



# Monitoring and evaluating development

## **How is evaluation being strengthened under the International Development Policy?**

The new international development policy will significantly improve the monitoring and evaluation systems underpinning Australia's development program.

Specifically, we will strengthen evaluation practice through multi-year evaluation planning and expand the number of evaluations, including more sector and thematic evaluations. This includes piloting new approaches, such as real-time reviews to better inform project implementation and post-completion impact assessments for major investments.

We will also reinforce our commitment to locally led development by providing opportunities for local experts in developing countries to be part of evaluation teams and ensure that those impacted by our work can engage in evaluations.

Australia will enhance evaluation capability with more staff receiving training and 'on-the-job' experience in evaluation. We will also increase the use of evaluation findings to inform programming decisions, including through the role of DFAT's Development Program Committee.

We will also enhance accountability and transparency by communicating evaluation findings more, including analysis and examples of investments that have achieved outcomes and those that have underperformed.

## **Will you re-establish the Office of Development Effectiveness?**

The Office of Development Effectiveness (ODE) will not be re-established. Our development evaluation system, governance and policy compare favourably to other donors and to other APS agencies.

Under the new international development policy we will continue core evaluation functions, including oversight and quality assurance; bring back practices that ended with the discontinuation of ODE, including country-level, strategic and thematic evaluations; and trial new evaluation methods, including impact assessments and real time reviews.

We will work closely with the recently established Australian Centre for Evaluation to further ensure the rigour of our evaluation practice. We will use DFAT's Development Program Committee, which has overall oversight for all aspects of Australia's development assistance, to drive evaluation quality and to ensure that evaluation findings inform policy and program decision making. The Development Program Committee includes representatives from other government departments and independent members.

Importantly, quality will be at the centre of our strengthened approach to evaluation, including through increased transparency and more effectively communicating findings.

# Comparison of Development Evaluation before/after the new International Development Policy

**Series:** Y = Function/Activity included, N = Function/Activity not included

<b>Governance</b>			
Function / Activity	2006-20 (Office of Development Effectiveness)	2020-23 (Post Office of Development Effectiveness)	August 2023 onwards (New International Development Policy)
Oversight from Development Program Committee	N	Y	Y
Oversight from Independent Evaluation Committee	Y	N	N

<b>Policy and Practice</b>			
Function / Activity	2006-20 (Office of Development Effectiveness)	2020-23 (Post Office of Development Effectiveness)	August 2023 onwards (New International Development Policy)
Updated Development Evaluation Policy	Y	Y	Y
Development Evaluation Plan	Y (annual)	Y (annual)	Y (multi-year)
Biennial perceptions survey on performance of the Development Program	N	N	Y
Commitment to better communication of evaluation findings	Y	N	Y
Commitment to publish all evaluations and management responses	Y	Y	Y
Advice to DFAT staff on evaluations	Y	Y	Y

<b>Evaluation approaches</b>			
Function / Activity	2006-20 (Office of Development Effectiveness)	2020-23 (Post Office of Development Effectiveness)	August 2023 onwards (New International Development Policy)
Strategic and thematic evaluations	Y	N	Y
Country program evaluations	Y	N	Y
Investment-level evaluations	Y	Y	Y
Impact evaluations of a small number of significant investments	N	N	Y
Real time evaluations in humanitarian & crisis response settings	N	N	Y
Increased participation of local actors in evaluations	N	N	Y

<b>Quality and assurance</b>			
Function / Activity	2006-20 (Office of Development Effectiveness)	2020-23 (Post Office of Development Effectiveness)	August 2023 onwards (New International Development Policy)
Quality assurance of performance reporting	Y	N	Y
Independent assessment of a sample of all IMRs	Y	N	Y
Independent validation of all Final Investment Monitoring Reports (FIMRs)	N	Y	Y
Review on the quality and use of evaluations	Y (ad hoc)	N	Y (annual)