

## Accountability

Obligation to demonstrate that work has been conducted in compliance with agreed rules and standards or to report fairly and accurately on performance results vis a vis mandated roles and /or plans. This may require a careful, even legally defensible, demonstration that the work is consistent with the contract terms.

## Appraisal

An overall assessment of the relevance, feasibility and potential sustainability of a development intervention prior to a decision of funding.

## Beneficiaries

The individuals, groups, or organizations, whether targeted or not, that benefit, directly or indirectly, from

## Development intervention

An instrument for partner (donor and non-donor) support aimed to promote development.

## Effect

Intended or unintended change due directly or indirectly to an intervention.

Related terms: results, outcome.

## Effectiveness

The extent to which the development intervention's objectives were achieved, or are expected to be achieved, taking into account their relative importance.

Note: Also used as an aggregate measure of (or judgment about) the merit or worth of an activity, i.e., the extent to which an intervention has attained, or is expected to attain, its major relevant objectives efficiently in a sustainable fashion and with a positive institutional development impact.

## Efficiency

A measure of how economically resources/inputs (funds, expertise, time, etc.) are converted to results.

## Evaluation

The systematic and objective assessment of an on-going or completed project, programme or policy, its design, implementation and results. The aim is to determine the relevance and fulfillment of objectives, development efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability. An evaluation should provide information that is credible and useful, enabling the incorporation of lessons learned into the decision-making process of both recipients and donors.

Evaluation also refers to the process of determining the worth or significance of an activity, policy or program. An assessment, as systematic and objective as possible, of a planned, on-going, or completed development intervention.

Note: Evaluation in some instances involves the definition of appropriate standards, the examination of performance against those standards, an assessment of actual and expected results and the identification of relevant lessons.

## Ex-ante evaluation

An evaluation that is performed before implementation of a development intervention.

Related term: appraisal.

## Ex-post evaluation

Evaluation of a development intervention after it has been completed.

## External evaluation

The evaluation of a development intervention conducted by entities and/or individuals outside the donor and implementing organizations.

## Feedback

The transmission of findings generated through the evaluation process to parties for whom it is relevant and useful so as to facilitate learning. This may involve the collection and dissemination of findings, conclusions, recommendations and lessons from experience.

## Goal

The higher-order objective to which a development intervention is intended to contribute.

## Impacts

Positive and negative, primary and secondary long-term effects produced by a development intervention, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended.

## Indicator

Quantitative or qualitative factor or variable that provides a simple and reliable means to measure achievement, to reflect the changes connected to an intervention, or to help assess the performance of a development actor.

## Inputs

The financial, human, and material resources used for the development intervention.

## Joint evaluation

An evaluation to which different donor agencies and/or partners participate.

## Lessons learned

Generalizations based on evaluation experiences with projects, programs, or policies that abstract from the specific circumstances to broader situations. Frequently, lessons highlight strengths or weaknesses in preparation, design, and implementation that affect performance, outcome, and impact.

## Outcome

The likely or achieved short-term and medium-term effects of an intervention's outputs.

Related terms: result, outputs, impacts, effect.

## Outputs

The products, capital goods and services which result from a development intervention; may also include changes resulting from the intervention which are relevant to the achievement of outcomes.

## Performance indicator

A variable that allows the verification of changes in the development intervention or shows results relative to what was planned.

Related term: performance measurement.

## Performance measurement

A system for assessing performance of development interventions against stated goals.

Related term: indicator.

## Project evaluation

Evaluation of an individual development intervention designed to achieve specific objectives within specified resources and implementation schedules, often within the framework of a broader program.

## Quality assurance

Quality assurance encompasses any activity that is concerned with assessing and improving the merit or the worth of a development intervention or its compliance with given standards.

## Recommendations

Proposals aimed at enhancing the effectiveness, quality, or efficiency of a development intervention; at redesigning the objectives; and/or at the reallocation of resources.

Recommendations should be linked to conclusions.

## Relevance

The extent to which the objectives of a development intervention are consistent with beneficiaries' requirements, country needs, global priorities and partner's and donors' policies.

## Results-Based Management (RBM)

A management strategy focusing on performance and achievement of outputs, outcomes and impacts.

## Sustainability

The continuation of benefits from a development intervention after major development assistance has been completed. The probability of continued long-term benefits. The resilience to risk of the net benefit flows over time.