

Programme

A decade of assistance to Afghanistan: In retrospect

EVAL - IEG seminar

Tuesday 18th of September
Venue: Aud. 4th Floor, Norad,
 Ruseløkkveien 26., Oslo

Norway has provided substantial development assistance to Afghanistan through the bilateral and multilateral channels during the last decade. The World Bank through its multi-donor Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund ARTF has been the single most important partner in channelling of assistance to Afghanistan. Both Norway and The World Bank, through their respective independent evaluation units have recently concluded evaluation of their assistance portfolios in Afghanistan. The purpose of this seminar is to present the findings of these evaluations.

12:00–12:15	<p>Welcome Remarks Marie M. Gaarder, Director, Evaluation Department, Norad Christian Syse, Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p>
12:15 – 13:15	<p>Evaluation of the Norwegian Development Cooperation with Afghanistan</p> <p>Anneke Slob, Project Director, Ecorys</p> <p>12:15 –12:45 Presentation of the evaluation report</p> <p>The purpose of the evaluation is to assess the contribution of Norwegian development cooperation with Afghanistan from 2001 to 2011. The evaluation analyses the Norwegian foreign policy including the linkages to development and humanitarian policy against the background of the political, socio-economic and security developments in Afghanistan during the evaluation period. The military policy and interventions were only addressed in direct relation to the foreign policy. The evaluation draws on a representative selection of the Norwegian interventions covering the most important sectors and themes (governance, education, community development, gender), channels (the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund- a multi-donor mechanism to support the Afghan government, multilateral programmes by UN agencies and bilateral programmes by NGOs and a series of other actors) and a specific field study in the province of Faryab, for which Norway has developed a comprehensive strategy.</p> <p>12:45 – 13:15 Comments and discussion</p> <p><i>The evaluation was commissioned by the Evaluation Department of Norad. The evaluation has been conducted by a team consisting of seven international and three Afghan members under the management of Ecorys. The responsibility for the accuracy of data included in this report rests with Ecorys. The findings, interpretations and conclusions presented do not necessarily reflect the views of Norad Evaluation Department.</i></p> <p>The Report can be downloaded from http://www.norad.no/no/resultater/publikasjoner/evalueringer/publikasjon?key=392660</p>
13:15-13:30	Coffee break

13:30-14:15	<p>Afghanistan: Country Program Evaluation, 2002-2011</p> <p>Anis Dani, Lead Evaluator, Independent Evaluation Group IEG, Wash. DC.</p> <p>This evaluation assesses the outcomes of World Bank Group support to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan from Fiscal Year 2002-11. During the evaluation period, Bank Group assistance to Afghanistan consisted of \$2.4 billion in IDA credits and grants, \$100 million in net commitments by IFC, and \$78 million in MIGA guarantees. The Bank Group carried out 107 analytical and advisory activities at a cost of \$30 million to build the knowledge base and institutional capacity during this period. In addition, as the administrator of the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund, the World Bank has managed another \$4.8 billion in donor assistance for recurring costs and investment projects in Afghanistan.</p> <p>Following initial support for essential governance institutions and assistance for high-priority, high-impact reconstruction projects to restart the economy and social services, and livelihoods, the Bank Group assistance had three strategic objectives: (a) building the capacity of the state and its accountability to its citizens; (b) promoting growth of the rural economy and improving rural livelihoods; and (c) supporting growth of the formal private sector. The evaluation reviewed the relevance and effectiveness of the strategy and the assistance program using multiple methods—including reviews of portfolio performance and knowledge services, a beneficiary survey, focus group discussions and stakeholder interviews both within and outside the country—to assess program outcomes in Afghanistan, and Bank Group contribution to those outcomes.</p> <p><i>The evaluation has been conducted by the Independent Evaluation Group, which is an independent unit in the World Bank Group that reports directly to the Board of Executive Directors. The evaluations benefitted from financial support from the Evaluation Department, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation Norad. The findings do not necessarily reflect the views of the World Bank Group Board or Management, or Norad.</i></p>
14:15-14:45	<p>Panel Discussion</p> <p>Anneke Slob, Project Director, Ecorys Anis Dani, Lead Evaluator, Independent Evaluation Group IEG, Wash. DC. Arne Dish, Managing Partner, Scanteam Moderator: Marie M. Gaarder, Director, Evaluation Department, Norad</p> <p>Donor Engagement in Afghanistan - Looking ahead:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for decentralization- Strengthening the sub-national level • Governance – what has been done, what are the results? • Lessons for aid programming in fragile polities

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Directions from Oslo Gardermoen Airport:

Airport Express Train (www.flytoget.no) from the Airport to National Theatre Station, Oslo. Exit Ruseløkkvn.
Walking distance to Norad, Ruseløkkveien 26. Oslo.