



ROOM DOCUMENT NO. 5

DAC WORKING PARTY ON AID EVALUATION

**BUILDING EVALUATION CAPACITY
FOR
POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGIES**
Highlights of the Hague Workshop

Submitted by the World Bank

Agenda item No. 10

**34th meeting
22-23 May 2001**

BUILDING EVALUATION CAPACITY FOR POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGIES

Workshop, The Hague, 26-28 March 2001

1. A three day workshop (March 26 through 28) on Building Evaluation Capacity for Poverty Reduction Strategies was sponsored by the evaluation department of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (IOB) and OED. It brought together 32 participants from eight PRSP countries (Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Kyrgyz, Mali, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia) as well as participants from eight donor countries (Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Holland, Norway, Switzerland, UK), OECD-DAC, UNDP, WTO, the Asian Development Bank and Oxfam.
2. The workshop's three major objectives were achieved:
 - To facilitate an exchange of experience among selected developing countries regarding the potential and constraints for M&E systems related to PRSP initiatives;
 - To initiate a dialogue between PRSP countries and donors on how to define and cooperate to support the design and implementation of PRSP-focused M&E systems; and
 - To transfer knowledge on how to design and implement M&E in PRSP countries.
3. The first day featured introductory remarks by the Director General, International Cooperation providing a Dutch perspective on PRSP, an inspiring keynote speech by Pieter Stek (Executive Director, World Bank), a thoughtful presentation on M&E by Rob van den Berg (Director, IOB), a lucid status report on the PRSP initiative by Giovanna Prennushi (World Bank) and three excellent country case studies presented by participants from Bolivia, Kyrgyz Republic, and Tanzania.
4. The second day focused on the M&E needs created by the PRSP; their evaluation capacity development implications, the actions required of PRSP countries to enhance M&E and the role of external partners.
5. The third day addressed the practical steps necessary for the design and implementation of a monitoring and evaluation system through a day long workshop led by Ray Rist with the assistance of Jacques Toulemonde from France. Approximately 60 participants attended.
6. Initially, the main preoccupation of developing country participants was with *monitoring* as distinct from *evaluation*: improvement in statistical systems to generate indicators was a recurrent theme of their presentations. There were discussions also on other issues such as how best to merge various existing tracking systems and how evaluation issues should be addressed in the PRSP context.
7. The second day sessions brought out key linkages between program evaluation and the results orientation of PRSP. Equally, a number of developing country participants deplored the lack of evaluation harmonization and coordination among donors -- and the heavy administrative burdens which result. The role of the civil society in M&E was debated with vigor. And there was considerable interest in continued exchanges of experience across PRSP countries.

8. Kyrgyz, Eritrea, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia participants indicated a need for sustained technical and financial assistance to help design and build M&E systems. Interest was also evinced in the International Program for Development Evaluation Training (IPDET) 2001 evaluation summer institute in Ottawa, Canada being launched by OED in cooperation with Carleton University. As a follow up, IOB will sponsor attendance of 10 scholarship recipients at IPDET this summer.

9. In short, developing a strategy for effective and timely ECD support to PRSP countries, well coordinated across the development community emerged as an obvious priority. The following potential actions emerged as desirable elements for such a program:

1. setting up an M&E network for PRSP countries to promote sharing of experience and capacity building in M&E;
2. enhancing access to training in M&E by PRSP participants;
3. improved coordination of donor support for ECD;
4. moving towards country based evaluations starting with Tanzania, given their experience with a Tanzania based assistance strategy (TAS); and
5. securing high level support for improved donor coordination of evaluation programs in PRSP countries and harmonization of evaluation standards.

10. Such activities should be properly integrated within the PRSP initiative and would be worthy of support by the development evaluation community. They should be designed case by case within the context of PRSP programs so as to take account of individual country needs and circumstances. The role of evaluation in PRSP should be emphasized, complementing the current focus on data gathering and monitoring.

11. A report on the workshop is under preparation and will be finalized after receiving the answers to an evaluation questionnaire.