

**AGENDA ITEM IX**  
*Ideas and plans for collaboration*

**Room Document 11.**

**The inventory of evaluation plans – facilitating joint work and collaboration**

This brief update has been prepared by the Secretariat for discussion at the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the DAC Evaluation Network

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## ***The inventory of evaluation plans – facilitating collaboration and joint work***

### **Objective of the inventory**

The DAC Network on Development Evaluation has long been in the lead of promoting collaboration and joint work among development partners. Network meetings provide both formal and informal opportunities for exchanging ideas and plans. The exchange and discussions in the Network have facilitated numerous joint evaluations and collaboration in various forms and stages of the evaluation process.

In 2007, in order to complement informal exchanges on plans, members of the Network agreed to systematically share evaluation plans and work programmes. An online searchable inventory was developed in 2008 for the members' site and made available on the OECD public website in 2011. The objective of developing an inventory was to enable evaluation units to be aware of the evaluations planned by the other members, promote opportunities for collaboration and joint work, and reduce potential overlap. Eventually, the inventory should contribute to:

- increased transparency in evaluation planning;
- a more rational distribution of labour in the field of evaluation and reduced redundancy;
- more collaborative work and joint evaluations.

### **Stimulating the use of the inventory**

Members' interest in the inventory seems quite high. According to the "Evaluation in development agencies" study (OECD, 2010), members' use of the inventory is mainly to find out if any other agency is evaluating in the same country or sector in order to be aware of other efforts. While a large majority of members consult others' evaluation plans to look for possible areas of collaboration when planning evaluations, the majority of coordination actually takes place among specific small groups of like-minded donors, or donors with shared languages or working with the same partner countries.

Part of the reason for this is that some members are already "booked in" with limited flexibility when the plans have been approved and shared. For this reason, the Secretariat invites members to share evaluation plans at their early stages. Sharing ideas that are still at the planning stage creates more potential for engaging in new joint work.

Taking advantage of the new technologies, the Secretariat has developed an online interactive tool that should facilitate the use of the inventory and replace the actual searchable spreadsheet ([oe.cd/DACEvalnetPlan](http://oe.cd/DACEvalnetPlan)). This user-friendly tool presents aggregated data that inform members about:

- countries where evaluations will be conducted including concentration of evaluations and distribution of joint work.
- main sectors evaluated, including geographical distribution;
- potential opportunities for joint work.

Being interactive, this new tool is an easy-to-use entry point to facilitate access to our collective information base. Users will be able to quickly find who is planning an evaluation in a particular sector and / or country.

## 2014 Inventory analysis

As of today, the updated inventory includes evaluation plans from 33 development agencies listing 580 evaluations planned for the next four years. As the document is continually being updated, all members are invited to submit their evaluation plans and ideas as they evolve.

### *Themes and topics*

As observed during the last meeting, country evaluation remains the main type of evaluation to be addressed in the coming years with 106 planned country evaluations.

“Aid instruments” – including budget support – “Health” and “Private sector, business and industry” are high on the evaluation agenda of DAC members: more than 40 evaluations should be conducted for each of these three topics.

Interesting lessons on policy and process, multilateral aid, support to civil society and education should also be gathered in the next years as around 30 planned evaluations should address these issues. Topics such as governance, energy, environment and climate change will also be evaluated closely with 20 evaluation exercises being planned for each of them.

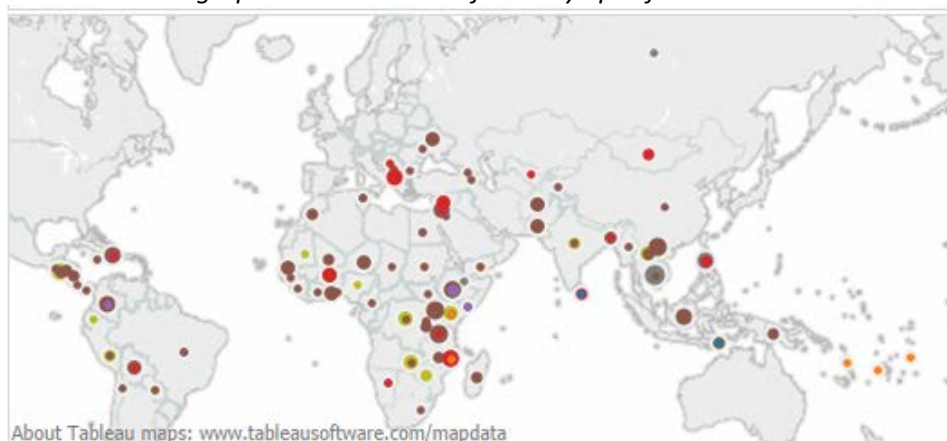
### *Relative prominence of themes and topics to be evaluated*



### *Geographical distribution*

Of the 580 evaluations, 248 specify the location – 210 will be country-specific and 38 will be regional evaluations.

*Geographical distribution of country-specific evaluations*



By far, the most frequently evaluated country will be Ethiopia, with 14 evaluations to be conducted in the next years, only two being joint exercises. This is followed by:

- Mozambique with 11 planned evaluations;
- the Philippines and Uganda (9 evaluations each);
- Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Vietnam, West Bank and Gaza Strip (8 evaluations each);
- Colombia, Ghana and Tanzania (7 evaluations each);
- El Salvador, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste (6 evaluations each);
- Afghanistan, Bolivia, Lao PDR and Senegal (5 evaluations each).

One to four evaluations are planned for the next years in each of the other countries identified in the inventory.

Although the scope may defer depending on the specific focus, members planning evaluations in the same countries are encouraged to look for synergies and opportunities for collaboration such as sharing context analysis or other background information and data, as well as actively involve the partner country in the design or the implementation of the evaluation.

### *Joint evaluations*

More than 18% of the evaluations – a total of 107 evaluations - are planned to be joint evaluations. Indeed, many network members are explicitly looking for collaboration with other agencies and 48 evaluations have been flagged as being open for other members to join. For instance:

- CIDA is looking for partners for multilateral aid evaluations and country evaluations for Benin, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Nigeria and Mongolia;
- KOICA is inviting joint work on various project evaluations in order to learn from others experiences;
- New Zealand is looking for partners for a budget and sector support evaluation.

A total of 38 evaluations – 2/3 of the joint evaluations – will be or are open to being conducted jointly with partner countries, especially in East Africa. Members and partners plan to jointly conduct two evaluations or more in each of the following countries:

- Vietnam
- Mozambique
- The Philippines
- Uganda
- Burundi
- Zimbabwe
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Zambia
- Colombia
- Tanzania
- Ethiopia

**Discussion questions:**

1. In your opinion, what kind of information would be the most useful to include in the inventory?

Currently, the inventory lists the agency (or country) which is responsible for the evaluation, the sector of the evaluation, the country/territory where the evaluation takes place, the start and end year of the evaluation, at which stage the exercise is, whether the evaluation is a joint exercise – with other agencies or with the partner - or not, as well as the contact person for the evaluation.

2. Would any changes be necessary to make this inventory available on the public website?
3. How can the inventory tool be made better known and used within members' evaluation units?