen the feedback loop between the German population and development policy makers in a two-year cycle and aims at providing orientation knowledge for more effective policy design and communication.</p> <p>Criteria: No. 1, No. 2, No. 4</p>	<p>Subject: With the first edition of the DEval development policy opinion monitor (phase I until 2018), German development policy makers were provided with basic data on the attitudes and public opinion of the German population regarding development policy, development cooperation and sustainable development. In phase II, the descriptive analysis of key indicators (support for development cooperation, effectiveness assessment) was updated and the topics of media reporting, expectations of the population on development policy, effectiveness of development cooperation from the perspective of the German population, and the effects of moral appeals on the attitudes of the population were examined in depth. In phase III, key indicators will be again updated. In addition, current key issues that are yet to be determined are dealt with (e.g., the link between consumption and sustainable development; attitudes towards development cooperation as a means to combat climate change).</p> <p>Status: in preparation (expected to start in Q1/ 2021)</p>	<p>Stand-alone with reference to several thematic focuses</p>
<p>Evaluation of climate change adaptation measures</p>	<p>Background: Germany has long been committed to supporting the climate protection and climate adaption 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</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 (modular structure):</p> <p>1) Portfolio and allocation analysis (published)</p>	<p>Instruments and structures of German development cooperation</p>

	<p>been evaluated neither at a strategic nor at a cross-organisational level.</p> <p>Criteria: no. 1, no. 2, no. 4</p>	<p>2) Instruments for dealing with residual climate risks (reporting phase)</p> <p>3) Effectiveness, impact and sustainability in key sectors of German development cooperation (analysis phase)</p> <p>4) Synthesis</p>	
<p>Focus report "Fragility, Crisis Prevention, and Peacebuilding".</p>	<p>Background: Fragility, crisis prevention, and peacebuilding are of high relevance for development cooperation as state fragility and violent conflicts are central barriers to sustainable development. Consequently, crisis prevention and peacebuilding are priorities of German development cooperation. Fragile contexts place high demands on the planning, implementation and evaluation of development cooperation. The focus report contributes to reflecting and further developing the evaluation of development cooperation in fragile contexts.</p> <p>Criteria: no 2, 3, and 4</p>	<p>Subject: The focus report synthesises DEval evaluations of the relevant thematic focus and also includes 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 preparation</p>	<p>Fragile states, peacebuilding and conflict prevention</p>

Part II: Evaluations from the 2021-2023 Evaluation Programme to begin in 2021

Topic	Background and relevance of the evaluation according to DEval criteria (see annex)	Subject of the evaluation and current status	Thematic focus
Strategic evaluation of Germany's civil engagement in Afghanistan	<p>Background: The 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 measures of financial and technical collaboration funded by BMZ.</p> <p>Status: expected to start in Q4 /2021 or Q1/2022</p>	Fragile states, peacebuilding and conflict prevention
Evaluation of the BMZ Emergency COVID-19 Support Programme	<p>Background: The Covid-19 pandemic poses an enormous challenge to development cooperation. The German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has reacted with an Emergency COVID-19 Support Programme to address the extensive economic and financial repercussions of the pandemic on partner countries. The Ministry has pledged about one billion euro for this purpose. Programme measures pertain to various instruments at different levels and sectors for stabilisation and crisis management in partner countries. The programme focuses on supporting health management and pandemic control, food security, stabilisation of fragile regions affected by large numbers of displaced people, social protection and employment in global supply chains, enterprises in key industries as well as government's fiscal liquidity and international collaboration/ crisis response.</p> <p>Criteria: 2, 3, and 4</p>	<p>Subject: The evaluation of the Emergency COVID-19 Support Programme will consider the programme as a whole as well as its individual instruments. This includes the review of available financial cooperation measures and instruments. The focus of the evaluation and its approach will only be determined during the preparatory phase in consultation with the relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Status: expected to start in Q 4 / 2021</p>	Stand-alone with reference to several thematic focuses

Part III: Potential evaluation projects from previous consultation processes scheduled to begin in 2022

(to be re-examined in the 2022-2024 consultation process)

- Evaluation of the effectiveness of decentralisation projects in Africa
- Evaluation of the implementation of anti-corruption measures as a cross-sectoral issue of development cooperation (if required, including the promotion of courts of auditors)
- Evaluation of the "Perspektive Heimat" programme for returnees
- Evaluation of financial cooperation instruments
- Evaluation of the Federal-State-Programme
- Digital transformation in development cooperation
- Meta evaluation of country portfolio reviews carried out by DEval
- Evaluation of green innovation centres
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of poverty reduction in fragile contexts
- Efficiency of health-related development cooperation with regard to general access to basic health services
- Data basis and methodology of efficiency assessments in evaluation of German development cooperation

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, the 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 refers to the question 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.