

Independent Development Evaluation

at the African Development Bank



IDEV

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African Development Bank

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From experience to knowledge...

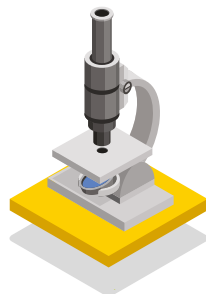
From knowledge to action...

From action to impact

WHO ARE WE AND WHAT DO WE DO?

Independent Development Evaluation (IDEV) at the African Development Bank (AfDB or “the Bank”) is an independent unit tasked with enhancing the development effectiveness of the Bank. By conducting evaluations and proactively sharing good practices, we ensure that the Bank and its stakeholders learn from experience to plan and deliver development results to the highest possible standards.

We evaluate to see what works, what does not, and why: We conduct various types of evaluations, drawing lessons learned and making recommendations through careful, impartial and credible analysis.



We keep the Bank accountable: Independent evaluations provide a basis for accountability to key stakeholders including citizens, governments, funders and partners, by evaluating and documenting the impact of the Bank’s activities.

We promote an evaluation culture. We work with African governments, parliaments, evaluation networks and partners to build evaluation capacities and encourage processes of learning and continuous improvement in African countries and institutions, as well as within the AfDB.



We help achieve better results: The findings of our evaluations are shared, discussed, and used by the Bank to improve the design and implementation of its policies, strategies, processes and operations.

WHAT KIND OF EVALUATIONS DO WE CARRY OUT ?

Independent Development Evaluation conducts a wide range of evaluations that respond to the need for evaluative knowledge and that provide relevant and useful lessons, recommendations and good practices for policy, strategy, processes and operations.

We aim for our evaluations to consistently be of high quality, timely, and relevant. We set the bar very high, particularly for the credibility and quality of our evaluations. Our standards and practices are in line with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)-Development Assistance Committee quality standards, the Evaluation Cooperation Group guidelines, and good practices at other multilateral development banks and institutions.

IDEV EVALUATIONS

Sector evaluations

These evaluations examine the Bank's support to a certain sector over a specific period of time. They are a central feature of our knowledge production, providing oversight and evidence for decision-making.

Evaluation syntheses

Evaluation syntheses and systematic reviews present knowledge and draw together key lessons from a variety of existing sources in a useful way. They play a central role in learning.

Impact evaluations

Impact evaluations aim to attribute development results to a specific intervention, making the link between cause and effect.

Thematic evaluations

These evaluations focus on a specific topic or theme (e.g. SMEs, value chains, gender) and are also a central feature of the Bank's knowledge output.

Project performance evaluations (public sector)

We validate Project Completion Reports, which are self-evaluations of public sector projects carried out by operations departments within the Bank, and synthesize lessons learned.

Project cluster evaluations

Cluster evaluations look at a group of similar or related interventions within a sector or theme in order to extract broader lessons across a number of interventions. They are focused on learning and do not make recommendations.

Project performance evaluations (private sector)

Just like public sector project evaluations, the majority of private sector project evaluations are the validations of Bank self-evaluation reports. For private sector projects these are called Extended Supervision Reports.

Corporate evaluations

These evaluations aim to improve organizational effectiveness, which is crucial for development effectiveness. Corporate evaluations examine the Bank's corporate policies, strategies, systems and processes.



Regional integration strategy evaluations

The evaluations of regional integration strategies contribute to the Bank's High 5 priority of Integrating 'Africa'. These evaluations inform the design and implementation of future regional integration strategies.

Country strategy and program evaluations

These evaluations hold the Bank accountable for its performance and the results achieved in a certain country over a period of time, and are tailored to inform the design of new Country Strategy Papers (CSPs) based on the findings and lessons learned. The category also includes mid-term evaluations (formative evaluations designed to inform implementation of a program midway through) and CSP Completion Report Validation Notes (independent validations of the Bank's self-assessments of country program performance).

HOW DO OUR EVALUATIONS IMPACT THE WORK OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK?

Our work does not end once we have carried out an evaluation. We present all our evaluations to the Committee on Operations and Development Effectiveness (CODE) of the AfDB Board of Directors. The Management of the Bank presents its response at the same time, and sets out how it intends to implement IDEV's recommendations. It commits to concrete actions, which are subsequently tracked through an action reporting mechanism called the Management Action Record System (MARS). We publish all our evaluations on our website, distribute electronic and physical copies throughout the Bank and beyond, organize dissemination events, and capture all findings, lessons and recommendations in a searchable public database called the Evaluation Results Database (EVRD). This all ensures that our evaluations are taken on board and used to improve the effectiveness and quality of the Bank's policies, strategies and operations.

In addition to improving the development effectiveness of the Bank's work, we ensure that key policy-makers and stakeholders in African countries are aware of evaluative information and lessons learnt that are instrumental to future planning, programming, designs, and decision-making.

Quality, timeliness and
relevance of evaluations

Effective dissemination,
knowledge management, and
action reporting mechanism

Impact on the **policies, strategies,
projects and processes**
of the African Development Bank



HOW ARE WE INDEPENDENT ?

We are an independent function, offering objective feedback on how the Bank is performing. Our independence is laid down in the Bank's Independent Evaluation Policy. Several mechanisms ensure the independence of our function and our work:

Independence of our evaluators: Our evaluators are not controlled or influenced by the staff or decision-makers responsible for the activities being evaluated, and have unencumbered access to all the information they need. The findings of the evaluations and their publication are also protected from any influence or pressure.

Organizational independence: Independent Development Evaluation reports directly to the Bank's Board of Directors through CODE. The Board approves our three-year work program and budget, and receives all evaluations.

Administrative independence: The Evaluator General has authority over the implementation of our work plan, the conduct and content of evaluations and their publication, and the use of our budget, and takes full responsibility for personnel management. The Evaluator General is protected from pressure or influence by the Bank's Management, and the Board of Directors leads his or her appointment and removal.

HOW DO WE CONTRIBUTE TO DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION IN AFRICA?

As a recognized center of excellence for development evaluation in Africa, Independent Development Evaluation advocates for robust evaluation practices on the continent. We contribute to various initiatives that foster evidence-based policy-making and a culture of evaluation in governments, parliaments and development institutions.

Publications and outreach

As part of our efforts to communicate our work, share knowledge and foster a culture of evaluation in Africa, we publish all our evaluation reports, complemented by knowledge products such as evaluation briefs and highlights. We also publish a quarterly magazine called eVALUation Matters, an Annual Report, and various ad hoc publications. These are all available on our website <http://idev.afdb.org/>.

All of the lessons learnt and recommendations from our evaluations are available in our searchable online evaluation results database, available at <https://evrd.afdb.org/>.

We regularly hold webinars and other knowledge events as part of our efforts to disseminate knowledge, contribute to discussions on current topics, and participate in the global evaluation community.

Our flagship biennial event, AfDB Development Evaluation Week, attracts participants from evaluation offices and associations, governments and parliaments, civil society, bilateral and multilateral development institutions, and the private sector. The event centers around development evaluation in Africa and focuses on specific topics relevant to Africa's development agenda.

Evaluation capacity development

We actively support the improvement of evaluation capacity and the development of an evaluation culture both in the Bank and in African countries, through knowledge sharing, events, webinars, communities of practice, trainings, peer-to-peer learning, and participating in evaluation networks with our partner institutions. While our efforts in promoting an evaluation culture stimulate the demand for evaluations, we also support the supply of evaluative knowledge and expertise through capacity building initiatives and partnerships.

THE AFRICAN EVALUATION ASSOCIATION (AFREA)

Independent Development Evaluation sits on the board of AfrEA and collaborates with the association, including providing technical and financial support for its biennial conferences.

AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS' NETWORK ON DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION (APNODE)

We support and host the secretariat of APNODE, a forum for parliamentarians in Africa to make use of and advocate for development evaluation.

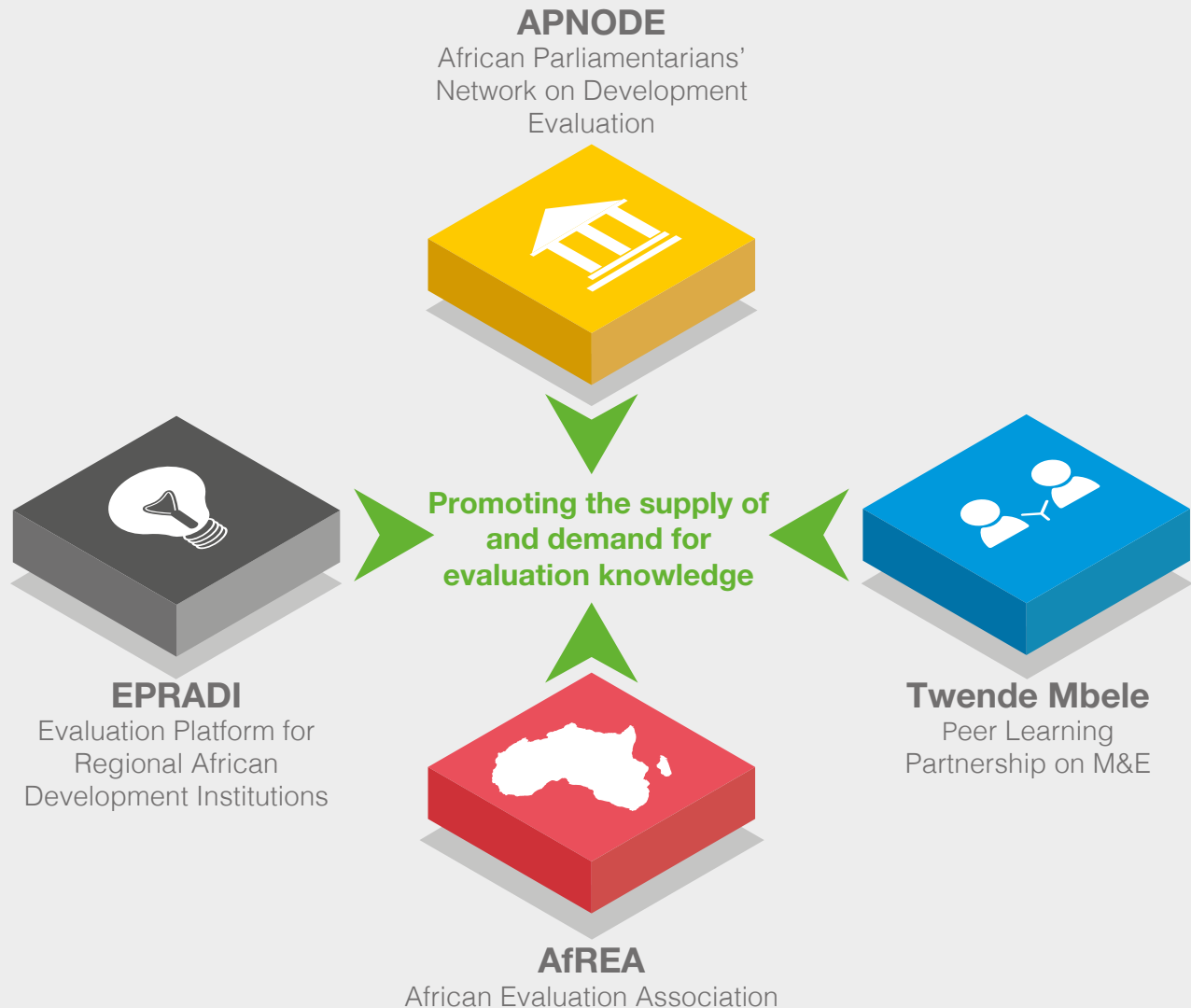
EVALUATION PLATFORM FOR REGIONAL AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTIONS (EPRADI)

We are a founder of EPRADI, which was established in 2014 to harmonize evaluation methods and practices among sub-regional development institutions in Africa.

TWENDE MBELE

Twende Mbele is a South-South peer learning partnership in which countries collaborate on developing and implementing M&E systems that improve government performance and accountability to citizens. IDEV is one of the technical partners of the program.

Promoting an Evaluation Culture



International collaboration

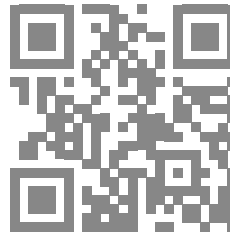
We are an active member of the OECD-DAC Evaluation Network and of the Evaluation Cooperation Group (ECG), which comprises the evaluation functions of the international financial institutions. The ECG provides a forum for sharing evaluation experiences and methods, coordinating activities, and developing good practice standards and guidance.

We have built strong relationships and work closely with the Independent Evaluation Offices of partner organizations such as the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the International Monetary Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Development Programme, UN Women, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, and the World Bank, as well as centers of expertise such as the Centers for Learning on Evaluation and Results (CLEAR). These partnerships help us improve the quality of our evaluations and capacity development work while providing a platform to share lessons learned and recommendations for better development effectiveness across institutions.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IDEV

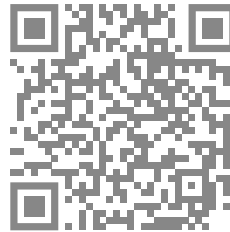
Our website

<http://idev.afdb.org>



Recent evaluations

<http://idev.afdb.org/en/page/recent-evaluations>



evrd.afdb.org

Evaluation Results Database:

Access the Bank's self and independent evaluation reports. Find lessons learned and recommendations from evaluations using keywords, sectors, themes, countries and report types <https://evrd.afdb.org/>

SOME OF OUR EVALUATIONS

Agriculture and agro-industry

- Strengthening Agricultural Value Chains to Feed Africa 2018
- The African Development Bank's Support for Agricultural Value Chains Development: Lessons for the Feed Africa Strategy 2018

Economic and financial governance

- Evaluation of the African Development Bank Group's Program Based Operations: Private Sector Enabling Environment Cluster 2019
- Independent Evaluation of AfDB's Program Based Operations (2012-2017) 2018

Energy and power

- Spurring Local Socio-Economic Development Through Rural Electrification 2018
- Powering Africa Through Interconnection 2018

Private sector

- Towards Private Sector Led Growth: Lessons of Experience 2016
- Evaluation of Bank Assistance to Small and Medium Enterprises (2006-2013) 2015
- Independent Evaluation of Bank Group Equity Investments 2015

Water and Sanitation

- Impact Evaluation of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Program in Ethiopia: 2006-2014 2016

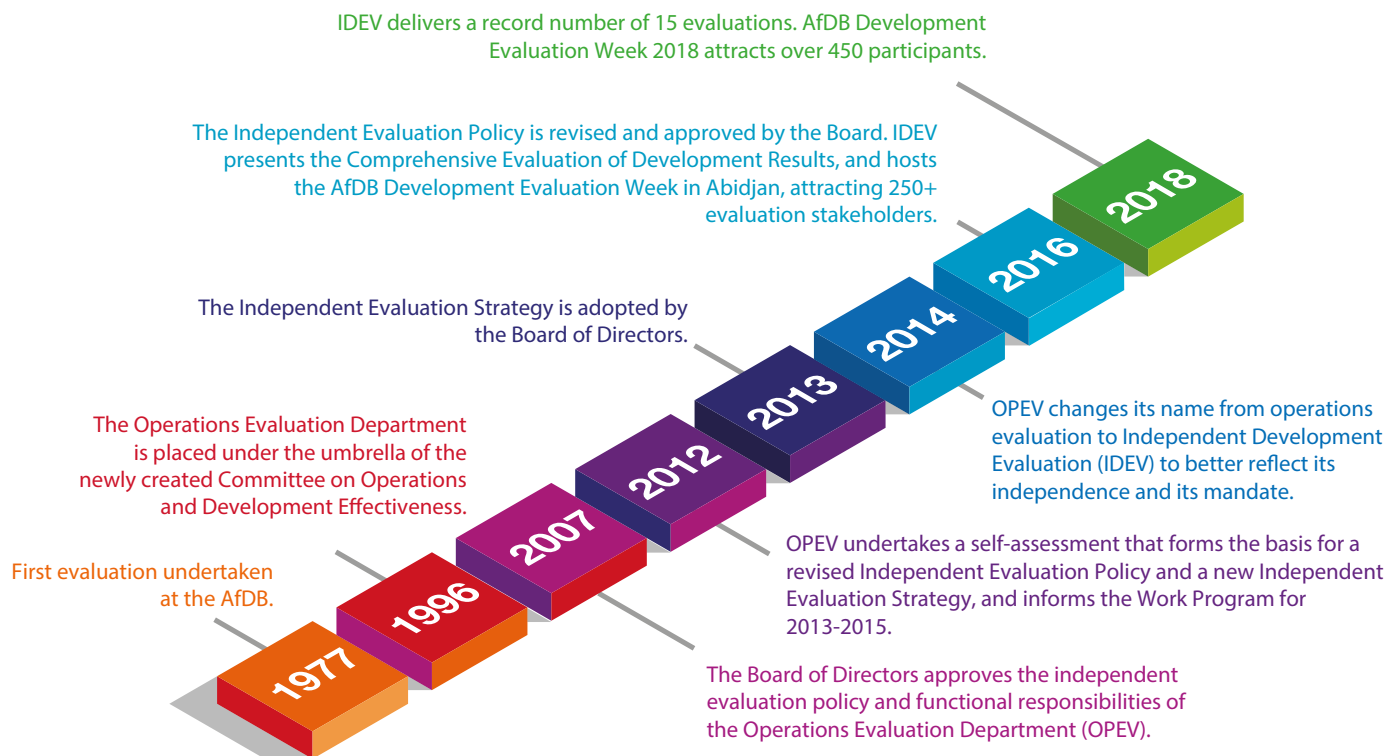
AfDB processes, policies, and strategies

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| ● Evaluation of Quality Assurance across the Project Cycle of the African Development Bank Group (2012-2017) | 2018 |
| ● The African Development Bank's Human Resource Management Policy and Strategic Directions: A Formative Evaluation | 2017 |
| ● Comprehensive Evaluation of the Development Results of the African Development Bank Group 2004-2013 | 2016 |

Country and regional strategy and program evaluations

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| ● Mauritius: Evaluation of the Bank's Country Strategy and Program 2009-2018 | 2019 |
| ● Addressing Regional Integration Challenges in Central Africa: Evaluation of the Regional Integration Strategy and Operations of the African Development Bank 2011-2016 | 2018 |
| ● Guinea Bissau: Mid-Term Evaluation of the Bank's Country Strategy and Program 2015-2019 | 2018 |
| ● Malawi: Evaluation of the Bank's Country Strategy and Program 2005-2016 | 2018 |
| ● Nigeria: Evaluation of the Bank's Country Strategy and Program 2004–2016 | 2018 |
| ● DRC: Evaluation of the Bank's Country Strategy and Program 2004-2015 | 2017 |
| ● Independent Evaluation of the African Development Bank's Regional Integration Strategy Paper for Eastern Africa | 2017 |
| ● South Africa: Evaluation of the Bank's Country Strategy and Program 2004-2015 | 2017 |
| ● Ethiopia: Evaluation of the Bank's Country Strategy and Program 2004-2013 | 2016 |
| ● Morocco: Evaluation of the Bank's Country Strategy and Program 2004-2014 | 2016 |

INDEPENDENT DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION MILESTONES



Contact us

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