

► Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)

Office of Evaluation and Oversight (OVE)

Mandate

The board mandates that Office of Evaluation and Oversight (OVE) conduct Country Program Evaluations (CPE); policy, strategy, thematic and instrument evaluations; and oversee the bank's internal monitoring and evaluation system, processes and instruments. Moreover, OVE conducts oversight reviews of corporate strategy, processes and instruments; provides normative guidance on evaluation issues; and contributes to evaluation capacity building in the region. In 2003, OVE began conducting *ex-post* project evaluations as well. Self-evaluations are carried out by programme staff in operational departments.

OVE carries out evaluations of development impact, *ex-post* performance and sustainability of individual projects classified into three themes: country programmes evaluations whenever there is a national election; sector and thematic evaluations; oversight reports on bank policies and programmes.

Independence and quality

OVE is independent of bank management. It has organisational and behavioural independence, and is free from external pressure and conflicts of interest according to the criteria established by the Evaluation Co-operation Group of the Multilateral Development Banks (ECG), of which the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) is a founding member. OVE's findings, analyses, and conclusions are free from influence by line management at all stages of the process, including the planning of work programmes and budget, formulation of terms of reference, staffing of evaluation teams, execution of evaluations and approval of reports.

Management does not clear or approve the report. Report submitted to the Policy and Evaluation Committee of the board (Country Program Evaluations go instead to the Programming Committee of the board), and then to entire board of Executive Directors.

The Director of the Office does not participate as a member or as an observer in senior management meetings. The Director is frequently consulted on Strategic and organisational Issues, as well as in other board decision making venues, for example, retreats.

To ensure quality, the OVE has evaluation guidelines and also submits evaluations to internal OVE peer review, discussion with relevant bank technical and operational staff, and the Audit and Evaluation Committee of senior management (chaired by Executive V.P.).

Co-ordination, planning and stakeholder involvement

OVE prepares an annual work plan based on requests from board of EXDs and input from bank management. OVE submits this plan to the Policy and Evaluation Committee of the board for discussion and then board approval. In terms of coverage: 100% of projects are self-evaluated by operations staff, 20% *ex-post* evaluations by OVE plus validation of a sample of 20% of Project Performance Monitoring Reports and Project Completion Reports by OVE.

Reporting and use

Management response is dictated by an internal policy. The Strategy and Policy Development Department serves as a liaison and seeks to ensure implementation of recommendations. Written comments by the country concerned or by the bank's management, if any, will be made publicly available if the underlying evaluation is available.

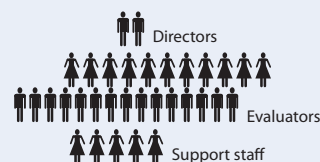
The bank revised its disclosure policy as of 1 January 2004. The general principle is to make information available to the public unless there is a compelling reason for confidentiality. As a result, all OVE documents will be made available to the public after the board of Executive Directors has completed its consideration of them. Restrictions apply, however. Only summaries are disclosed if the borrowing member country objects to disclosure of a Country Program Evaluation. In that case, information deemed confidential and sensitive will be redacted and a notation as to what section was redacted. All Reports are automatically published unless not authorised by the board – in which case the fact that the report exists is public, except for the section (or sections) made confidential by board decision.

Capacity development

Part of OVE's mandate includes Evaluation Capacity Development, which OVE does through co-operative evaluation agreements with sub-regional financial institutions, seminars and other training activities. The key evaluation capacity problem in borrowing member governments is the absence of an institutional location in the budget decision-making structure for evaluation. This has led OVE to provide limited direct evaluation capacity building assistance to borrowers and to urge management to address this problem in its modernisation of the state projects. For its part, OVE also has included borrower participation in *ex-post* project evaluations as a way of increasing their institutional capacity to conduct evaluations and use them for better resource allocation.

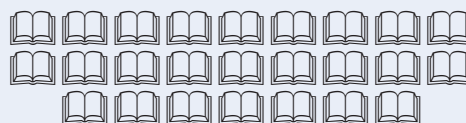
OVE has co-operative agreements with the Caribbean Development Bank, the Central American Bank for Economic Integration and the University of the West Indies to carry out joint evaluation capacity development activities. OVE also has worked with the Brazilian Institute for Research in Applied Economics (IPEA) to develop evaluation networks in Latin America and to increase awareness of the utility of evaluation for public administration. Finally, in conjunction with IPEA, the bank supported the development of the website of Inter-American Roundtable on Evaluation and Performance Measurement, which contains relevant resources in Spanish and English.

Snapshot of evaluation resources – IADB



USD 6.8 million

1.4% of the administrative budget of IADB



Produces 25 evaluations per year, of which 7 are conducted jointly with partner countries.