

AGENDA ITEM II

Addressing human rights and gender in evaluation: From policy to practice

Room Document 1

Human rights and gender equality in development evaluation – What does it take to make it happen?

This document has been prepared by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Development Evaluation (EVA-11), Finland *for discussion* at the 16th Evaluation Network Meeting.

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Background

EVALNET's Review of Gender and Evaluation ([OECD 2003](#)) found that:

Much work still needs to be done to ensure that both women and men receive the benefits of development cooperation. More attention needs to be given to gender equality issues in evaluations of development activities, and policy commitments to gender equality need to be systematically implemented by donor agencies. Since the 1999 DAC gender review the number of thematic evaluations of gender equality, gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment has increased. However, overall progress in incorporating gender perspectives into general evaluations of development assistance has been slow and uneven.

A review of member systems ([OECD 2010](#)) also showed that while many members have a mandate to incorporate aspects of human rights and gender equity into their evaluation work (86% said they do evaluations on such cross-cutting issues), less than half of members (40%) said they had sufficient knowledge and skills for evaluating cross-cutting themes effectively. A number of more recent studies (including [AfDB 2011](#)) have shown weaknesses in terms of how gender has been mainstreamed into the evaluation and results management systems of DAC member countries. The United Nations Evaluation Group has worked on producing guidance on Intergrading Human Rights and Gender in Evaluation ([UNEG 2011](#)).

Finland's challenge – from policy and guidelines into practical implementation

Finland's new development evaluation manual from 2013 aims at strengthening the focus on human rights and gender equality. Direct links are made in the manual to the UNEG tools which operationalize the human rights and gender equality agenda into concrete and practical tools. Finland is systematically investing in developing the capacities that are needed for moving from policy and guidelines into practical implementation. These include:

Enabling environment: Finland's development policy 2012 is human rights-based. The guidelines on implementing this approach state "When conducting evaluations and when implementing of their recommendations, the concrete goals of the human rights-based approach are to be taken into account. In addition, evaluations must take into consideration the realisation of the principles of human rights in implementation and the human rights-based measurement of results. The human rights-based measurement of results and how the principles of human rights are taken into account in the implementation".

Institutional capacity: The development evaluation manual (2013) and the guidance to stronger focus on human rights and gender equality.

Capacity of individuals to demand and supply evaluations: Basic training is provided in development evaluation to Ministry and embassy staff responsible for commissioning and managing evaluations, and utilising evaluation results. Basic training is also planned for consultants and experts who work as evaluators and implement evaluations.

Finland also wishes to promote the evaluation capacity of partner countries, and contributes through EvalPartners.

Examples of resources and experiences of other EVALNET members

DFID

Ongoing work DFID's Evaluation Department has a few relevant pieces of work ongoing -

- A review of evaluations of programmes promoting the economic empowerment of women and girls – final report due Jan/Feb 2014
- A review exploring the effectiveness of evaluations of violence against women and girls programmes (using QCA and process tracing to explore what makes evaluations more likely to be used/to have an effect) – inception report due Jan/Feb 2014
- An internal survey leading to the development of guidance and training materials on Gender and Evaluation

Germany

BMZ has commissioned a desk review on strengthening evaluation from a human rights perspective, and is planning to subsequently elaborate related operational guidance.

Norway

In 2006, we commissioned a synthesis report which was based on a review of gender evaluations by Norad, Sida, DFID, the European Commission (EC), OECD/DAC, UNDP, ILO and the World Bank. The review looked at findings of these evaluations more systematically in order to find out what they say about weaknesses in efforts to empower women and promote gender equality and the explanations and recommendations provided. The evaluations reviewed were carried out in the period 2002 to 2006. For more information, please visit

<http://www.norad.no/no/evaluating/publikasjoner/publikasjon?key=109584>.

Another study which might be of interest is a review of how the gender perspective is integrated in the design and evaluation of 63 evaluation reports produced during the years 1997-2004. The report concludes that despite the emphasis on gender equality in policies guiding development assistance, gender has not been a key issue in evaluations conducted in the period 1997-2004. For more information, please visit

<http://www.norad.no/no/evaluating/publikasjoner/publikasjon?key=109546>.

In the past few years we have also commissioned evaluations of human rights issues - promotion of the rights of the disabled, children's rights and human rights in general.

Spain

Spain is about to launch a publication about evaluations sensitive to HRBA and gender. Since last year Spain is systematically including the analysis of human rights and gender in our TDR. In 2014 Spain will conduct a specific evaluation about human rights approach in Spanish Cooperation. Spain is planning to host a seminar around March or April this year to further discuss gender and human rights in evaluation with the actors of Spanish Cooperation and with some international development practitioners.

World Bank IEG

IEG is starting an initiative of systematically integrating gender into our evaluations. The approach: first having some seminars for awareness creation, then a survey to get a sense what people know and do not know, and then develop useful guidance. IEG has various guides for different types of evaluations, but not one overarching manual.