

# Evaluation of the implementation of the Paris Declaration

## Phase II

Ownership, Alignment, Harmonisation, Results and Accountability



Joint Progress  
Toward Enhanced  
Aid Effectiveness



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You can access all documents about the Evaluation of the Paris Declaration on the DAC Evaluation Network website: [www.oecd.org/dac/evaluationnetwork](http://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluationnetwork) and then click on ***Evaluation of the Paris Declaration*** (first item on right of the page).

## 1. Background

The Paris Declaration expresses a broad international consensus developed in the 15 years that preceded 2005. It stipulates that new partnership relationships and ways of working between developed countries and partner countries are essential if development results are to be assured, aid well spent and aid volumes maintained.

In response to the Paris Declaration's own explicit commitment to carry out an independent cross-country evaluation, as well as monitoring, it was decided to conduct a two-phase evaluation, commissioned and overseen by an International Reference Group. The Group comprises representatives of donors and multilateral agencies (chiefly members of the DAC Evaluation Network), partner countries and representatives of civil society. Day-to-day management of the evaluation is entrusted to a small Evaluation Management Group supported by an Evaluation Secretariat.

The evaluation complements the monitoring of the implementation of the Paris Declaration, undertaken through the Cluster D of the OECD DAC Working Party on Aid Effectiveness "Assessing Progress on Implementing the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action".

The first phase of the evaluation<sup>1</sup> ran from March 2007 to September 2008 and aimed at providing information on the "HOWs and WHYs" of the implementation process of the Paris Declaration. It was designed to deliver practical lessons and help take stock of implementation performance at the 3<sup>rd</sup> High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness held in Accra, Ghana in September 2008. The emphasis of this phase was at the **input and output levels**, through a series of partner country, development partner<sup>2</sup> headquarters, and thematic evaluations. These evaluations were of a formative nature, capturing the incremental and incidental behavior changes associated with the Paris Declaration.

## 2. Evaluation Profile

### *Reasons for the Evaluation*

The second phase of the evaluation will run from the 3<sup>rd</sup> High Level Forum in 2008 up to the 4<sup>th</sup> High Level Forum in Korea in 2011. This second phase will emphasize **outcomes and results** and offer answers to the critical policy question of whether the intended long-term effects of the Paris Declaration are being achieved. The evaluation's primary focus will be at the level of country evaluations that assess changes in the effectiveness of donors/ agencies in the country as well as the country stakeholders, and of the partnerships between them. A number of headquarters-level donor/agency studies to complement the twelve conducted in Phase 1. Where essential to ensure adequate coverage of important issues a small number of supplementary studies will also be carried out. Together, these elements are intended to ensure adequate depth and breadth of the evaluation.

### *Objectives*

The overall aim of the Phase<sup>2</sup> evaluation is to document, analyze and assess the relevance and effectiveness of the Paris Declaration and its contribution to aid effectiveness and ultimately to development results, including poverty reduction.

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<sup>1</sup> Wood, B; D. Kabell; F. Sagasti; N. Muwanga; Synthesis Report on the First Phase of the Evaluation of the Implementation of the Paris Declaration, Copenhagen, July 2008. The report can be found at: [http://www.diiis.dk/graphics/Subweb/paris\\_evaluation\\_web/index.htm](http://www.diiis.dk/graphics/Subweb/paris_evaluation_web/index.htm).

<sup>2</sup> By Development Partners is meant donors, multilateral agencies, IFIs and other organisations engaged in development assistance.

The evaluation is expected to analyze outcomes and results in context, taking into account preconditions or enabling conditions that may lead to or inhibit more effective aid and positive development results supported by aid.

The Three Core Questions to be answered by the evaluation are:

- “What are the important factors that have affected the relevance and implementation of the Paris Declaration and its potential effects on aid effectiveness and development results?” (The Paris Declaration in context)
- “To what extent and how has the implementation of the Paris Declaration led to an improvement in the efficiency of aid delivery, the management and use of aid and better partnerships?” (Process and intermediate outcomes)
- “Has the implementation of the Paris Declaration strengthened the contribution of aid to sustainable development results? How?” (Development outcomes)

Specific objectives include:

- To document the effects of implementing the Paris Declaration.
- To enable partner countries and donors/agencies to clarify, improve and strengthen policies and practice consistent with the Paris Declaration in pursuit of aid effectiveness and development results.
- To highlight barriers and difficulties that may limit the effectiveness and impact of the Paris Declaration – and how these barriers and difficulties may be overcome.
- To strengthen the knowledge-base as to the ways in which development partnerships can most effectively and efficiently help maximise development results through aid in different development contexts – including various degrees of “fragility” in different countries and situations.
- To enable sharing and exchange of experience among stakeholders, countries and partnerships and support reflection, lesson-learning and policy improvement.

The Accra Agenda for Action further specified some of the Paris Declaration’s commitments with the aim in particular of strengthening country ownership; building more inclusive partnerships; and sharpening the focus on development results. The Phase 2 evaluation will therefore pay particular attention to assessing implementation of these commitments, which address the concerns of many stakeholders.

### ***Audiences and Stakeholders***

The Phase 1 Evaluation focused on the practical lessons learned about implementation and contributed to ongoing aid effectiveness policy debates in the High Level Forum 3 (HLF 3) on Aid Effectiveness in Ghana in September 2008 and in other fora. The focus of Phase 2 will be on a more results oriented evaluation, with the synthesis and component evaluation reports to be presented to the HLF 4 in 2011. Equally, it is intended and expected that the evaluation process and results will spur interest and improvement efforts in the participating countries and agencies.

Primary constituencies include the endorsers of the Paris Declaration: the governments of the partner countries and governing authorities and senior managements of development agencies. Also key are those tasked with implementing the Paris Declaration: government,

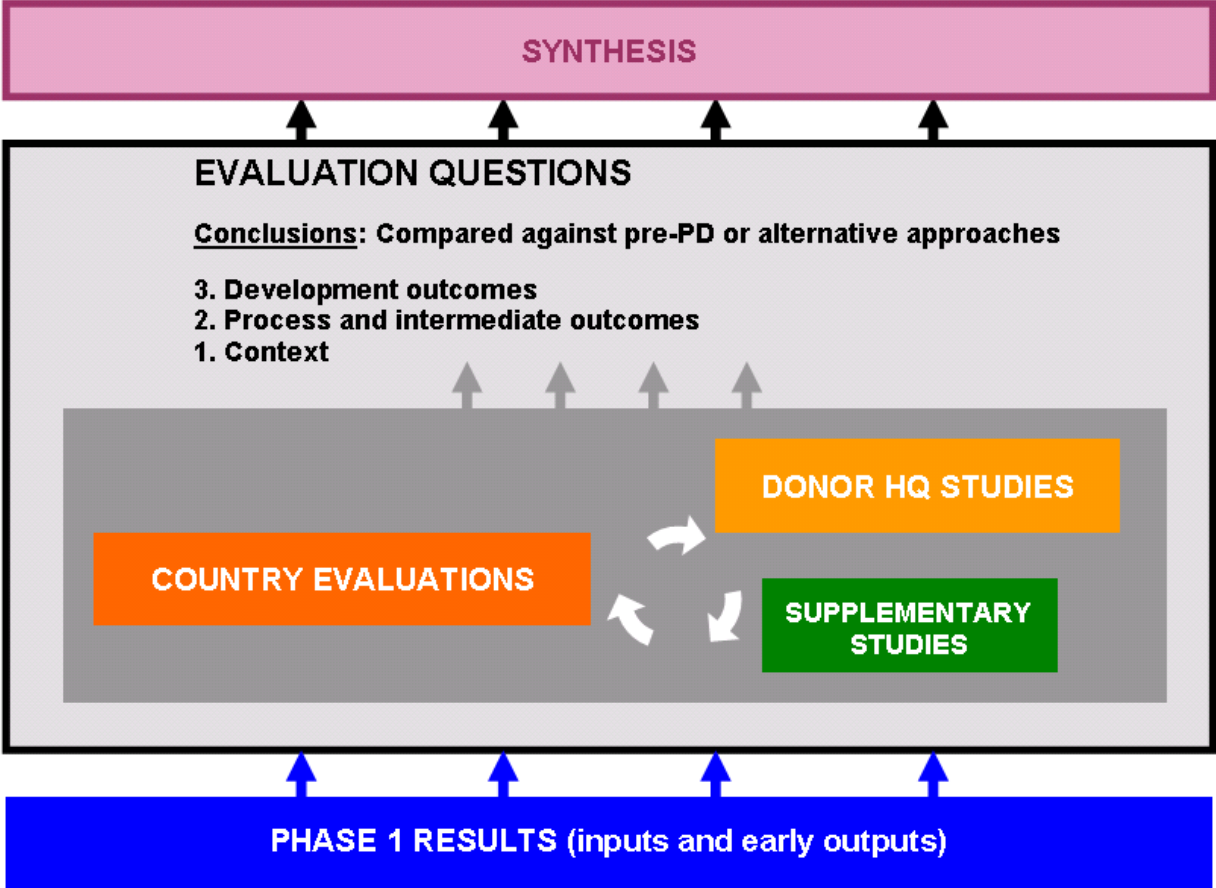
donor, civil society and private sector stakeholders in the partner countries as well as donor agencies. The findings should also be of interest to the parliaments and citizens of both partner countries and donor countries.

**Approach**

An overall evaluation approach has been developed that recognizes the distinctive methodological challenges of evaluating the Paris Declaration. The evaluation is expected to provide answers to evaluation questions that are important to stakeholders and constituencies who can then use them to strengthen strategies and policies that will improve the effectiveness of aid and the achievement of development results.

The evaluation approach is a fully joint one. Participating countries and agencies are closely involved in all stages of the process, from developing the common and tailored elements of the Terms of Reference for the evaluation and its component evaluations and studies, all the way through to dissemination and use of the final evaluation reports. Given the primary reliance on the country evaluations in Phase 2, the coordinators, reference groups and teams involved in those evaluations will have a central role in the whole process. The evaluation will be a collaborative and constructive exercise which values peer review and exchanges between the participating countries, agencies and teams, The International Reference Group, the Management Group and the Core Evaluation Team.

**Building blocks of the Paris Declaration Evaluation**



The *main elements of the evaluation approach* include:

- Evaluating a) to what extent the PD has been implemented, and b) in as far as it has been implemented, what the results have been in terms of aid effectiveness and contribution to development results.
- A focus on the workings of country-donor partnerships and their development outcomes at country-level, thus including consideration of the effects of donor policies as well as country-level actors on country development prospects. This is examined in particular through 23 country-level evaluations.
- Seven donor/agency headquarters-level studies to supplement those undertaken in Phase 1.
- Addressing all the five main principles of the Paris Declaration: mutual accountability and managing for development results as well as ownership, alignment and harmonization.
- Attempting to explain and trace outcomes and development results to the Paris Declaration, while acknowledging the methodological difficulties -factors which underline the importance of comparative elements in the proposed design.
- Synthesizing the results of all the component evaluations of Phase 2, together with Phase 1 and supplementary materials, in a major policy-oriented synthesis report in time to feed into the Seoul High Level Forum.

### **3. Country Level Evaluations**

As part of the evaluation, comparisons between experiences will be important. The purposes of these comparisons are also clear - to test attribution and contribution claims for the Paris Declaration. The Phase 2 evaluation will focus on effects at the level of partner countries and their partnerships, i.e. the joint arrangements between donors and the recipients of aid that have been put in place to support the implementation of the Declaration.

Evaluation teams in each participating partner country will be responsible for undertaking independent evaluations of aid effectiveness and development results. These teams will address both:

- Implementation or “process” – a continuation and extension of the issues explored in Phase 1 evaluations. The “Core Questions” should be relatively few and precise concerning changes of behaviour of countries and donors while allowing countries to include elements in these evaluations to meet their particular interests, and
- Results or outcomes in terms of aid effectiveness and development results. In order to allow meaningful aggregation and synthesis the “generic ToR” including the “core questions” needs to be rather precise, leaving limited room for variations in scope and methodologies. This will not in any way limit the ability of country evaluations to supplement the common evaluation “template” with questions of special relevance or interest to their particular situations.

Whilst most evaluative activity will be undertaken by country-level teams, there may also be a small number of “supplementary studies” where it appears that insufficient evidence will be available from the country evaluations to allow for firm conclusions to be drawn.

### **Country Level Management**

Each evaluation will be managed in-country, led by a National Evaluation Coordinator appointed by the government and be supported by a National Reference Group comprising relevant national stakeholders and development partners.

The National Evaluation Coordinator is responsible for managing all aspects of the country evaluation.

The National Reference Group should include major stakeholders from government, donors, civil society and possibly academia. The purpose of this group is to ensure stakeholders' participation and buy-in to the evaluation process and results and to assure the independence of the evaluation.

Stakeholders in partner countries are encouraged to offer coordinated support to these evaluations. In addition to those offering financial and technical support, all donors should ensure that their field personnel are informed of the evaluations, and are prepared to respond in a timely way to requests for information, interviews and other requests that may be made by the evaluation coordinators and teams.

### **4. Participating Countries and Agencies**

Country evaluations will be conducted in 23 countries:

Afghanistan	Malawi
Bangladesh	Mali
Benin	Mozambique
Bolivia	Nepal
Cambodia	Philippines
Cameroun	Samoa
Colombia	Senegal
Cook Islands	South Africa
Ghana	Sri Lanka
Indonesia	Uganda
Kyrgyz Republic	Vietnam
	Zambia

And donor/agency headquarters studies in 7 countries/agencies:

African Development Bank	Spain
Austria	Sweden
Japan	USA
Ireland	

## 5. Schedule of Events

Period/Date	In country	International
Nov 2009	Establish National Reference Groups	Consolidation of comments from four Regional Workshops (Core Evaluation Team) by 20 <sup>th</sup> Nov
1 Dec 2009	International Reference Group approves Generic Terms of Reference	
Dec 2009/ Jan 2010	Establish National Reference Groups and approve Terms of Reference for Country Evaluation (Country Coordinator)	Core Evaluation Team support to National Evaluation Coordinators as required
Dec 2009/ Feb 2010	Select and contract Evaluation Teams	
Feb/ Mar/Apr 2010	Regional/sub-regional/ workshops for Team Leaders and National Coordinators with Core Team/EMG	
By 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2010	Country and Donor/Agency HQ Teams submit inception reports	Core Evaluation Team submits Inception Report (including detailed guidance on methodology and methods) to IRG and MG for comment.
15 May, 2010	Coordinators/reference groups approve inception reports	MG approves Inception Report
April – Sep 2010	Conducting Country Evaluations and Donor/Agency headquarters-level Studies	Core Evaluation Team support to National Evaluation Coordinators as required
15 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2010	Submission of first draft report including summary of findings by each Country team and Donor/Agency headquarters-level team to Evaluation Management Group and Core Evaluation Team	
Sep-Dec 2010	Consultation, validation and finalization of report in country	Core Evaluation Team prepares consolidated emerging findings by 15 October
1 <sup>st</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2010	Meeting/workshop of Country and Donor/Agency headquarters study team leaders, Core Evaluation Team and International Reference Group to discuss emerging findings and the plan for the synthesis	
Nov-Dec 2010	Production/submission of Country and Donor/Agency-level reports (deadline 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2010)	
Jan-Apr 2011	Dissemination of evaluation results in countries	Drafting Synthesis Report
Apr 2011	Meeting of the International Reference Group to comment on the draft Synthesis Report	
Apr-May 2011	Dissemination of evaluation results in countries	Finalization of Synthesis Report
May-Sep 2011	Dissemination activities/inputs to preparations for High Level Forum	
Sep-Oct 2011	4 <sup>th</sup> High Level Forum in Seoul	