IDEV
Independent Development Evaluation
African Development Bank

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

Evaluation Week
5-7 September | 2018
Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
Strengthening development impact

Concept note

Background

In pursuit of economic and social progress, African countries are implementing multiple agendas: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the African Union Agenda 2063, and their own national development blueprints. Agenda 2063 in particular aspires to a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development, integrated, peaceful and secure, with good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law, and where the full potential of all people is realized, without fear, disease or want. In line with this agenda, African countries are prioritizing structural transformation in their national, regional and continental development programs to promote employment through agriculture and industrialization; to enable access to clean and affordable energy and water; to diversify sources of food; and to promote inclusive growth and equality for a better life for all Africans. To contribute to this transformation, the African Development Bank (AfDB) embarked on a new development strategy featuring five priority areas referred to as the High 5s: Light Up and Power Africa; Feed Africa; Integrate Africa; Industrialize Africa; and Improve the quality of life for Africans.

This ambitious African transformation agenda cannot be achieved without effective monitoring and evaluation at the national, regional and continental levels. Agenda 2063 aims to enhance impact on the ground by learning from the past through data-backed analysis of development projects as well as numerical targeting of output and outcome indicators. It advocates for a paradigm shift towards planning for results and calls upon African member States to domesticate its results framework into their national plans and systems to use as a basis for monitoring and evaluating their national plans. Developing sound methodologies, systems and processes for tracking impact and holding stakeholders accountable for results are only part of the story, however. Monitoring and evaluation are also important sources of evidence and learning, about what has worked, what has not, and why. These lessons, if properly taken into account and integrated into new policies, strategies, projects and processes, will help to improve the quality of design and implementation, and make interventions more effective, efficient and sustainable. This in turn will strengthen the development impact that Agenda 2063 seeks.

In short, effective monitoring and evaluation is particularly critical for every country for a number of reasons including, but not limited to, the following:

- it serves to inform policy- and decision-making;
- it facilitates adaptive management;
- it enhances government and organizational learning;
- it demonstrates accountability; and
- it informs and empowers citizens.

AfDB Development Evaluation Week 2018

Within the AfDB, the evaluations and knowledge produced by Independent Development Evaluation (IDEV) aim to help the Bank foster sustainable growth and poverty reduction in Africa by contributing to learning and decision-making at various levels. As part of its contribution to the efforts geared towards the achievement of Agenda 2063, IDEV is organizing a knowledge sharing forum, AfDB Development Evaluation Week 2018, under the theme Strengthening Development Impact. The forum will be held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire from 5-7 September 2018.

Aims and Objectives of the Evaluation Week 2018

AfDB Development Evaluation Week is a biennial event whose aim is to provide a platform for sharing of knowledge, experiences and good practices on development and evaluation in Africa. This edition will focus on the contribution evaluation can make to achieving greater development outcomes through learning from the past.

The main objective is to facilitate a reflection on the contribution of development evaluation to the implementation of the key priority areas under Agenda 2063. The centrality of evaluation and learning from results (either positive or negative) will be interrogated from diverse perspectives around topics such as agricultural value chains, water and sanitation, and private sector development, and processes such as harvesting knowledge from evaluations, strengthening evaluation capacities, and establishing strategic partnerships to promote evaluation, among others.

The dialogue forum will provide an opportunity for the participants to address fundamental questions including:

- What is the role of evaluation in facilitating the achievement of Africa's transformation agenda?
- In what ways do evaluations contribute to the achievement of Agenda 2063 across sectors and thematic areas?
- How can evaluations help African States leverage on knowledge from implementation of priority programs?

The specific objectives are:

- To promote evaluation as a valuable tool for follow-up and review of the progress of implementation of Agenda 2063, and to inform future policies and programs for greater impact.
- To facilitate sharing of knowledge and experiences on the evaluation methods and practices that help foster the achievement of development results.
- To enable interrogation of approaches to development evaluation that foster innovation, uptake of lessons, and broader learning.

Structure

The AfDB Evaluation Week 2018 will feature plenary sessions, presentations, panel discussions, a knowledge café, keynote lectures, a professional capacity development workshop, and networking opportunities.

Target Audience

The forum targets a diverse audience including the African Development Bank's Board of Directors, management and operational staff; government policy- and decision-makers; technical and financial development partners; research and academic institutions; evaluation institutions and associations; civil society; the private sector; and the media.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased appreciation of evaluation as a critical means to effective follow up and review of progress of the achievement of Agenda 2063.
- Increased awareness of the role of evaluation in facilitating achievement of Africa's transformation agenda.
- Greater understanding of the strategies that could help African States leverage on knowledge from implementation of priority programs to improve design and implementation of future development programs.
- Increased awareness of the opportunities that exist for innovative and dynamic development of evaluation in Africa including strategic partnerships.