1 IDEV looks back on 2017

2017 was a year of adaptability and resilience for Independent Development Evaluation (IDEV) at the African Development Bank. Indeed, against all odds, 9 influential evaluation products were delivered by IDEV to AfDB Management and/or the Board of Directors.

Most of these are being formally presented to the Board and published in the first two quarters of 2018. They include: 2 project cluster evaluations of Bank projects supporting agricultural value chains and rural electrification, thereby promoting learning in the areas of the High 5s; 2 sector and thematic evaluations, focused on Agricultural Value Chains and the Water Sector; 2 Country Strategy and Program Evaluations for Côte d’Ivoire and Nigeria; 1 evaluation of the Bank’s Regional Integration Strategy and Program in Central Africa; 1 corporate evaluation of the Bank’s Human Resources Management and Strategic Directions, which will inform the new People Management Strategy; and a comparative study of Board Processes, Procedures and Practices across International Financial Institutions.

For more information, please visit the 2017 full year in review at:

2 IDEV holds first “capitalization workshop” on energy projects to enhance learning within the African Development Bank

On Thursday 1 February 2018, IDEV and the Power, Energy, Climate Change and Green Growth complex at the AfDB held a knowledge workshop to discuss the results of two IDEV project cluster evaluations, of AfDB-funded rural electrification and power interconnection projects. The workshop allowed IDEV and the Power and Energy complex to discuss the main outcomes of the project cluster evaluations and to draw lessons learned (what worked, what did not work and why) to guide future activities of the Bank in this sector. The workshop was also intended to seek feedback from the energy complex on the usefulness of this
new type of evaluation and to get a sense of how the findings and lessons learned from the evaluations will be used by the complex moving forward.


3 APNODE Ivorian National Chapter sensitizes and trains Ivorian Parliamentarians in evaluation

On 16-17 February 2018, the African Parliamentarians’ Network on Development Evaluation (APNODE) National Chapter in Côte d’Ivoire, in collaboration with UN-WOMEN and IDEV, held a sensitization and training event for more than 50 Ivorian Parliamentarians.

The event, held in Grand Bassam, Côte d’Ivoire, aimed to sensitize and train parliamentarians on the evaluation of public policies and to facilitate the implementation of evaluation in the Ivorian Parliament. The Ivorian National Chapter of APNODE was also formally launched at the event. Hon. Imbassou was elected chairperson of the National Chapter.
IDEV and Twende Mbele pave the way for South-South Cooperation for better Performance of African Governments

On 14 and 15 February 2018, IDEV hosted the quarterly Twende Mbele Management Committee meeting in Abidjan. A Swahili expression meaning “moving forward together”, Twende Mbele is a partnership among three core countries (Benin, South Africa and Uganda) and two regional evaluation capacity development partners (CLEAR Anglophone Africa and IDEV). Officially launched in 2017 at the African Evaluation Association Conference in Kampala, Uganda, it focuses on knowledge sharing, peer learning and collaboration among African countries to build their M&E systems and as a result strengthen government performance and accountability to African citizens. The Twende Mbele Management Committee also held a lunchtime presentation for AfDB staff, to sensitize them about the initiative.

For more information about Twende Mbele, please visit the website at:

- http://www.twendembele.org/

Capitalization workshop discusses lessons learned from the Bank’s past Agricultural Value Chains projects

IDEV and the Agriculture, Human and Social Development Complex of the AfDB held a half-day capitalization workshop on Monday 26 February 2018 to discuss the main findings of the recent IDEV project cluster evaluation on Agricultural Value Chains Development and to draw lessons that would impact projects currently being designed under the Bank’s Feed Africa Strategy.


Above: Capitalization Workshop on the IDEV Evaluation of AfDB’s Support to Agricultural Value Chain Development in Africa, Abidjan, 26 February 2018
Hot off the Press:


In January 2018, IDEV presented to the AfDB Board the findings of the independent evaluation of the African Development Bank’s Country Assistance to the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire during the period 2006-2016. This evaluation has a twofold objective of accountability and capitalization of lessons to improve the Bank’s future strategies in the country and in transition states more generally. During the evaluation period, five documents framed AfDB cooperation with Côte d’Ivoire, and the Bank financed 35 operations totaling more than UA 1 billion.

The methodological approach used was that of a contribution analysis based on the (re) construction of the theory of change in Bank assistance to Côte d’Ivoire. The evaluation revealed that although there were challenges, the Bank generally had a positive role in Côte d’Ivoire over the period 2006–2016. It has been a reliable partner in supporting the country’s process to exit from the crisis and in specific emergency situations. In addition, the Bank has made good use of its various sources of financing and different types of intervention, adapting itself appropriately to the country’s circumstances over the period. But challenges remain, including factors of fragility; social demand related to poverty and inequality; stakeholder expectations of Bank support for projects, programs and policy dialogue; weaknesses in the quality of design, supervision, and monitoring and evaluation of interventions, and their lack of visibility; and the unconventional use of budget support.

In February 2018, IDEV presented to the AfDB Board the findings of the independent evaluation of the African Development Bank’s Country Strategy and Program in Nigeria from 2004 to 2016. During this period, the Bank approved 62 projects for an approximate total of UA 2.95 billion. The evaluation is intended to inform the next Country Strategy Paper due in 2018, and to contribute to both accountability and learning in the Bank in general. The evaluation had as objectives: to provide credible evaluative evidence on the development results of the Bank’s engagement in Nigeria and on how the Bank has managed this engagement; to identify the factors and drivers behind good or poor performance; and to identify lessons and recommendations to inform the design and implementation of future strategies and operations.

The evaluation found that the Bank-funded projects responded to the real needs of the ultimate beneficiaries. However, the timeliness of achieving outputs and outcomes varied significantly among projects, and slow project implementation hampered the achievement of results. For example, Bank procurement and disbursement processes negatively affected the timeliness of project implementation in several public sector projects. At the same time, the Bank’s portfolio included some innovative elements such as the Lekki Toll Road project, which showcased the concept of Public-Private Partnerships in the transport sector and has been considered innovative in the country context.

### Upcoming Events

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<td>Evidence to Action Event</td>
<td>23–24 July 2018</td>
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<td>AfDB Evaluation Week</td>
<td>5–7 September 2018</td>
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<td>Australian Evaluation Society International Conference</td>
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<td>The 13th European Evaluation Society Biennial Conference</td>
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<td>The Global Evidence and Implementation Summit 2018</td>
<td>22–24 October 2018</td>
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<td>American Evaluation Association Annual Conference 2018</td>
<td>28 Oct – 3 November 2018</td>
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