

DEPARTMENT FOR EVALUATION

Report 6 / 2022
Country Evaluation Brief



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Evaluation Portrait

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1. Evaluations published in 2020

1.1 Evaluation of Democratic Republic of the Congo WFP Interim Country Strategic Plan 2018-2020.

Evaluation	Evaluation of Democratic Republic of the Congo WFP Interim Country Strategic Plan 2018-2020.
Published (year)	2020
Author / Agency	Shaheen Robina, Emery Brusset, Cleo Chevalier, Danielle Deboutte, Pascal Mweze, Samuel Niki, Blanche Renaudin / Action Against Hunger and WFP Office of Evaluation
Commissioned by	World Food Programme (WFP)
Type of evaluation	Country strategic plan evaluation
Project period	2017-2019
Key words	Food security, humanitarian aid, emergencies, development finance
Abstract	<p>In 2019, WFP intervened in 10 of the country's 26 provinces. Most of WFP's activities were in response to emergencies and the chronic needs of the food insecure population, determined by local food security and vulnerability assessments. Interviews were held with stakeholders in the capital and visits were carried out in WFP's intervention areas. A small community survey was carried out to determine the perception of WFP's results in terms of targeting and accountability to affected populations.</p> <p>Concerning provision of food assistance (in kind and, increasingly, in the form of cash-type transfers), food security improved in areas where tensions were easing but continued to deteriorate in those affected by conflict or other shocks, such as Ebola. WFP probably curbed this deterioration. The number of schools receiving WFP support in the form of school feeding increased significantly.</p> <p>Due to delayed funds and logistical difficulties, the number of beneficiaries of acute and chronic malnutrition prevention activities providing generalised dietary supplementation was significantly lower than expected. As emergency assistance was prioritised, less technical assistance was provided to smallholder farmer organisations and the number of beneficiaries of resilience-focused activities was lower than planned. The follow-up of beneficiaries and the support provided to them in the aftermath of emergency situations was not sufficient to strengthen their resilience or reduce their dependence on aid from a long-term emergency.</p> <p>A need to strengthen existing technical skills in the identification and mitigation of environmental risks was found. There were multiple delays and interruptions in field deliveries due to the suspension of certain services, a lack of funding flexibility and human resources, supply disruptions, among others. Although WFP has considerably strengthened its capacity to include cross-cutting priorities such as gender equality and climate change, the activities in these areas have only had a superficial impact. Monitoring and reporting on</p>

	protection, gender and environmental risks faced by those receiving assistance was found to be extremely fragmented.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender, human rights, peace and conflict
Link to evaluation	https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000119817/download/?_ga=2.182935791.872655921.1631565371-67177639.1631565371

1.2 Prospective evaluation of GPE's country-level support to education (final report).

Evaluation	Prospective evaluation of GPE's country-level support to education (final report)
Published (year)	2020
Author / Agency	Aline Meysonnat, Ignacio / Universalia
Commissioned by	Global Partnership for Education (GPE)
Type of evaluation	Prospective evaluation
Project period	2017-2020
Key words	Education, sector support
Abstract	<p>During the evaluation period (2016-2019), GPE's engagement largely consisted of education sector programme implementation grants, which funded the education quality improvement Programme and non-financial support to planning, dialogue/monitoring and financing (e.g., technical support to the Treasury regarding budgeting, etc.). The objective of the prospective evaluation was to document how well GPE outputs and activities contributed to country-level objectives related to sector planning, implementation, dialogue and financing. This was assessed according to an evaluation matrix and establishing a baseline, supplemented by secondary data, key informant interviews and focus group discussions.</p> <p>Election postponement and an interim government (2016-2018) severely slowed down educational progress. The evaluation found no clear evidence that GPE contributed to a stronger education sector during 2018-2019. GPE's financial and non-financial support did contribute to a more inclusive, transparent and participatory planning process and the implementation of a higher quality education sector plan (2016-2025). However, absence of activity prioritisation and annual operational plans have negatively affected the plan's effectiveness. Weak data collection hampered effective monitoring and funds were greatly insufficient to effectively implement the sector plan.</p> <p>GPE contributed to increasing international financing, but their influence on this funding's quality and domestic financing remains unclear. Donor funding harmonisation remained weak, as the project approach was often chosen as a funding modality. Due to a strong presence of the GPE Secretariat during the planning stage combined with strong engagement and participation between grant and coordinating agents in dialogue, the education sector plan was developed and deemed credible and comprehensive. With four ministries in</p>

	charge of education and limited coordination between them, creating a permanent secretariat can help advance education sector reforms in the future.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender, good governance
Link to evaluation	https://www.globalpartnership.org/sites/default/files/document/file/2020-07-07-Country-level-prospective-evaluation-year-2-democratic-republic-congo.pdf

1.3 Evaluation of the HIV decentralisation initiative DRC

Evaluation	Evaluation of the HIV decentralisation initiative in DRC
Published (year)	2020
Author / Agency	Christelle Boulanger, Philippe Msellati / Stockholm Evaluation Unit (Sida)
Commissioned by	Médecins Sans Frontières-Operational Center Brussels (MSF-OCB)
Type of evaluation	Project evaluation
Project period	2005-2018
Key words	Health systems, decentralisation, HIV/AIDS
Abstract	<p>MSF-OCB has been focusing its efforts on decentralising HIV and AIDS services in primary healthcare to improve accessibility and quality of care in the various health facilities. Decentralisation occurred in phases: 1) patient referral to three health centres offering a package of services; 2) open community antiretroviral (ARV) distribution points for stable patients; and 3) scale-up strategy and HIV service integration at primary level. The evaluation used a mixed method approach, obtaining quantitative data through secondary sources and qualitative data from semi-structured interviews, focus group discussions, document review, and direct observations.</p> <p>The evaluation found that the decentralised model of care for stable patients was efficient and successful thanks to mentoring and training of local staff, as well as strong advocacy and close collaboration with the Ministry of Health, donors (PEPFAR and Global Fund) and civil society organisations. More patients received treatment and their CD4 level and viral load test results indicated services were of good quality. The minimum package of care (ARV therapy, testing and counselling) remains available and free in most sites after project handover to PEPFAR and implementing agencies. The project successfully supported the national pharmacy in avoiding product stock-outs but limited transportation and resources remained a challenge to deliver and have products available at all ARV distribution points.</p> <p>The evaluation elucidated important project limitations such as the inability to retain community health workers in certain health centres. Furthermore, the lack of a transition phase when transferring health facilities to partners meant unsustainable laboratory equipment, trainings and service packages were offered, and treatment for opportunistic infections was no longer free. Whilst handover discussions initiated early, the information did not trickle down to facility level staff and patients. The ARV distribution points model remained fragile, as communication between these and health facilities was weak.</p>
Cross-cutting issues	Capacity building, governance

Link to evaluation	http://evaluation.msf.org/sites/evaluation/files/attachments/evl_2020june18_kinde_eng_hivdecentralisation_seu.pdf
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1.4 Summative and formative evaluation of the framework for Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 in DRC

Evaluation	Évaluation sommative et formative du Cadre d'accélération des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement (CAO) 4&5 en République Démocratique du Congo (2013 – 2017)
Published (year)	2020
Author / Agency	Act for Performance
Commissioned by	UNICEF
Type of evaluation	Programme evaluation
Project period	2013-2017
Key words	Health sector strengthening, maternal and child health
Abstract	<p>In response to excessive infant, child and maternal mortality, the DRC Government defined an Acceleration Framework to achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 4 & 5. This was implemented in 44 of the 515 health zones in the country. The evaluation used qualitative data collection methods including semi-structured interviews and group discussions combined with reviews of documents and financial data to measure output indicators (targets).</p> <p>The Framework contributed to a sharp drop in maternal and under-five mortality in the intervention areas through community-based health care and better available essential drugs and materials for childbirth through Integrated Management of Childhood Illness kits (for the treatment of sick and malnourished children) and Childbirth kits. The distribution of the kits energised the community relays and community animation units which received training and incentives. The role of these community structures in sensitising populations to essential family practices (breastfeeding, washing hands, purifying water, etc.) was a success.</p> <p>The MDG 4 & 5 framework removed the financial and physical barriers to access care for pregnant women and families with children under five years. The Childbirth Kit has greatly incentivised antenatal consultations for pregnant women resulting in considerable increase in first-time antenatal care consultations. An important unexpected result was the considerable increase in new-born registrations in the civil registry of intervention zones.</p> <p>The evaluation found shortcomings in the supply and management of kits and equipment for health facilities, due to planning problems and high operational costs. At the time of the evaluation, there was no longer a budget to continue the distribution of the kits in the 44 health zones. The main donors in the sector (European Union, USAID, World Bank) were not convinced of the merits of the approach due to the high costs of the kits.</p>

Cross-cutting issues	Gender
Link to evaluation	https://evaluationreports.unicef.org/GetDocument?fileID=13391

2. Evaluations published in 2019

2.1 Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Program II (GEWEP II) 2016-2019 DRC Endline

Evaluation	Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Program II (GEWEP II) 2016-2019 DRC Endline
Published (year)	2019
Author / Agency	CARE
Commissioned by	CARE DRC
Type of evaluation	Programme evaluation
Project period	2016-2019
Key words	Gender equality, women's empowerment
Abstract	<p>CARE International implemented the "TUNAWEZA" programme which worked on four transversal thematic areas, namely: (i) strengthening civil society, (ii) economic empowerment of women and entrepreneurship, (iii) the participation of women in decision-making processes, and (iv) the engagement of men and boys in the transformation of gender norms.</p> <p>The aim of this final evaluation was to determine the current situation of the programme indicators and to highlight the effects of the different interventions on target groups. Particular emphasis was placed on the impact group and to make recommendations for a possible third phase. The study used secondary data, quantitative data collected from beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries via a standard questionnaire, group discussions and key informant interviews.</p> <p>The evaluation found a considerable reduction in social norms that discriminated against and flouted women's rights and some positive changes in sexual and reproductive health practices. For example, husbands were more likely to give consent to life saving procedures and accept contraceptive use. Five civil society organisations benefitted from institutional strengthening. Through the village saving and loans association (VSLA) networks, women-initiated microenterprises allowing them to generate income and create employment for other women without occupation. Women participating in VSLA groups procured at least one asset such as a house, cattle or tools thanks to mobilised funds or granted credits. More women participated in decision-making committees or associations and felt well regarded in their communities. Thanks to 157 reflection groups made up of 4,038 men engaged in the fight against gender-based violence, and adopting a positive masculinity, misconceptions became much less common.</p>
Cross-cutting issues	Gender

Link to evaluation	http://careevaluations.org/wp-content/uploads/Rapport-Evaluation-finale-GEWEPII.pdf
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2.2 Report from final evaluation of project for primary healthcare and protection/GBV.

Evaluation	Rapport d'évaluation finale du projet de soins de santé primaire et protection/VBG
Published (year)	2019
Author / Agency	Muanda Mbadu, Gahungu Ndongo Parfait, Raoza Vololona, Isaac Muyonga, Seth Aparna, Kalyanpur Anushka / MEAL department of CARE International
Commissioned by	CARE / USAID
Type of evaluation	Project evaluation
Project period	2018-2019
Key words	Health services, sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence, community involvement
Abstract	<p>The Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Primary Health Care and Protection project aimed to improve access to emergency primary health care and respond to GBV in displaced and host communities in two health zones in North-Kivu. It included an access component to the response to GBV, as well as messages on the prevention of sexually transmitted infections, unwanted pregnancies, GBV, sexual and reproductive health, and water-borne diseases such as cholera. The evaluation was based on quantitative data collected from 22 health centres, interviews with health personnel, focus group discussions with community members, and field observations.</p> <p>After two years, there was an increase of 121,667 curative consultations and rehabilitation of six structures and two administration offices. The reporting of epidemiological data rose from 83% during the baseline to 93.1% after project implementation. All the health facilities experienced a drop in the number of prenatal and postnatal consultations following Ebola outbreaks in two health zones. Some were forced to close temporarily following vandalism resulting from the community's distrust to the Ebola response. The structures reported an increase in cases of diarrhoea, malaria and acute respiratory infections due to increased sensitisations and community surveillance.</p> <p>The number of registered and handled sexual violence cases increased from 60 to 205, which was explained by sensitisations carried out by the project and better identification and referral by community volunteers. Community relays were sensitised on surveillance and trained on the management of common diseases. Focus group discussions revealed that community members were familiar with the project and had positive perceptions of the health services.</p>
Cross-cutting issues	Gender, health
Link to evaluation	http://www.careevaluations.org/evaluation/rapport-devaluation-finale-du-projet-de-soins-de-sante-primaire-et-protection-vbg/

2.3 Assessing the effectiveness of the United Nations Mission in the DRC / MONUC – MONUSCO

Evaluation	Assessing the effectiveness of the United Nations Mission in the DRC / MONUC – MONUSCO
Published (year)	2019
Author / Agency	Dr Alexandra Novosselof / International Peace Institute (IPI), New York and Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Oslo, and colleagues.
Commissioned by	Effectiveness of Peace Operations Network
Type of evaluation	National programme evaluation
Project period	1999-2019 (covers UN Mission in the DRC (MONUC) and UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO))
Key words	Aid effectiveness, peacekeeping
Abstract	<p>MONUSCO is a peacekeeping force to protect civilians, humanitarian personnel and human rights defenders threatened by violence. It supports the government's stabilisation and peace consolidation efforts and is an extension of MONUC. The evaluation addressed the effectiveness of the long-term MONUC/MONUSCO peacekeeping efforts across eight critical dimensions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A lack of national buy-in for a political framework and growing reluctance from the government decreased the missions' <i>political primacy and role in the country's elections</i>. During times of tension, they were successful in encouraging political compromise and coordinating regional and international support of a national process but were weak in demanding the implementation of political commitments. 2. The missions' effectiveness to <i>protect and stabilise</i> varied from successfully protecting civilians and deterring violence, to failing to act. The missions failed to address larger political issues causing conflict but have seen disarmament and a decrease in the international or regional threat from armed groups in DRC. Financial pressure dwarfed its "protection through projection" concept and diminished capacity and institutional reform. 3. Creating <i>national and local ownership</i> has been successful if interests overlapped. Otherwise, DRC security forces have been serving the interest of a narrow elite rather than the population, constraining the mission to drive change. 4. <i>Regional and international support</i> has been counterproductive or insufficient to achieve transformational change. 5. The continuity of <i>partnerships and coherence</i> was compromised due to changes in mandate, leadership, and priorities. Insufficient engagement with local communities and between UN troop contributors and the Congolese army lacked to foster national ownership and <i>coherence</i>. 6. MONUC/MONUSCO's <i>legitimacy, impartiality and credibility</i> oscillated over time. Goodwill was gained during the territory reunification, but inability to prioritise tasks and adequate management reduced this.

	<p>7. The missions' work improved the Congolese army's methods to identify child soldiers and no longer recruit them. A Gender Office was established to promote a gender-sensitive approach throughout.</p> <p>8. A people-centred approach has been implemented to adopt a participatory and inclusive approach to create dialogue, consensus and community-backing, but progress remains uneven.</p>
Cross-cutting issues	Peacebuilding, Gender, Good governance
Link to evaluation	https://effectivepeaceops.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/EPON-MONUSCO-LowRes.pdf

2.4 Final evaluation of the Improving Livelihoods and Land-use in Congo Basin Forests (ILLUCBF) project.

Evaluation	Final evaluation of the Improving Livelihoods and Land-use in Congo Basin Forests (ILLUCBF) project.
Published (year)	2019
Author(s) / Agency	Lys Alcayna-Stevens, Tilly Alcayna, Suzanne Philipps / Futureproof Ideas
Commissioned by	Department for International Development (DFID)
Type of evaluation	Project evaluation
Project period	2016 - 2019
Keywords	Forest protection, livelihoods, community involvement
Abstract	<p>The Improving Livelihoods and Land-use in Congo Basin Forests (ILLUCBF) project was implemented by a group of NGOs. Its objectives were to improve livelihoods of forest dependent communities and reduce deforestation in DRC through piloting and demonstrating scalable models of community forest management; to reinforce the capacities of national and local authorities and national civil society partner organisations; and to establish a recognised national forum for community forest issues. The evaluation was conducted using qualitative methods including project documentation, project partners and stakeholder interviews, a workshop, site visits and group discussions.</p> <p>The ILLUCBF project was well-conceived, relevant, and effectively implemented. It built on Rainforest Foundation UK's award-winning 'Mapping for Rights' (CGF) project (2012-2017) and some of its success can be attributed to long-term community engagement in pilot sites. The evaluation revealed significant positive impacts on sustainable forest use, community solidarity, local income-generating activities, and community-based development initiatives. Previously marginalised community members, such as women and indigenous populations, were now integrated and empowered.</p> <p>The establishment of national and provincial roundtables provided a highly effective forum of dialogue amongst stakeholders (state, private, NGO, civil society) to share learning experiences and build consensus. The monitoring of threats to community forestry helped illustrate to local government the types of mismanagement that could arise; the monitoring and reporting on human</p>

	rights abuses in and around protected areas; and the development of protocols, tools and guides which can be re-used by other organisations. Real improvements can be seen in the livelihoods of forest dependent communities. Their ownership and initiative suggest that if the project can accompany communities to the management phase, it stands to leave autonomous and sustainable community management of forest resources.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender, resilience, disaster risk reduction, deforestation
Link to evaluation	https://www.rainforestfoundationuk.org/media.ashx/rfuk-evaluation-report-fpi-final.pdf

3. Evaluations published in 2018

3.1 Independent Evaluation of UNHCR's Response to the L3 Emergency in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Evaluation	Independent Evaluation of UNHCR's Response to the L3 Emergency in the Democratic Republic of Congo
Published (year)	2018
Author / Agency	Jock Baker, Caroline Saint-Mleux and Grace Rubambura Bahati
Commissioned by	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Evaluation Service
Type of evaluation	Evaluation of humanitarian crisis response
Project period	2017-2018
Key words	Emergency response, internally displaced persons, humanitarian aid
Abstract	<p>The evaluation assessed UNHCR-led operations and coordination mechanisms in the system-wide level 3 (L3) emergency response (when a humanitarian situation suddenly and significantly changes). It aimed to inform the next phase of UNHCR's DRC programme as well as global operations in system-wide L3 emergencies that include internally displaced person populations. Data collection was based on desk review and interviewing 423 stakeholders.</p> <p>As opposed to other humanitarian agencies, UNHCR did not declare an internal L3 emergency prior to the system-wide announcement in October 2017 but did position themselves for quick scale-up and response. Given that needs outweighed available resources and capacity, the evaluation found that UNHCR's prioritisation of shelter and protection was appropriate. The use of multi-purpose cash in the beginning of the response met the basic needs of vulnerable persons in Kasai. UNHCR's response was guided by the national protection strategy, though it was not well-communicated and lacked practical guidance at provincial level. Furthermore, the interagency Protection Strategy was only approved in April 2018 (when the emergency seemed to exist) resulting in a lack of mainstreamed response. Overall, the response was seen as inconsistent with the expected level of efforts in an L3 displacement emergency.</p> <p>The lack of funding and coordination affected the quality, coverage, and timeliness of the response due to insufficient capacitated staff and delayed deliveries. A strong (community) communication system was also missing, with</p>

	<p>many stakeholders – and even internal staff – lacking a common understanding of UNHCR’s role and added-value in the crisis. The M&E system only covered cash-based interventions and excluded outcome and post-distribution monitoring. Training was successful in creating awareness of protection principles and building the capacity of national actors.</p> <p>Key gaps during the response included delayed partner selection, a lack of protection protocols, incoherent protection working groups, weak data management, staff turnover and unharmonised standards.</p>
Cross-cutting issues	Resilience and disaster risk reduction
Link to evaluation	https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/5c5419fe4.pdf

3.2 A Multi-Year Thematic Evaluation of DFID’s Multi-Year Humanitarian Funding Approach in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Evaluation	A Multi-Year Thematic Evaluation of DFID’s Multi-Year Humanitarian Funding Approach in the Democratic Republic of Congo
Published (year)	2018
Author / Agency	Lewis Sida, Bill Gray, Basia Benda and John Ntalemwa / Valid Evaluations
Commissioned by	Department for International Development (DFID)
Type of evaluation	Thematic evaluation
Project period	2014-2018
Key words	Poverty, resilience, conflict, cash support
Abstract	<p>This longitudinal study, with substantive research carried out between 2015 and 2017, set out to answer three questions regarding resilience, early response and value for money in the context of multi-year funding. The evaluation used exploratory research techniques to understand how different people coped with shocks and stresses. Primary research took place in three districts of North and South Kivu. The evaluation conducted 431 individual interviews and periodic focus group discussions in each of the 17 villages studied. A separate survey looked at the cost of ill-health to 510 households.</p> <p>The study shows that the root of much of the structural poverty and associated conflict in the Kivus is the semi-feudal appropriation of land. The main reason for the inability of many to escape chronic poverty is the ongoing low-level conflict, insecurity and state collapse. The population, however, has consistently reported that health shocks are the most frequent and have the greatest impact on living conditions.</p> <p>There was only one DFID-funded multi-year humanitarian programme observed in the Kivus during this evaluation: the UNICEF Alternative Responses for Communities in Crisis II programme. This distributed cash and vouchers to people returning from displacement. One of the main findings was that people preferred one large payment over several small ones, as it gave them greater choice and flexibility. Basically, the one-off, larger payment had the potential to enhance people’s livelihoods in the medium term, and for some this was significant.</p>

	This evaluation found that multi-year humanitarian assistance has good potential in the DRC. Smarter delivery of assistance can help people invest and organise themselves, giving them a much better chance of getting by than less well-formulated inputs.
Cross-cutting issues	Resilience and disaster risk reduction, poverty
Link to evaluation	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5d5d5ef6e5274a07b8fe70bc/VE-DRC_SumReport_finalR.pdf

3.3 Evaluation of the Rapid Response to Population Movement (RRMP) Mechanism based on Performance

Evaluation	Evaluation of the Rapid Response to Population Movement (RRMP) Mechanism based on Performance
Published (year)	2018
Author / Agency	DARA
Commissioned by	United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) DRC
Type of evaluation	Programme evaluation
Project period	2014-2018
Key words	Migrants, displaced persons, basic services in non-food items, education, health, nutrition, WASH, child protection
Abstract	<p>The United Nations office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and UNICEF created the Rapid Response to Movements of Populations (RRMP) programme to deliver multi-sectorial assistance in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), health, child protection, education and non-food items to recently displaced persons and returned populations, host families and vulnerable community members in eastern and south-eastern DRC and the Kasai.</p> <p>This evaluation used a mixed-method approach to explore how the programme – which is the second largest single humanitarian response programme in DRC – contributed to meeting the target population’s needs.</p> <p>Stakeholders considered RRMP a relevant ‘first resort response’ as it combines size, type and geographic spread, including in hard-to-reach areas. Nevertheless, lack of strong relationships and good data disallowed RRMP to adequately respond, monitor impact, and build local capacity.</p> <p>RRMP’s multisectoral assistance improved living conditions of the target population, at least short-term, though the extent of which context-specific needs were addressed was inconclusive. Less donor resources for RRPM resulted in a budget deficit that was off-set by reducing staff costs and technical support and increasing multisectoral coordination.</p> <p>RRPM did not intend to make a long-term impact on habits, behaviours and living conditions, though recommendations were to increase flexibility of the 3-month intervention. The programme design, low NGO capacity, insufficient resources and short duration were seen as the main obstacles to sustainability. A joint roadmap to improve coordination, a mobility tracking mechanism to</p>

	track population movements, more extensive multisectoral evaluations, programme redesign and advocacy for multi-year funding were recommendations made.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender, equity and 'do no harm'
Link to evaluation	https://gdc.unicef.org/media/231/download

3.4 Final evaluation of the project for rapid response for social cohesion and economic relaunch in South Kivu and Ituri provinces.

Evaluation	Évaluation finale du Projet Réponse rapide pour la cohésion sociale et la relance économique dans les provinces du Sud Kivu et de l'Ituri.
Published (year)	2018
Author / Agency	Raymond Onana, Me Charles-Mugagga Mushizi / UNDP
Commissioned by	UNDP / Japan
Type of evaluation	Final project evaluation
Project period	2016-2017
Key words	Social cohesion, economic recovery, protection
Abstract	<p>The project aimed to address the following main issues: (i) insecurity, lack of social cohesion and lack of protection for the civil population, especially women and girls, including the pygmy population; (ii) social conflicts, with an ethnic dimension and a risk of degradation towards a generalised armed conflict; and (iii) lack of means of subsistence and economic prospects particularly affecting young people. Its overall objective was to contribute to stabilisation and social cohesion in the targeted areas through community rehabilitation, capacity building of young people and improvement of food security. The evaluation team reviewed available project documentation and conducted individual and group interviews with the implementing actors and direct beneficiaries of the project.</p> <p>The evaluation judges the implementation of the project as generally satisfactory and found relevance very satisfying; design, efficacy sustainability and impact satisfying; and efficiency moderately satisfying. The conceptual approach of the project was distinguished mainly by the quality of the interventions.</p> <p>At the end of the preparatory phase, all the tools necessary for start-up, implementation and monitoring and evaluation were in place. Based on the changes or early signs of change in its environment and targets, the project appears to be an initiative with real impact. The activities proposed by the project resulted from a participatory process and all stakeholders underlined the very favourable reception of the project by the beneficiaries. They considered the project activities consistent with the priority needs of the communities as expressed. The evaluation team observed changes to the functioning of the State public services, to social restructuring, as well as to the quality of life of different community members in the targeted territories.</p>

Cross-cutting issues	Gender, human rights, resilience
Link to evaluation	https://erc.undp.org/evaluation/evaluations/detail/10029

3.5 Participatory Development in Fragile and Conflict-affected Contexts: An Impact Evaluation of the *Tuungane 1* Program in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Evaluation	Participatory Development in Fragile and Conflict-affected Contexts: An Impact Evaluation of the <i>Tuungane 1</i> Program in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
Published (year)	2018
Author / Agency	Ann Laudati (UC Berkeley), Eric Mvukiyeye (World Bank Research Group), Peter van der Windt (New York University Abu Dhabi)
Commissioned by	DFID / CARE and International Rescue Committee
Type of evaluation	Long-term impact evaluation
Project period	2007-2011
Key words	Governance and social cohesion / participatory development, education, health
Abstract	<p><i>Tuungane 1</i> was a Community Driven Development (CDD) programme aiming to strengthen participatory local governance committees, social cohesion and community welfare. It funded health, education, transport, livelihoods and infrastructure projects at the village- and community-level and provided training. This evaluation measured the long-term effects of the programme through a mixed-method approach (survey, data collection, interviews and focus group discussions).</p> <p>The evaluation revealed that after five years, villages which received grants had health and school facilities that were built and better stocked than non-programme areas. There was no evidence that service provision improved nor that incentives for teachers and healthcare professionals changed.</p> <p>Connections with influential village members sometimes affected appointment or reassignment of service providers. Those in higher-level positions, such as facility directors, had poorer attendance as they lived further away from the facility. In addition, the cost of school and medicine did not change and remained the most important barrier to access. This shows that whilst the quality of infrastructure was improved and more materials/supplies were available, improvements did not produce socio-economic impact. Long-term improvements in other sectors besides health and education were not found. Some evidence even suggested adverse economic effects.</p> <p>Little impact was also found on gender empowerment. Gender quotas for women in leadership positions were insufficient to alter gender roles and norms. Important decisions were still made by men, though women did</p>

	reportedly feel more empowered. The evaluation challenged the CDD approach as a model for development aid. It did not research which activities should have complemented the infrastructure provision in order to produce impact and suggests further CDD impact evaluations are needed to strengthen policy and programme design.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender, good governance
Link to evaluation	https://www.rescue.org/sites/default/files/document/3746/tuungane1-evaluationfinalreport.pdf

3.6 Improving Girls' Access and Learning Outcomes in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Evidence from a DFID-Funded Randomized Control Trial of VAS-Y Fille!

Evaluation	Improving Girls' Access and Learning Outcomes in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Evidence from a DFID-Funded Randomized Control Trial of VAS-Y Fille!
Published (year)	Not dated (probably 2018)
Author / Agency	University of Massachusetts at Amherst / IRC
Commissioned by	DFID / International Rescue Committee, in consortium with Catholic Relief Services and Save the Children International.
Type of evaluation	Project evaluation
Project period	2013-2017
Key words	Girls' education, VAS-Y Fille!
Abstract	<p>Between 2013 and 2017, the Valorisation de la Scolarisation de la Fille (Vas-Y Fille!) project was implemented in 400 schools of five DRC provinces. The project's goal was to ensure that 66,303 marginalised girls stay in school and 44,662 girls demonstrate improved learning outcomes by providing economic support, quality teaching and learning, community involvement and alternative learning programmes for out-of-school girls. Impact was evaluated through a mixed-methods clustered randomised control trial, where some randomly selected schools received interventions and others served as control.</p> <p>Results revealed that teacher trainings, materials and school improvement grants increased in-school girls' literacy and numeracy significantly. Teachers were more competent and able to create an equitable and friendly environment, despite their remaining struggle to teach French as a second language and adequately support students' differing needs. Tutoring was the most effective way to improve reading and math scores for underperforming in-school students, as it increased the study hours and improved the student-teacher relationship. Scholarships also improved literacy (but less than tutoring) but did not have a significant effect on numeracy skills. For out-of-school children, alternative learning programmes were a cost-effective way to improve access to education, double math scores and five-fold reading scores.</p> <p>Finally, the village savings and loans association providing credit for borrowers and the business skills training helping participants invest their money to generate more income helped support student's education, health expenses, food security and others. Data were inconclusive on causal effects and whether they changed education expenditure or enrolment.</p>

	Recommendations included the scale-up of tutoring for in-school underperforming students; limit provision of scholarships to those at risk of dropping out due to financial barriers; emphasise professional development of teachers; scale-up alternative learning programmes but invest in preventive measures to avoid children being out of school; leverage financial services and entrepreneur trainings; and mainstream gender and the ‘do no harm’ approach.
Cross-cutting issues	Women’s rights and gender equality
Link to evaluation	https://rescue.app.box.com/s/zedwfa9dbz6d8rfvyebdsk6ae97wg3rq

4. Evaluations published in 2017

4.1 Report from evaluations of gender-based violence in the crisis of the Kasai region.

Evaluation	Rapport d’évaluations sur les violences basées sur le genre (VBG) dans la crise de la région du Kasai (Provinces de Kasai, Kasai Central et Kasai Oriental) République Démocratique du Congo.
Published (year)	2017
Author / Agency	UNFPA DRC
Commissioned by	UNFPA
Type of evaluation	Evaluation of humanitarian crisis response
Project period	2016-2017
Key words	Emergency response, gender-based violence
Abstract	<p>The sub-cluster on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) assessed the global response to GBV in communities affected by the consequences of the crisis in the Kasai region. The aim was to assess the overall GBV response needs and produce a draft sectoral response plan for the provinces of Kasai Central, Kasai and Kasai Oriental. The assessments were based on direct observations and individual and group interviews. Quantitative data relating to incidents of violence was collected at 49 service delivery points.</p> <p>A link between a certain upsurge in sexual violence, early marriages and the ongoing humanitarian crisis was found. However, several cases of rape and sexual assault among young girls were not denounced in the region to avoid transgressing certain rigid customs in matters of marriage, for fear of reducing the chances of marriage for single girls, or in favour of amicable settlements. The police often limited perpetrator punishment to the payment of fines. The communities denounced the kidnappings of young girls, which were organised with the complicity of community leaders and resulted in forced marriages.</p> <p>This evaluation revealed the limited impact civil society organisations’ efforts have on changing behaviour and engaging and mobilising communities to reduce GBV. Major challenges were also seen with coordinating GBV control activities and collecting data in humanitarian emergencies.</p>

	The evaluation recommended identifying a mode of operation to ensure good coordination of humanitarian action and to have reliable data in line with international standards, while strengthening national capacities to ensure sustainability. Various other evaluations have formulated some recommendations which should be integrated into the sub-cluster on GBV action plan for Kasai: revitalise coordination, organise mobile court hearings to strengthen the fight against impunity, advocate to political and judicial authorities for the assignment of magistrates to the high courts, and establish integrated multisectoral and holistic care.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender
Link to evaluation	https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/rapport_evaluation_sc_vbg_-_grand-kasai_vf.pdf

4.2 Evaluation of UN Women 2014-2017 portfolio

Evaluation	Evaluation du 2014-2017 portefeuille pays
Published (year)	2017
Author / Agency	Guennelot Boumas N., David Thadila, Annie Bipendu, Dada Bia / UN Women
Commissioned by	UN Women
Type of evaluation	National programme evaluation
Project period	2014-2017
Key words	Gender equality, women's empowerment, humanitarian response, UN
Abstract	<p>UN Women's strategy was deployed in 8 out of 26 provinces. This external evaluation assessed the contributions made by the UN Women DRC country office to national development results in relation to gender equality and the empowerment of women. It included a desk review of secondary outcome data, field surveys and interviews, and site visits in different provinces.</p> <p>The positioning of UN Women was weak in the areas of leadership and participation in decision-making; planning and budgeting for institutional accountability to commitments relating to gender equality; and in socio-economic empowerment. UN Women plays a more visible role in the field of sexual violence prevention and women's leadership in the process of peace, security and humanitarian response. UN Women's support to the Ministry of Gender, Family and Children both at the national and provincial levels has resulted in increased visibility and multisectoral and thematic coordination on gender issues.</p> <p>Despite visible results obtained under various projects, the level of achievement of the expected effects of the Strategic Note was generally modest due to budget deficits compared to planned activities. There was still significant leeway to maximise the coordination mandate and the knowledge management function to drive synergies across the portfolio. The Country Office did not sufficiently seize the advantage of its gender coordination mandate to strengthen the capacities of its</p>

	partners to effectively integrate gender in the different sectors of partner intervention. Expanding the investment in knowledge management and communications was the most promising opportunity to build and maintain momentum for change across the portfolio. Given the success of UN Women and many tools and approaches to gender mainstreaming, its intervention in the humanitarian sector was confirmed and justified as complementary to other UN agencies and organisations.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender
Link to evaluation	https://gate.unwomen.org/EvaluationDocument/Download?evaluationDocumentID=9130

4.3 End line evaluation of the H4+ Joint Programme Canada and Sweden 2011-2016 Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Evaluation	End line evaluation of the H4+ Joint Programme Canada and Sweden 2011-2016 Democratic Republic of the Congo.
Published (year)	2017
Author / Agency	Camilla Buch von Schroeder, Prince Kimpanga, Léon Tshiabuat, Ted Freeman / Independent Evaluation Office of UNFPA
Commissioned by	UNFPA, Global Affairs Canada, UNICEF
Type of evaluation	End-line programme evaluation
Project period	2012-2015
Key words	Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH)
Abstract	<p>The goal of the H4+ Joint Programme Canada and Sweden (H4+ JPCS) was to strengthen, integrate, and scale up RMNCAH services in DRC, as the country battles one of the highest maternal mortality ratios in the world. The evaluation aimed to assess the contributions made by the programme to RMNCAH outcomes through a desk review, key informant interviews, site visits and quantitative data review.</p> <p>The H4+ JPCS programme was successful in establishing an efficient national planning and coordination process with engagement from the Ministry of Health (MoH) and aligned to national priorities, but regular participation and leadership from MoH faded over time and it did not incorporate sub-national implementing partners. The programme was designed to complement other RMNCAH and health system programmes, but this did not sufficiently trickle down to the provincial and health zone level.</p> <p>The programme successfully introduced two innovative approaches: 1) supporting family kits containing essential drugs to treat malaria, diarrhoea and fever; vouchers for women to access cheaper services; and free pre-school consultations. These were distributed by community health workers to families with pregnant women and children under five whereby families were also informed of key RMNCAH themes; and 2) the introduction of competency-based pre- and in-service training on emergency obstetric and newborn care. Both were scaled-up to the national level by the MoH and contributed to</p>

	<p>improving the quality of RMNCAH services. However, they lacked systematic documentation, coordination and a knowledge management strategy.</p> <p>Some young people had better access to RMNCAH services through youth-friendly centres, though these were not geographically dispersed and a coherent strategy to address their needs was missing. Demand creating activities were limited as the community was not sufficiently involved. Nevertheless, the joint advocacy of H4+ partners resulted in more focus on RMNCAH in DRC – including by the government – and additional funds.</p> <p>Besides harmonising and better coordinating H4+ JPCS internally, it was recommended that more technical assistance be provided to the MoH to consolidate (overlapping) coordination platforms; improve engagement with provincial and health zone levels; and better balance investment in service improvement and demand creation; among others.</p>
Cross-cutting issues	Women’s rights and gender equality
Link to evaluation	https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/admin-resource/H4JPCS_DRC_Country_Note_Final.pdf

4.4 Democratic Republic of Congo: Evaluation of the Bank’s Country Strategy and Program 2004–2015. Summary Report.

Evaluation	Democratic Republic of Congo: Evaluation of the Bank’s Country Strategy and Program 2004–2015. Summary Report.
Published (year)	2017
Author / Agency	Independent Development Evaluation (IDEV)
Commissioned by	African Development Bank (AfDB)
Type of evaluation	Country strategy evaluation
Project period	2004-2015
Key words	Economic and social infrastructure, agricultural and rural development, economic and financial governance
Abstract	<p>AfDB’s overall objective was to ensure equitable and sustainable economic growth to fight poverty and build peace. This evaluation aimed to review AfDB’s strategies and programmes in DRC between 2004 and 2015 and provide recommendations to improve their effectiveness and support in the next programme cycle (2017-2021). Desk review, individual and group discussions, direct observations, and intervention site surveys were the main data collection methods.</p> <p>The four guiding country strategy papers considered the fragility of the country but did not integrate an analysis of the factors of fragility. The latter weakened the overall relevance of the operations. Effectiveness was rated moderately satisfactory. Operations in transport and social development sectors were most effective, though outputs and outcomes were moderately or fully satisfactory for economic and social infrastructure projects as well. Agricultural and rural development sector results were less satisfactory. An assessment could not be</p>

	<p>made of energy, environment, and industry/mines/quarries sectors as these still required further advancement.</p> <p>Efficiency was rated moderately unsatisfactory due to project implementation delays related to the country context, government responsibility and bank responsibility. Only one of the four AfDB-funded economic and financial governance projects was evaluated: the Emergency Programme to Mitigate the Impact of the Financial Crisis, which helped DRC complete the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and restore macroeconomic balance. Policy dialogue involved civil society and the private sector only to a limited degree.</p> <p>Sustainability was seen as moderately unlikely due to the lack of support strategies after projects end and dysfunctional sector policies.</p> <p>Across the board, performance-based management components such as the quality of strategy and selectivity, managing for development results, and implementing the 'Principles of good International Engagement in Fragile States' were not optimal.</p>
Cross-cutting issues	Poverty, infrastructure development
Link to evaluation	https://www.oecd.org/derec/afdb/afdb-iDEV-DRC.pdf

4.5 Democratic Republic of the Congo Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation (IFAD).

Evaluation	Evaluation de la stratégie et du programme de pays (FIDA).
Published (year)	2017
Author / Agency	Michael Carbon and Hamdi Ahmedou / Independent Office of Evaluation of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
Commissioned by	IFAD
Type of evaluation	National programme evaluation
Project period	2003-2015
Key words	Agricultural production, food security
Abstract	<p>The strategic programme was designed in the aftermath of the war and emphasises the transition from humanitarian aid to development. The proposed areas of intervention were: support for agricultural production, marketing, organisation of farmers and rehabilitation of basic social services.</p> <p>The evaluation had two main objectives: (i) evaluate the results and performance of the IFAD strategy and programme funded under the Country Strategic Opportunities Programmes of 2003 and 2015; and (ii) produce conclusions and recommendations for the next strategic partnership between IFAD and the DRC planned for 2017. The main evaluation included stakeholder interviews and field visits in four provinces.</p> <p>Operating in areas with a highly precarious baseline situation, the programme's short-term impact on agricultural productivity, food security and access to</p>

	<p>education and health care services has been quite significant due to the strategic choice to focus on quick-impact areas, such as road and river access, improved seed material and social infrastructure. However, the programme's impact was severely reduced by poor project effectiveness and efficiency caused by institutional hurdles and weak planning and management capacity of project management units. The design was overly ambitious and complex projects did not sufficiently consider the country's fragile context. The projects hardly built capacity among deconcentrated agricultural services and achieved limited results in improving sustainable access to production services and appropriate technologies for farmers.</p> <p>Overall project efficiency indicators were low and reflected disproportionately high management expenses in relation to activities and results, and significant implementation delays. Over the last five years, efforts to increase project efficiency have led, at least for some projects, to significant improvements. Project designs recognised that gender equality and women's empowerment are key components of poverty reduction, but none of the projects had an adequate approach in this regard.</p> <p>The projects had little impact on destructive fishing practices and have involuntarily contributed to deforestation and soil degradation by promoting crop intensification and expansion of cultivated areas.</p>
Cross-cutting issues	Gender equality, poverty reduction
Link to evaluation	https://www.ifad.org/en/web/ioe/-/democratic-republic-of-the-congo-country-strategy-and-programme-evaluation-2016-

4.6 External evaluation of the plan of Réseau CREF for 2013-2017.

Evaluation	Rapport d'Évaluation Externe du Plan 2013-2017.
Published (year)	2017
Author / Agency	Raphael Kasongo Kabusa and Mazambi Mayele (CEFAD consultants) and Marine Gauthier (independent international consultant) / CEFAD
Commissioned by	Réseau CREF and Rainforest Foundation
Type of evaluation	Programme evaluation
Project period	2013-2017
Key words	Forest protection, capacity building, coordination
Abstract	<p>The "Conservation et Réhabilitation des Écosystèmes Forestiers" (CREF) programme set the strategic aim of establishing a global dynamic involving civil society in eco-development for future generations based on social peace, good natural resource governance and the sustainable development of local communities and indigenous people in North Kivu.</p> <p>The evaluation aimed to (1) highlight the major successes and failures of the 2013-2017 plan according to the pillars of the CREF programme; (2) establish the strengths and weaknesses of the General Secretariat and members in implementing the plan; (3) examine the organisational structure, financial management and accountancy to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness;</p>

	<p>and (4) define improvement actions up to 2030 based on the current context and challenges. The methodological approach focused on desk review; electronic member consultations; telephone interviews; an online questionnaire; and an analysis workshop.</p> <p>The main successes of the Network can be divided into four main areas of expertise: pure knowledge of the secretariat; soft skills adapted to on-the-ground realities and effective task completion; know-how demonstrated by following the activity plan; and professionalism when carrying out activities.</p> <p>The Network's biggest weakness related to difficulties in managing the numerous activities according to the strategic plan with a reduced General Secretariat team. At an institutional level, the impact of the Network and its actions were reduced, making it harder to portray a positive image among local, national and international audiences. Among the challenges at member organisation level were weak technical and managerial capacities, absence of an accountability culture and good governance, decreased focus on reforestation activities by partners, insufficient technical human resources, lack of a strategic plan to enact strategic objectives, and limited internal fundraising capacity.</p>
Cross-cutting issues	Environmental sustainability, capacity building
Link to evaluation	https://www.norad.no/globalassets/publikasjoner/publikasjoner-2017/sivsa-evalueringer/rapport-devaluation-externe-du-plan-strategique-2013-2017.pdf

4.7 Final evaluation of the execution of the project 'Participative evaluation of the improvement of basic social services in DRC, phase II'.

Evaluation	Evaluation finale de l'exécution du projet « Evaluation participative pour l'amélioration des services sociaux de base en RDC-Phase II »
Published (year)	2017
Author / Agency	Martin Kern and Edward Sloan / Forcier and Search for Common Ground
Commissioned by	European Union
Type of evaluation	Project evaluation
Project period	2013-2017
Key words	Basic social services
Abstract	<p>Search for Common Ground (SFCG), in partnership with the Dynamique de la Société Civile, and with funding from the European Union, implemented the project "Participatory evaluation for the improvement of basic social services in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) - Phase II".</p> <p>The aim of this project was to contribute to the improvement of basic social services - electricity, access to water, education, sanitation, health, security and administrative services - by promoting the participation of the population in the management of these services and, consequently, increasing the accountability of service providers and authorities. By facilitating dialogue between the population and social service providers, SFCG aimed to bring more transparency</p>

	<p>and efficiency to governance in the DRC. The evaluation was based on a survey among 800 persons, group discussion and individual in-depth interviews.</p> <p>SFCG’s objectives were partially achieved. The concepts of citizen control and accountability of the providers were captured by only a part of the population. Thanks to the project activities, some were able to overcome fear and mistrust of community participation in governance. In addition, following dialogues and monitoring of the population, concrete actions to improve at least one aspect of these basic social services were carried out in almost all the municipalities in which the project intervened. On the other hand, in practice, service providers were not more accountable. Actions were sometimes carried out only because they were easy and inexpensive. Concrete actions that would have required more effort and funding, and which would have benefited the population more, were sometimes not considered.</p>
Cross-cutting issues	Governance
Link to evaluation	https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/SFCG-SSB-Rapport-final.pdf

4.8 Final review of the ‘Civil society-led conciliation, LRA demobilization and peacebuilding’ project. 2011-15.

Evaluation	Final review of the ‘Civil society-led conciliation, LRA demobilization and peacebuilding’ project. 2011-15.
Published (year)	2017
Author / Agency	Hans Inge Corneliussen, Gisle Hagen and Lithare Rabele / Norad
Commissioned by	Conciliation Resources (C.R.)/ Norad
Type of evaluation	End-term review
Project period	2011-2015
Key words	Conflict prevention and resolution, peace and security, governance and democracy
Abstract	<p>The British organisation Conciliation Resources (CR) cooperated with local partners to “enable communities and their representatives across Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) affected areas to make more informed and effective contributions towards ending conflicts.” Information for the evaluation was gathered via a desk review and semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders.</p> <p>The establishment of local peace committees which monitor the LRA’s activities, report and solve local conflict and raise awareness, were found useful by local populations. They contributed to conflict resolution and better relations between the population and local government. Advocacy on the national and regional level produced fewer tangible outcomes and there was little evidence to suggest that the project contributed to major policy changes. Improved food production and local conflict resolution in non-LRA areas were positive unintended effects that were reported. The work with women’s groups and organisations seemed to have contributed to more women being involved in</p>

	<p>peacebuilding and creating acceptance of those returning from or assisting the LRA, though other organisations' efforts may also have attributed to this success.</p> <p>Operating in a highly volatile environment, the project proved flexible in adapting to the changing local situation. The project's close connection with local communities and individual voices was thought to have contributed to this. As a result, the project was deemed more sustainable at community level as opposed to regional and national level whereby a discontinuation of external funds and coordination would stall cross-border dialogue. The development approach used (bottom-up and participatory; working through local partners; and using international best practices) proved successful and could be replicated to other new projects. Replicating the project further would first require a cost-effective analysis, as this was not done due to a lack of project accounts.</p>
Cross-cutting issues	Peacebuilding, women's rights and gender quality
Link to evaluation	https://www.norad.no/globalassets/publikasjoner/publikasjoner-2015-/norad-collected-reviews/final-review-of-the-civil-society-led-conciliation-lra-demobilization-and-peacebuilding-project-2011---15.pdf

4.9 Midterm Evaluation of Phase III of the USAID Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment

Evaluation	Midterm Evaluation of Phase III of the USAID Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment
Published (year)	2017
Author / Agency	Integra Government Services International, LLC.
Commissioned by	USAID
Type of evaluation	Mid-term multi-country programme evaluation
Project period	2013-2017
Key words	Sustainable forest and biodiversity conservation, livelihood
Abstract	<p>The Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) was initiated in 1995. Phase III, initiated in 2013, aimed to achieve four intermediate results: (1) targeted forest landscapes sustainably managed; (2) threats to biodiversity in targeted forest landscapes mitigated; (3) policy and regulatory environments supporting sustainable forest and biodiversity conservation established; and (4) capacity to monitor forest cover change, greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity strengthened. In addition to DRC, the evaluation covered the Republic of Congo (RoC) and Rwanda. Four survey instruments provided the basis for the key informant interviews and focus group discussions.</p> <p>The evaluation found that CARPE was instrumental in reducing rainforest loss in the world's second largest tropical rainforest ecosystem. CARPE has had a catalytic role in the development of new tools and approaches to forest monitoring that have benefited the global conservation community. It has influenced the establishment of Africa's first major forest carbon climate change mitigation programme, the Mai-Ndombe REDD+ Programme. By comparing protected areas</p>

	<p>within CARPE landscapes with non-CARPE areas but with similar attributes, the evaluation considered that many vulnerable species would be in much worse condition than they are without the support provided by CARPE.</p> <p>The evaluation also found weaknesses in overall programme design, particularly in strategies to reduce emissions. Livelihood alternative initiatives in CARPE were too limited in scope, under-conceptualised, and too poorly executed to be effective in reducing deforestation and forest degradation, as well as defaunation driven by high levels of bushmeat consumption and trade. Where logging is concerned, CARPE's ability to influence the behaviour of logging concessionaires was mixed, and often limited. Government buy-in in the DRC was limited and the support was declining. In the RoC and DRC, the governments were not adequately supporting the protected area management authorities. Consequently, the protected areas were not fully sustainable.</p>
Cross-cutting issues	Gender, poverty reduction
Link to evaluation	https://www.climatelinks.org/resources/midterm-evaluation-phase-iii-usaid-central-africa-regional-program-environment

4.10 Nutrition Emergency/ Nutrition Emergency Pool in DRC (PUNC)/ DR-Congo

Evaluation	Nutrition Emergency/ Nutrition Emergency Pool in DRC (PUNC)/ DR-Congo
Published (year)	2017
Author / Agency	Mariagni Ellina / Action Against Hunger UK
Commissioned by	Action Against Hunger
Type of evaluation	Programme evaluation
Project period	Not specified (programme started in 2008, previous evaluation was conducted in 2015)
Key words	Emergency response, humanitarian aid, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, resilience.
Abstract	<p>The Nutrition Emergency Pool in DRC (PUNC) was a five-year programme focusing on nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). Its global objective was to contribute to the prevention of morbidity and mortality linked to malnutrition in the DRC through identification and emergency response to nutrition crises. The pool is one of the largest of its kind in DRC. This evaluation focused on community involvement, accountability, and building resilience and is based on a desk review, workshops and interviews.</p> <p>The community understands malnutrition as an endemic issue, rather than as an 'emergency'. Therefore, fast escalation into emergency mode for a short-term programme was not as adequate and needed to consider seasonality more. It was designed through the lens of emergency response and lacked perspective in addressing the root causes in a longer-term manner. Local health centres reported being well supported. Health centres had improved practices and capacities with potential to last, but they differed significantly in their capacities and level of commitment. Most people did not think that the water component of the programme was suited to the issue they faced and</p>

	<p>emphasised that the programme should have invested in structural solutions (e.g. improved water sources).</p> <p>The programme had not yet built substantial relationships with local gatekeepers and influencers in the areas of operation. The evaluation recommended Action Against Hunger to increase its capacity to deal with vulnerability and marginalisation through a strong, multidimensional analysis which moves from considering only gender, to looking at the combination of diverse characteristics (e.g., gender, age, ability, status, income, location, ethnicity, civil status) to achieve inclusion. Action Against Hunger had not yet articulated its understanding of resilience / risk reduction and the evaluation found that the capacity of the programme to contribute to resilience was underestimated.</p> <p>The programme was not able to report on coverage since its indicators were “number of children identified”, rather than “% of children served”.</p>
Cross-cutting issues	Gender, poverty
Link to evaluation	https://punceval.wordpress.com/2017/11/17/final-report/

5. Evaluations published in 2016

5.1 Final Report - Evaluation of DG ECHO's Actions in the Field of Protection and Education of Children in Emergency and Crisis Situations (2008-2015).

Evaluation	Final Report - Evaluation of DG ECHO's Actions in the Field of Protection and Education of Children in Emergency and Crisis Situations (2008-2015).
Published (year)	2016
Author / Agency	Charu Wilkinson, Laura Eid, Laura Hayward et al. / ICF
Commissioned by	European Union
Type of evaluation	Thematic multi-country programme evaluation
Project period	2008-2015
Key words	Humanitarian aid, emergency, protection and education of children in emergencies
Abstract	<p>Between 2008 and 2015, Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) funded 241 actions in Child Protection (CP) and Education in Emergencies (EiE). This evaluation independently assessed the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, sustainability and added value of ECHO's actions in these areas. Methods included documentary and literature review, in-depth mapping and review of project documentation, and interviewing 78 stakeholders.</p> <p>DRC received the highest number of actions (41) and the biggest share of total ECHO funding (20%). Some actions targeted CP and/or EiE exclusively. Others integrated CP and/or EiE within a broader emergency response (e.g. as part of</p>

	<p>water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health, nutrition, resilience building interventions) or actions targeting a broader set of beneficiary groups. The evaluation found that ECHO achieved substantial results in both CP and EiE, e.g. providing access to education to thousands of children, particularly refugees and displaced persons; developing CP infrastructure; providing psycho-social support; successfully integrating protection within EiE actions; raising awareness on risks; etc.</p> <p>A multi-annual strategy to frame ECHO and its partners' activities in both sectors (further supported by ECHO guidelines and tools specific to CP and EiE) was missing over the evaluation period. As a result, in some contexts ECHO's approach to funding CP/ EiE was ad hoc i.e. project-based, whereas in others it was more clearly rooted into a specific country / emergency response.</p> <p>Main factors limiting the effectiveness of ECHO-funded actions were local capacity constraints, shortcomings in partners' or ECHO's capacity and expertise in EiE/ CP issues, insufficient engagement in global policy forums and dialogue, limited parental engagement, and overall low level of security in intervention areas. There was scope for improving the overall added value, effectiveness, and efficiency of ECHO's responses. The evaluation proposed that ECHO develop a comprehensive strategic framework for EiE and CP continue building its sectoral capacity and engage all actors to maximise the impact of its future actions.</p>
Cross-cutting issues	Education, emergency response
Link to evaluation	https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/0fee6b4c-aa44-11e6-aab7-01aa75ed71a1

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