

Efforts for Improving Impact Evaluation

To increase accountability and provide useful references for future ODA loan project formation, JBIC is presently making efforts to develop impact evaluation methods that will precisely estimate the effects of ODA loan projects. Below are some of the recent activities JBIC has initiated to promote impact evaluation.

■ Conducting Impact Evaluation Workshops

To improve evaluation methods, it is important to establish appropriate evaluation objectives with an understanding of both the potential and limitations of the method. For an in-depth impact evaluation, collecting data prior to the implementation of a project is desirable, together with a household survey incorporated in the process of project implementation. Since December 2007, JBIC has been conducting impact evaluation workshops to exchange opinions on these issues among members consisting of specialists on evaluation and econometrics, as well as experts with practical experience in ODA evaluation. Workshops are providing opportunities for participants to examine the issues in impact evaluation in a cross-sectoral manner.

■ Organizing Impact Evaluation Sessions at Japan Evaluation Society

To promote impact evaluation in the field of development, JBIC organized a session entitled "Impact Evaluation of Development

Assistance" at the Spring Conference of the Japan Evaluation Society (June 2007). During the session, there were presentations on trends in impact evaluation in the general area of development assistance, issues and potentials for conducting impact evaluation in ODA loan projects, and project formation based on the results of impact evaluations. Presentations were followed by lively question and answer sessions.

■ Impact Evaluation Design Manuals

There is a need to establish an evaluation framework that takes into account various constraints (sample numbers, data before the implementation of projects, etc.) at the time of the impact evaluation.

While proceeding with the development of a manual that will enable users to design appropriate evaluation framework under certain conditions, to confirm the validity of the manual, JBIC has been undertaking a pilot impact evaluation on the "Small Scale Irrigation Management Project (3)" in Indonesia to estimate the project impact on farmer's income.



Conducting interviews with beneficiaries

Contribution to Achieving MDGs - Trial of a PIA (Poverty Impact Assessment) -

To achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which are goals of the international community as a whole, the implementation of more effective aid and the harmonization of procedures by development institutions are essential. PIA (Poverty Impact Assessment) is a method of impact assessment proposed at DAC as a tool for promoting policies, system design, and project formation that contribute to more effective aid and greater poverty reduction and pro-poor growth by clearly identifying the impact of policies, planning, and projects and the mechanisms for delivering these.

This method is attracting attention as an initiative for harmonizing evaluation methods and a number of organizations, including KfW (Germany's state-owned development bank), have already introduced it. Conducting PIA in the ex-post evaluation of the Rural Electrification Project in Morocco, JBIC verified the effectiveness of this method.

The PIA framework was used to review and organize information obtained in the beneficiary survey of the Rural Electrification Project in Morocco (see photo) and it clearly identified the beneficiaries, mechanisms for delivery, impacts, and their significance, and also confirmed that the project contributed to achieving MDGs 1 through 5 (see page 6) in both the short term and long term. The use of PIA also clarified the impact of the project on the organizations in the local community and

medical services, which was not well defined at the time of the project appraisal.

Carrying out the trial mentioned above also clarified that the use of logic models such as LogFRAME (a tool for organizing the process of linking inputs, outputs, and outcomes of projects with impacts) in conjunction with PIA was an effective means of reinforcing the PIA method. A further finding from this trial was that if PIA is not introduced at the planning stage, there is less motivation to collect and save data concerning project impacts and, consequently, it is difficult to substantiate impacts indicated in the ex-post evaluation through quantitative approaches. Therefore, the uniform introduction of PIA from the ex-ante stage through the ex-post stages of projects is advisable.



Electrification of the target areas of the project resulted in the improvement of school facilities and led to improvement in the educational environment. Significant improvements were particularly evident in school education for low income girls, indicating that the project contributed to achieving MDG 2 (achieve universal primary education).