Evaluating the African Development Bank’s Strategy and programs in Egypt (2009 -2018)

What is IDEV evaluating?

The Independent Development Evaluation (IDev) at the African Development Bank Group (AfDB or “the Bank”) is conducting a country strategy and program evaluation in Egypt for the period 2009-2018. The AfDB’s program in Egypt for the period in review evolved under three Country Strategy Papers (CSPs). These are the 2007-2011 CSP; the 2012-13 Interim CSP (extended to 2015 to cover the transition phase after the political turmoil); and the 2015-2019 CSP. The three CSPs mainly focused on infrastructure development, macroeconomic stabilization, and inclusive growth. The portfolio of projects approved for Egypt from 2009 - 2018 was composed of 53 projects worth over USD 2.8 billion. Close to USD 2.5 billion (88.2%) was allocated to 46 public sector projects. The rest went to seven projects in the private sector.

The specific objectives of the evaluation are:

- To provide credible evaluative evidence on the development results of the Bank’s engagement in Egypt over the period 2009-2018;
- To provide credible evaluative evidence on how the Bank has managed its engagement with Egypt;
- To identify the factors that affect performance over the three strategy periods; and
- To identify lessons and recommendations from the performance and management of the Bank’s support to Egypt to inform the design and implementation of future strategies and operations.

The evaluation will assess the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of the Bank’s overall program and individual projects in Egypt over the period in review. It will seek to understand both how well the Bank has performed as a partner for Egypt, in responding to development needs, and what are the factors that facilitate and hinder good performance in achieving the development goals.

Why the evaluation?

The Bank’s program in Egypt over the period 2009-2018 is especially interesting and important given its size – and the nature of the lending pattern there. It is also interesting in terms of the potential for learning on how the Bank can engage in middle-income countries with peculiar context and on dealing with political and economic transitional periods. For Egypt, there has not been an opportunity to learn from the Bank’s engagement there through the different political and economic episodes. This evaluation is a prime opportunity to learn from the performance and results of the Bank’s support to the country and to reflect on how the Bank can improve on its contribution to development.

The evaluation will provide useful lessons for both the country and the Bank to inform future decision-making to address the development needs of the country. The results of this evaluation will inform the development of the AfDB’s new CSP for Egypt, which is due in 2020.
How will the evaluation be conducted?

The evaluation will examine the country program at three levels, as presented in Figure 1 below. In brief, as well as examining the portfolio of operations and taking a close look at the results achieved in those that are completed, it will also look at the program and strategy as a whole over the period understudy.

Figure 1:

The evaluation methodology will be informed by existing international guidance, including the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) evaluation quality standards and principles; the Evaluation Cooperation Group (ECG) guidance for country strategy evaluations and for private sector evaluation; as well as IDEV guidance. The evaluation will employ a theory of change evaluation approach and it will use both qualitative and quantitative data. Data will be drawn from document and portfolio reviews, interviews with stakeholders and beneficiaries, and project site visits.

Evidence will be collected to address two sets of questions. The first is about establishing what results the Bank has achieved, and to what extent its operations and engagement have contributed to relevant development objectives of Egypt over the period under study. The second will focus on how the Bank is managing its operations and lessons that help to explain good or poor performance within the context of the country.

When

The evaluation began with a scoping mission to Egypt in April 2019, followed by data collection, which runs from June through to September 2019. A draft evaluation report and its technical annexes should be available for consultation with key stakeholders during a workshop by the end of September 2019. The evaluation report is planned for presentation to the Bank’s Board of Directors at the end of 2019.

Who is carrying out the independent evaluation

The Task Manager for this Evaluation is Ms. Akua Arthur-Kissi (a.arthur@afdb.org; +225 20 26 27 81), supported by Eric Yai an Analyst (E.Yai@afdb.org) and contributions from a team of experts (consultants). The overall evaluation is under the leadership of Mr. Mampuzhasseril Madhusoodhanan, Officer in Charge, IDEV.2.