



Evaluation Capacity Development: Is there a role for donors?

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Donors supported ECD through:

- Training: IPDET, CLEAR
- Conferences and workshops: AfrEA, NEC
- Technical assistance for M&E systems: CLEAR, WB, AfDB, UNDP, GAVI, DFID, Germany
- Impact evaluation: 3IE
- Joint evaluations (Paris Declaration, budget support)
- Collaborative evaluations

Networking / Partnerships / Enabling environment

- VOPE's
- IDEAS
- IOCE
- Evalpartners (2012)
- Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation
- African Parliamentarians Network on Development Evaluation (AfDB)

Limitations:

- Funding: limited resources of evaluations departments
- Mandate
- Accountability: the need to show results
- ECD in northern countries (we are also learning)

Lessons:*

1. ECB is a catalytic investment
2. Institutional development depends on demand and political will
3. Ownership is crucial
4. Short-term training initiatives are not effective unless combined with on the job training
5. Parachuting international consultants does not enhance ECD
6. Engaging with the executive and legislative powers is critical
7. Blended targeting is key

* 4-7: Michele Tarsilla, AfrEA (2014); African Evaluation Journal (2014)

Context:

- Changing role of donors / ODA
- Shift from programme aid to project support
- Growth of national and regional evaluation networks
- Shift of ECB from training and joint evaluations towards system building / enabling environments
- Risks of confusing monitoring with evaluation
- Training of young and emerging evaluators

General suggestions:

- Identification of strategies for embedding ECD in country programmes and evaluation policies
- Develop ECD Guidelines
- Development of an advocacy strategy
- Coordination of ECD initiatives (avoid evaluation orphans)
- Share information (what works)
- Widen engagement with local consultants, evaluation associations, young professional evaluator networks

Practical suggestions:

- Establish a common fund
- Stimulate twinning institutions
- Enhance ownership by involving southern stakeholders much more in the evaluation process (including ToR)
- Insist on engaging local consultants in the whole evaluation process
- Insist on including young practitioners in the evaluation team as part of on the job training

But what is really important:

- Listen to the **demand** side



**Discussion:
Is there a role for donors?**