

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP



**OPEV ACTIVITY SUMMARY – 1 JANUARY TO 30
APRIL 2004**

**OPERATIONS EVALUATION DEPARTMENT
(OPEV)**

MAY 2004

OPERATION EVALUATION DEPARTMENT

ACTIVITY SUMMARY 1 JANUARY to 30 APRIL, 2004

1. The State of Evaluation in the Bank – Some Pointers
2. Challenges for the Immediate Future
3. Activities Undertaken in the first four months of 2004

1. The State of Operation Evaluation in AfDB – Some Pointers

1.1 Like other departments in the Bank, the Evaluation Department has made significant progresses in the last seven years. These progresses are:

- Making evaluation an integral part of Bank work and making the Department independent in its evaluation work.
- Providing relevant lessons to the Operation Complex.
- Mandatory use of log frame analyses in project design.
- Introduction of new evaluation products – gradual movement away from narrowly focussed project evaluations to sectors, themes and country assistance evaluations.

1.2 However the following shortcomings can also be observed:

- Declining trend of activities since 1999 – reached its lowest level of activity in 2003 – See attached Table.
- Limited work in the area of strategic performance – in particular in ADF priority areas and country programs – Department concentrated mainly on post evaluation of individual investment projects.
- Limited progress in assuring an effective feedback and dissemination.

1.3 According to OPEV surveys - the last, early this year - the criticisms on its products are:

- Lack of timeliness because of the age of the projects/programs evaluated
- Lack of quality – various dimensions of quality – ‘too general’, ‘no concrete recommendations’, ‘reports too long’, report writers or consultants ‘lack specialized expertise’.
- Undue focus of evaluation reports on weaknesses of BG operations as opposed to successes.

2. Challenges for the immediate future

2.1 **Declining activities** : Need to reverse the declining trend in activities – we hope to reverse the trend this year.

2.2 **Understaffing**: Take measures to address the staffing problem – Currently Department seriously understaffed with six vacancies - even if these vacancies are filled there will be a need for **a crush training program for new staff** to make them immediately operational.

2.2 **Alignment of Work Program** to Strategic priorities and staff strength. Once the staffing situation is partially addressed, there will be a need to revise the three year rolling working program of the Department and initiate specific activities:

- To improve the relevance and strategic orientation of OPEV products.

- Improve OPEV structure, work processes and procedures.
- Enhance partnership particularly on new evolving concepts of results measurements.
- Improve dissemination of lessons and best practices.
- Strengthen interface with the Operation Complex – improve feed back system and provide a web based help desk and web site.
- Play a catalytic role in building monitoring and evaluation capacities in RMCs.

3. Activities undertaken in the first four months of 2004

3.1 **Staffing:** We are making efforts on two fronts: filling the vacancies through normal recruitment – we hope to have three or four on board in September – we started the process in December last year. In parallel, we have requested TA from bilateral sources. We hope to have one TA staff from Japan in July and a second from India in September.

3.2 Evaluation Work Completed during the period

- 2001-2 Review of Evaluation Results – English text distributed – the report reviews the performance results of exiting portfolio – improvement noted across sectors.
- Uganda Country Assessment – distributed to Board in both languages.
- Private Sector Evaluation Guidelines – under translation.
- Efficiency and Effectiveness of M&E systems in Bank Group Projects – under translation.

3.3 Work in Progress

- ADF VII-IX Evaluations.
- Approach Paper on Annual Report on Development Effectiveness.
- Mali: Country Assistance Evaluation.
- Mauritania: Evaluation of Bank Assistance to the Agriculture and rural development sector.
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- Ghana: Review of Bank assistance to the agriculture and rural development sector
- Egypt: El Arish Power Plant.
- Tanzania: National Agriculture and Livestock Extension Rehabilitation.
- Ethiopia: Northern Power Transmission.
- Egypt: Bank Assistance to Power Sector.
- Bank Group Experience in Financing Electricity Projects in RMCs.
- Evaluating the Environmental Management of the Category I & II Projects in RMCs.

- Expérience de la Banque dans les projets de riz.
- Process review of CSPs.
- Report on PCR backlogs and measures to clear the backlog.

3.4 Cooperation Partnership Activities

- The Department was represented at the January Meeting of the Evaluation Cooperation Group (ECG) in Paris.
- The Manager of the Knowledge and Partnership of the Operations evaluation department of the World Bank visited the Department. We have agreed to meet and discuss with his Director specific areas of cooperation including the secondment of a WB staff to OPEV.
- The Department was represented at the workshop on Evaluation organized by the Islamic Development Bank. We are looking at the possibility to jointly undertake Country Assessment Evaluation on Mauritania.