What did IDEV evaluate?

The evaluation covered the 2004–2015 period, during which time the volume of Bank assistance to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was about UA 1.2 billion (over USD 1.6 billion) for 63 projects. The ADF accounted for 91.7% of the funds committed over the period. The sectors dominating Bank operations during the period were transport (26.2%), energy (22.7%) and water and sanitation (17.7%).

What did IDEV find?

Relevance is moderately satisfactory. The Bank’s strategies in DRC were aligned to the country’s general strategies and have supported it through its evolution from a “post-conflict” situation to a “development” situation. However, they do not sufficiently deal with all the country’s factors of fragility, thus weakening the overall relevance of the portfolio of operations.

The effectiveness of Bank operations is moderately satisfactory. Bank operations were most effective in the transport and social development sectors. However, results are less convincing in the agricultural and rural development sectors. Operations in the energy, environment, and industry/mining/quarrying sectors are not sufficiently advanced for them to be deemed effective. In economic and financial governance, only one of the four Bank-funded projects, the Emergency Program to Mitigate the Impact of the Financial Crisis (PUAICF), was evaluated as the others were not yet fully implemented. This program helped to restore macroeconomic balance in DRC and to create favorable conditions for implementing the Bank’s subsequent support to public finance management.

The sustainability of Bank operations is deemed to be moderately unlikely. The economic and financial viability of the achievements funded by the Bank is particularly low, mainly because of dysfunctions in the concerned sector policies and the absence of “post-project” support strategies.

Bank efficiency is noted to be moderately unsatisfactory. Project implementation delays are a major problem. The opening of the Bank’s country office in 2007 helped improve the portfolio disbursement rate but the country context, government procedures, and Bank internal procedures contributed to delays.

There is a wide gap between the Bank’s professed intentions in DRC as concerns policy dialogue and its results. Apart from economic governance, where the Bank significantly engaged in policy dialogue that resulted in positive outcomes, in other sectors, the Bank’s involvement in dialogue on sector policy implementation was limited to the production of studies that were insufficiently promoted. Furthermore, the Bank’s involvement in dialogue with civil society stakeholders and the private sector remains weak.
What did IDEV recommend for the new strategy?

The evaluation proposes four recommendations to the Bank:

- Focus the Bank’s intervention strategy in DRC increasingly on areas of comparative advantage that make it possible to act more significantly on factors of fragility.
- Improve the quality at entry for Bank operations in DRC.
- Improve the sustainability of operations through coordinated efforts in strategy formulation, preparation of operations, and policy dialogue.
- Improve the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of the Bank’s cooperation strategy and operations in DRC.

What did Management respond?

Overall, Management agrees with the conclusions of the evaluation. The recommendations of this evaluation will help to improve the effectiveness of the Bank’s assistance and the quality of its future cooperation strategy in the Democratic Republic of Congo.