REVIEW OF OPERATIONAL EVALUATIONS COMPLETED IN 2014

Policy: All investments valued at $10m or more to be evaluated at least once in their lifetime

2014 evaluations generally good quality, but......
QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW WELL OPERATIONAL EVALUATIONS WERE USED

• Located 16 out of a possible 35 management responses
• Low publication rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Evaluations Published</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>38%</td>
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REVIEW OF OPERATIONAL EVALUATIONS COMPLETED IN 2014

Recommendations

DFAT’s Executive has the opportunity to consider planned, completed and published evaluations.

DFAT senior managers (SES) have direct involvement in deciding what is evaluated in their program, to ensure relevant and useful evaluations are conducted.
DEVELOPING THE AID EVALUATION POLICY

- Evidence from the Review of Operational Evaluations
- Other donor systems
- Consultations with:
  - Staff
  - Independent Evaluation Committee
  - Development Policy Centre
- Approved by the Departmental Executive
- Available on ODE website
DFAT AID EVALUATION POLICY

Two levels of evaluation:
• Strategic (ODE)
• Program

Evaluation use

“Use is the driving force behind our evaluations. All our evaluations should be commissioned and conducted to maximise the use of evaluation findings and recommendations to improve our work”.

DFAT AID EVALUATION POLICY

Policy objective: Use of evaluations to improve DFAT's work

- Prioritisation
- Evaluation quality
- Systems that facilitate use
PRIORITISATION

- Evaluations focus on the highest priority issues
- Minimum number of evaluations per program
DFAT AID EVALUATION POLICY

Policy objective: Use of evaluations to improve DFAT's work

Prioritisation

Evaluation quality

Systems that facilitate use
EVALUATION QUALITY

- Led by an independent person
- Include DFAT staff on evaluation teams
- Early engagement with partners
- DFAT’s Monitoring and Evaluation Standards
DFAT AID EVALUATION POLICY

Policy objective: Use of evaluations to improve DFAT's work

- Prioritisation
- Evaluation quality
- Systems that facilitate use
SYSTEMS THAT FACILITATE USE

• Management responses required
• Publication within three months of report completion
• Senior management oversight: Annual Aid Evaluation Plan
2017 ANNUAL AID EVALUATION PLAN

• DFAT evaluations to be completed and published in 2017
• Five ODE and 41 program evaluations
• Evaluations agreed to by First Assistant Secretary
• Plan approved by DFAT Secretary
• Available on ODE website
DFAT AID EVALUATION POLICY

Policy objective: Use of evaluations to improve DFAT's work

- Prioritisation
- Evaluation quality
- Systems that facilitate use

Assumption: DFAT senior managers (SES) know how to use evaluations to drive program improvement, and are committed to doing so
MEASURING POLICY SUCCESS

• Management response and publication rates
• Monitoring of prioritisation process
• Review of Program Evaluations: evaluation quality and practice
The Office of Development Effectiveness (ODE) at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) builds stronger evidence for more effective aid. ODE assesses DFAT’s internal performance management systems, evaluates the performance of the Australian aid program and contributes to evidence and debate about aid effectiveness.