In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic impacted both the AfDB’s operations and its way of working. The independent evaluation function of the Bank demonstrated resilience, adaptability and responsiveness by continuing to deliver and remaining engaged and attentive to demands. The influence of IDEV’s work went well beyond the AfDB to also reach national stakeholders in regional member countries.

**Resilience**

A record of 20 evaluation products delivered focusing on the Bank’s priorities

- **2 validation synthesis reports**

- **2 project cluster evaluations**
  - on the Bank’s support for access to finance and mainstreaming green growth and climate change into the Bank’s interventions

- **2 impact evaluations**
  - of Malawi irrigation projects and a Ghana road project

- **2 sector evaluations**
  - of the Bank’s Private Sector Development Strategy and its support for the energy sector

- **4 thematic evaluations**
  - of the African Water Facility, the Bank’s support for access to finance, the Bank’s partnerships and its loan syndication

- **2 Country Strategy and Program Evaluations**
  - for Egypt and Mali

- **1 evaluation synthesis on Gender mainstreaming**

**First**

- Management Action Record System (MARS) report

**Eight (virtual) knowledge events were organized by IDEV to capitalize on the findings, lessons and recommendations from various evaluations**

- Capitalization workshop on the evaluation synthesis of gender mainstreaming at the Bank
- Virtual launch of microsite dedicated to supporting the Bank’s COVID-19 response
- Joint workshop on PCR quality
- Joint learning event on lessons from water sector evaluations
- Two learning events on the impact evaluation of two AfDB-supported small-scale irrigation projects in Malawi
- AfDB Development Evaluation Week
- Joint discussion webinar on the Bank Group Policy and Guidelines on Portfolio Review and Restructuring

**Eight evaluation capacity development activities organized**

- Training on Effective Writing
- Webinar on Rapid Evaluation
- Webinar on the UN 2030 Agenda and its SDGs (as part of the gLOCAL evaluation week)
- Training on Change Management
- Webinar on remote data collection techniques
- Training on Rigorous Impact Evaluation
- Webinar with APNODE Cameroon on good evaluation practices for effective decision-making
- Webinar with APNODE Zimbabwe on drivers promoting the use of evaluation for public policy

**Fourth edition of the AfDB Development Evaluation Week (2-4 December 2020):**

- **100% virtual**
- **3 days**
- **6 sessions**
- **over 600 participants**

Find the full report at idev.afdb.org/en/AR2020
Adaptability

Given the restrictions and challenges due to COVID-19, IDEV teams had to be creative and innovative in doing their work.

- Dig existing data sources deeper or explore new ones
- Bank Data Portal
- National Statistical Office Data
- Satellite & GIS Datasets: NOAA, GEMS
- International Datasets: DHS, MICS
- Online or web surveys
- Mobile phone and Personal Computer
- Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI)
- Interactive Voice Response (IVR)
- Self-Administered Questionnaires (SAQ)
- Recruitment of National Consultants
- Short Message Service (SMS)
- Singular Sitting or Modular Design
- Try remote strategies to data collection
- Social Networks
- Remote Sensing (satellite or laser imaging) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Drone Imaging
- Interpersonal Surveys

Responsive

In 2020, there was a strong demand from the Bank’s Board of Directors and Management for evaluative knowledge, in particular lessons from past experience, to inform new initiatives. A microsite with lessons for the AfDB’s response to COVID-19 was launched:

Key lessons drawn from the Bank’s response to the Ebola outbreak in 2014

Findings and lessons from the Bank’s budget support instrument for countries experiencing a crisis

40 Years of evaluation at the AfDB

First evaluation unit established with the creation of a special division within the Bank’s Research and Planning Department

The division becomes a free-standing Operations Evaluation Office reporting to the President

The evaluation function becomes independent, with the Board of Directors assuming oversight through the General Audit Committee

The oversight responsibility for independent evaluation is moved to the newly created Board Committee on Operations and Development Effectiveness

The department’s mandate is reviewed and defined by a Presidential Directive

The Board approves the Independent Evaluation Strategy

The name of the department is changed to Independent Development Evaluation to better reflect its independence and its mandate

The Independent Evaluation Policy is revised and approved by the Board. IDEV presents the Comprehensive Evaluation of Development Results, and hosts the AfDB Development Evaluation Week in Abidjan, attracting over 600 participants

IDEV delivers a record number of 20 evaluation products. AfDB Development Evaluation Week 2020 attracts over 600 participants

Round up of knowledge, outreach and dissemination in 2020

EVRD: Evaluation Results Database

- Lessons added: 597
- Recommendations added: 502
- Queries made by users: 1994

IDEV website activity:

- New stories: 13
- Downloads: 17,790
- Pageviews: 110,141
- Unique visitors to the website: 18,041

Twitter:

- Tweets: 723
- Impressions: 430,800

MARS: Management Action Record System

- Evaluations added: 12
- Recommendations added: 52
- Management Actions added: 113

Independent Development Evaluation (IDEV)

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