Independent Development Evaluation

at the African Development Bank



IDEV

Independent Development Evaluation

Évaluation indépendante du développement

Independent Development Evaluation

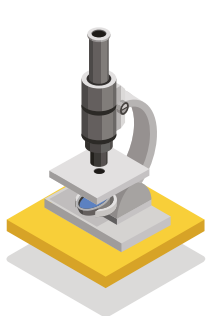
at the African Development Bank

From experience to knowledge...
From knowledge to action...
From action to impact

WHO ARE WE AND WHAT DO WE DO?

Independent Development Evaluation (IDEV) is the independent evaluation function of the African Development Bank (AfDB, or "the Bank"). Our role is to strengthen the Bank's development effectiveness. We evaluate what it does, share what we learn, and help the Bank and its stakeholders plan and deliver results to the highest standards.

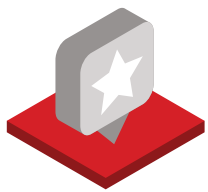
We evaluate to see what works, what does not, and why. We conduct a range of evaluations, drawing lessons and making recommendations through careful, impartial and credible analysis.





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

We help achieve better results. The Bank shares, discusses and uses the findings of our evaluations to improve the design and implementation of its policies, strategies, processes and operations.





We keep the Bank accountable. Independent evaluations give citizens, governments, funders and partners a basis to hold the Bank to account, by assessing and documenting the results of its operations, policies, strategies and frameworks.

WHAT KIND OF EVALUATIONS DO WE CARRY OUT?

IDEV conducts a wide range of evaluations that provide relevant, useful lessons, recommendations and good practices for the Bank's policies, strategies, processes and operations.

Our evaluations are of high quality, timely and relevant. We hold ourselves to the highest standards of credibility and rigour, in line with the quality standards of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development – Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC), the guidelines of the Evaluation Cooperation Group (ECG) and the good practices of other multilateral development banks.

TYPES OF IDEV EVALUATIONS

Sector evaluations
These evaluations examine the Bank's support to a sector over a given period. They are a core part of our knowledge production, providing oversight and evidence for decision-making.

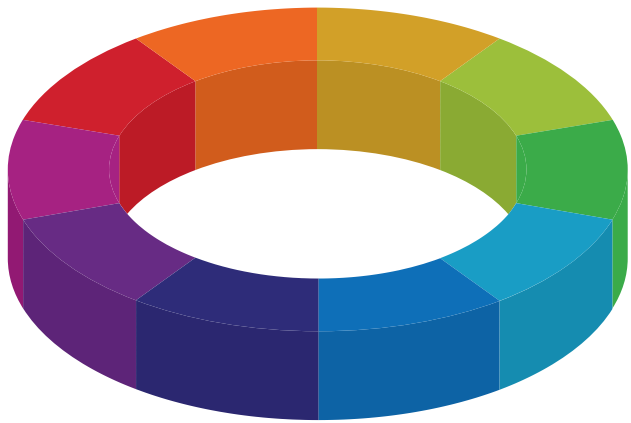
Evaluation syntheses
Evaluation syntheses and systematic reviews present knowledge and bring together key lessons from a range of existing sources in an easy-to-use format. They play a central role in learning.

Impact evaluations
These evaluations assess whether development results can be attributed to a specific intervention by establishing the link between cause and effect.

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

Project Completion Report evaluations (public sector)
These evaluations validate Project Completion Reports (PCRs), which are self-evaluations of public sector projects carried out by the Bank's operations departments.

Project cluster evaluations
These evaluations examine a group of similar or related interventions within a sector or theme to draw broader lessons across them. They focus on learning and do not make recommendations.



PCR and XSR Validation Syntheses
We synthesise the findings and lessons learned from PCR and XSR validations across projects.

Project Performance evaluations (private sector)
Just like public sector projects, most private sector project evaluations validate the Bank's self-evaluation reports. For private sector projects, these reports are called Extended Supervision Reports (XSRs).

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

Regional integration strategy evaluations
These evaluations contribute to the Bank's regional integration priorities under the Ten-Year Strategy 2024–2033. They inform the design and implementation of future regional integration strategies.

Country strategy and programme 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. The category also includes mid-term evaluations (formative evaluations designed to inform implementation of a programme midway through) and CSP Completion Report Validation Notes (independent validations of the Bank's self-assessments of country programme 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, organise dissemination events, and capture all findings, lessons and recommendations in a searchable public database, the IDEV 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 policymakers and stakeholders in African countries are aware of evaluative knowledge and lessons learned that are instrumental to future planning, programming, designs, and decision-making.


Quality, timeliness and relevance of evaluations
Effective dissemination, knowledge management, and **action reporting**
Impact on the **policies, strategies, projects and processes** of the African Development Bank

HOW ARE WE INDEPENDENT?

IDEV is an independent function that provides objective feedback on how the Bank is performing. Our independence is laid down in the Bank's Independent Evaluation Policy and rests on three mechanisms.

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

Organisational independence: IDEV reports directly to the Bank's Board of Directors through the Committee on Operations and Development Effectiveness (CODE). The Board approves our three-year work programme and budget and receives all our evaluations.

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

HOW DO WE CONTRIBUTE TO DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION IN AFRICA?

As a recognised centre of excellence for development evaluation in Africa, IDEV advocates for robust evaluation practices across the continent. We support various initiatives that foster evidence-based policymaking and a culture of evaluation in governments, parliaments and development institutions.

Publications and outreach

We publish all our evaluation reports, together with knowledge products such as evaluation briefs and highlights. We also produce the magazine eVALUation Matters, an Annual Report and various ad hoc publications. All are available at idev.afdb.org.

The lessons and recommendations from our evaluations can be searched in the IDEV Evaluation Results Database (EVRD) at evrd.afdb.org

We regularly hold webinars and other knowledge events to share knowledge, discuss current topics and engage with the global evaluation community and a wide range of stakeholders, including governments, parliaments, civil society, development partners and the private sector.

Our flagship biennial event, AfDB Development Evaluation Week, brings together our Bank staff, peer evaluation offices, associations, governments, parliaments, civil society, development institutions and the private sector. It focuses on development evaluation in Africa and on topics relevant to Africa's development agenda.

Evaluation capacity development

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

African Parliamentarians' Network on Development Evaluation (APNODE)

IDEV supports APNODE, a forum that helps parliamentarians across Africa champion and use evaluation evidence in their work. We have hosted the APNODE Secretariat since the network was founded in 2014, a role we will hold through December 2026.

Evaluation Platform for Regional African Development Institutions (EPRADI)

IDEV is a founding member of EPRADI, a platform established in 2014 to harmonise evaluation methods and practices among regional and sub-regional development institutions in Africa.

TWENDE MBELE

IDEV is a technical partner of Twende Mbele and serves on both its Technical Committee and Management Committee. Twende Mbele is a South–South peer learning partnership through which African governments collaborate to develop and strengthen monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems that improve government performance and accountability to citizens.

EVALPARTNERS

IDEV is a Key Partner of EvalPartners and serves on its Executive Committee. We also served on the Management Team that guided the development of the EvalPartners Strategic Plan 2023–2030.

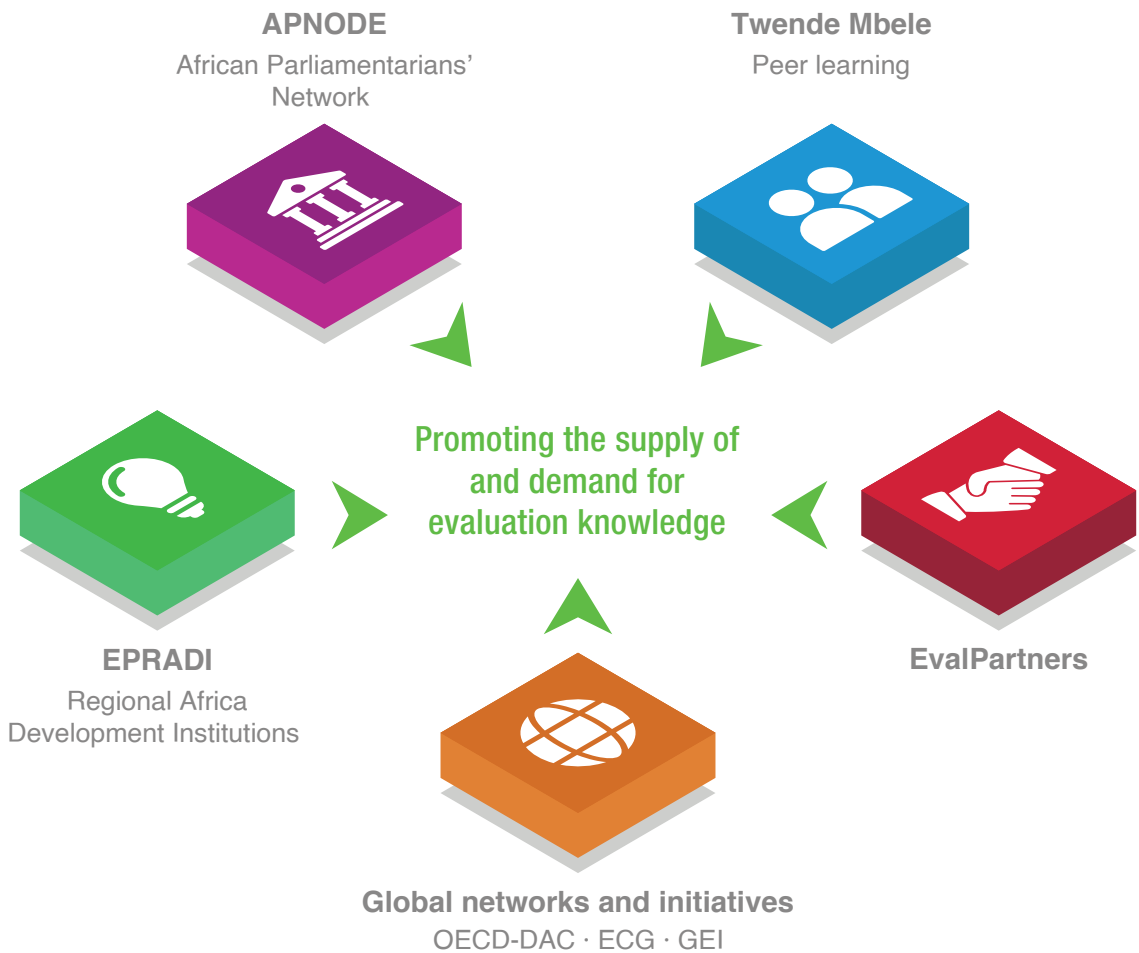
International collaboration

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 work closely with the independent evaluation offices of partner organisations such as the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the International Monetary Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Development Programme, UN Women, UNICEF, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank and the World Bank, as well as centres of expertise such as the Centers for Learning on Evaluation and Results (CLEAR). These partnerships improve the quality of our evaluations and capacity development work and provide a platform to share lessons and recommendations for better development effectiveness across institutions.

Promoting an Evaluation Culture

IDEV works with networks and institutions in Africa and worldwide to promote both the supply of and the demand for evaluation knowledge.



idev.afdb.org

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/

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A SELECTION OF RECENT IDEV EVALUATION

Notes

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GROUPE DE LA BANQUE AFRICAINE
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