



INDEPENDENT EVALUATION OFFICE UPDATE

Issue 3
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Message from Director General IEO

I am pleased to share with you the third Update by the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO).

All IEO activities planned in the first part of the year are on track: five evaluations are ongoing, which will all be completed in 2023; several IEO documents were presented to the Budget, Human Resources and Compensation Committee and to the Board of Directors; the first meetings of the High-Level Evaluation Advisory Committee and the Inter-Departmental Working Group on Evaluation were held; the preparation of the NDB Evaluation

Manual has been successfully launched; the third IEO lecture was organized with Professor Abhijit Banerjee as guest speaker; several evaluation partnership opportunities are being actively explored; staff recruitment is going; and numerous other activities are being undertaken.

With the invaluable support of the NDB Board and President, IEO is consolidating its footprint to enable it to make an appropriate contribution towards a deeper impact of NDB activities.

Ashwani K. Muthoo

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Ongoing Evaluations

IEO is conducting five evaluations which will all be finalized by end 2023. They are a corporate-level evaluation of NDB's Financial Architecture; an evaluation of NDB's COVID-19 response programme, and three project evaluations respectively in Brazil, China and South Africa.

All evaluation reports will be presented to the Board either during the planned September or December 2023 sessions.

The approach papers and further information on these evaluation many be found on the [IEO webpages](#).

Inter-Departmental Working Group on Evaluation

In collaboration with the NDB Management, IEO established an Inter-Departmental Working Group (WG) on Evaluation, as a platform for exchanging knowledge and information, and discussing evaluation matters of shared interest and importance. The first WG meeting was held on 18 May 2023, in which the WG discussed and welcomed the preparation of an NDB Evaluation Manual. The WG will meet on a quarterly basis, or more frequently, depending on business needs.

NDB High-Level Evaluation Advisory Committee

On 25 April, the NDB Board approved the membership of the high-level evaluation advisory committee (EAC). The first meeting of the EAC was held on 23 May 2023. All Committee members took part in the discussions including Alexandre Meira da Rosa (Brazil), Sergei Shatalov (Russia), Vinod Thomas (India), Xianbin Yao (China), and Zenda Ofir (South Africa).



The Chair of the NDB Board (Dondo Mogajane, South Africa) delivered opening remarks. While the Committee will continue to provide valuable inputs virtually in the coming months, they plan to meet in person at NDB headquarters in the last quarter of the year.

The Communiqué from the first meeting is available [here](#).

Evaluation Manual

Within the broader framework of the NDB Evaluation Policy, IEO started to prepare an evaluation manual that will set out the methodology and processes to be applied in the assessment and evaluation of NDB policies, strategies, instruments, processes and operations. The manual will guide IEO in its work, but also serve as a key reference for NDB colleagues responsible for self-evaluation activities as well as NDB member countries. While building on good international practices, the key provisions in the manual will be adequately tailored to NDB's specific development context. The manual will be finalized in early 2024.

The manual approach paper may be downloaded [here](#).

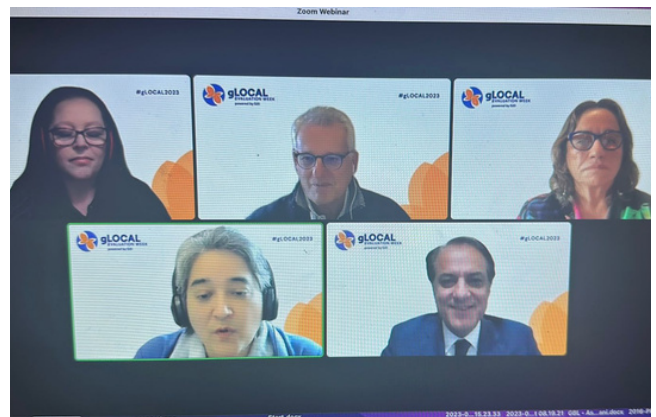
gLOCAL Evaluation Week 2023

The 2023 edition of the gLOCAL Evaluation Week took place from May 29th – June 2nd, 2023, under the overarching theme: 'The Future of M&E: Culture, Context, and Collaboration.'

In this context, on **02 June 2023**, IEO, together with the International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS), International Evaluation Academy, UNICEF Evaluation Office, and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) organized a session titled: **"What are the key collaborative arrangements needed to generate influential evaluations?"**

The event was attended by close to 100 persons.

The recording of the event is available [here](#).



Forthcoming Events

In the second part of 2023, IEO will organize three Evaluation Seminars, respectively, in **Brazil**, **China**, and **South Africa** as part of the corresponding project evaluations, with the broader aim of sharing findings and discussing lessons learned with concerned stakeholders. Another evaluation seminar will be organized in New Delhi, **India**, in the context of the evaluation of NDB's Response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recruitment of Human Resources

Two IEO professional staff have been hired (**Henrique Pissaia**, Professional Specialist and **Chao Sun**, Senior Professional), who joined the office in March 2023. Additional evaluation specialist positions are being filled in 2023.



IEO Lecture Series

IEO introduced a Lecture Series with the aim of promoting an evaluation culture in the Bank and providing a platform for exchanging ideas and insights on relevant topics.

The third IEO lecture on **strengthening organizational impact through rigorous evaluations and evidence** was held on 13 June 2023. Professor Abhijit Banerjee, Economist, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and 2019 Nobel Prize winner, was the keynote speaker and

delivered a presentation on-line, and thereafter, engaged with the audience in a dialogue. The Chair of the NDB Board, Dondo Mogajane, also delivered opening remarks.

Professor Abhijit's presentation and the video recording of the session may be seen on the [IEO webpages](#).

Evaluation Partnerships and Outreach

IEO is an active member of several international, regional, and country level evaluation societies, associations, and networks, including the American Evaluation Association (AEA), European Evaluation Society (EES), Evaluation Community of India (ECOI), International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS), South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association (SAMEA) and the United Kingdom Evaluation Society (UKES). IEO is engaging with the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division in the Planning Commission (Bangladesh) and Bangladesh Evaluation Society, Asia Pacific Finance Development Institute (China), the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (India) and the Brazilian Monitoring and Evaluation Network to development partnership agreements to conduct a range of joint activities.

Discussions have started with CAF for a joint project evaluation in Brazil in 2024. IEO will take part in the 2023 Asian Evaluation Week that will be held in Bangkok, from 11-14 September. It is also sponsoring the Asia Pacific Evaluation Association (APEA) Conference from 4-7 December 2023 in Manila, Philippines. Moreover, IEO is working with ECOI to organize the EvalFest, which will take place in New Delhi from 21-23 February 2024.



Bangladesh NDB Board of Director