

CONCEPT NOTE

{30 October 2023}

**Stakeholders' Seminar on the Evaluation of NDB's COVID-19 Emergency
Response Loans and Consultation on Evaluation Capacity Development**

New Delhi, 7 November 2023

**Independent Evaluation Office
New Development Bank**

Table of Contents

PART A: SEMINAR ON THE EVALUATION OF NDB’S COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE LOANS....	3
A. Background	3
B. Objectives	3
C. Expected Focus of the Seminar	3
D. Time and venue	3
E. Agenda and format of discussions	3
F. Key background documentation	4
G. Communication and media coverage	4
H. Participants	4
PART B: EVALUATION CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT CONSULTATION	5
A. Background	5
B. Objectives	5
C. Expected Focus of the Consultation	5
D. Time and venue	6
E. Agenda and format of discussions	6
F. Key background documentation	6
G. Communication and media coverage	6
H. Participants	6

PART A: SEMINAR ON THE EVALUATION OF NDB'S COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE LOANS

A. Background

1. In 2023, the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of the New Development Bank (NDB) completed the evaluation of the Bank's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The NDB established a facility of US\$ 10 billion to finance activities in support of Government efforts to combat the pandemic in the five founding NDB member countries, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The evaluation of the entire NDB response programme was presented in October 2023 to the Bank's Board of Directors and its findings will be presented at a stakeholders' seminar to be held on 7 November 2023 in New Delhi, India.

B. Objectives

2. The main objectives of the seminar are to: (i) discuss the findings, lessons and recommendations from the evaluation; and (ii) explore opportunities for enhancing NDB's and its partners' capacities and preparedness to respond to future emergencies.

C. Expected Focus of the Seminar

3. The seminar will consider some of the key points from the evaluation that require further reflection and discussion. The final evaluation report and NDB Management Response to the evaluation will constitute the starting point for discussion during the seminar, which will benefit from observations and suggestions of the participants. Some key themes to consider at the seminar include; NDB's and its partners' capacities and processes for emergency responses; coordination between NDB, Governments and other development organizations in situations of emergencies; the elements to consider in supporting more vulnerable communities during emergencies; and monitoring and evaluation systems to collect and analyze data in real-time during emergencies.

D. Time and venue

4. The seminar will be held from 09:00 am till 1:10 pm on 07 November 2023 at the Claridges Hotel in New Delhi, India. A networking coffee will be served at 09:00 am before the start of the discussions.

E. Agenda and format of discussions

5. The seminar will be chaired by the Director for India¹ on the NDB Board of Directors. The format of the event will include keynote statements, presentations and space for discussions and reflection among the participants. While participants are primarily

¹ Ms Manisha Sinha, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, India.

Independent Evaluation Office

expected to attend in person, provisions will be made for participation of selected individuals through virtual technology.

F. Key background documentation

6. The final evaluation report on the COVID-19 emergency response loans will be the main background documentation for the seminar, along with the NDB Management Response. The report, including the Response, will be made available to all participants in advance of the event. In addition, IEO will make a PowerPoint presentation containing the main findings and recommendations from the evaluation. Other background documents will also be made available, such as the NDB General Strategy 2022-2026, NDB Evaluation Policy, and evaluations by other multilateral/bilateral development organizations on their COVID-19 response activities.

G. Communication and media coverage

7. IEO will prepare an *Evaluation Lens*, which is a two-page brochure, summarizing the main findings and recommendations from the evaluation. A press release and media toolkit will be prepared for media attention. Interested media representatives will be invited to participate in the event. Relevant information and documentation related to the seminar will be made available through the IEO webpages on the NDB website (<https://www.ndb.int/governance/independent-evaluation/>) and also be circulated to the participants via email.

H. Participants

8. Participants will be drawn from relevant government offices, development partners, officials from all NDB member countries, NDB project staff, and others. Representatives of the NDB Board of Directors, relevant research and academic organizations, non-governmental organizations, foundations and private sector organizations will also be invited to participate. More than 100 individuals are expected to participate in the discussions.

PART B: EVALUATION CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT CONSULTATION

A. Background

1. The New Development Bank (NDB) has approved over US\$ 30 billion in funding within eight years of its inception, making evaluations critical to demonstrate accountability, improvement, and value for money. The Bank also has a responsibility to assist member countries in enhancing their evaluation systems and capacities. To achieve this objective, the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of NDB prioritizes Evaluation Capacity Development (ECD) to strengthen the NDB's and its member countries' capacity to conduct reliable, transparent, and effective evaluations.
2. In India, there are useful multiple initiatives by various entities such as government bodies, academic institutes, multilateral organizations, civil society organizations, and private sector players to develop evaluation capacity. It is believed these efforts could benefit from deeper coordination, consistency, and a shared approach. The limited dialogue among stakeholders and an ecosystem approach to evaluation pose some challenges. To overcome these issues, it is imperative to assess the current landscape of evaluation capacity development activities, facilitate dialogue among stakeholders, and identify their respective needs, capacities, and roles in order to establish an effective approach.
3. As part of its broader ECD efforts, and in partnership with the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office of NITI Aayog and the Evaluation Community of India, and overall support of the Ministry of Finance, IEO will facilitate a half day consultation on ECD in New Delhi on 7 November 2023. This consultation is an initial step as part of IEO's wider engagement on ECD in India. Similar initiatives are planned in other NDB member countries.

B. Objectives

4. The main objectives of the consultation are to collect feedback from key stakeholders and enable a discussion on the: (i) current landscape and gaps in monitoring and evaluation (M&E) capacities in India, with a focus on, but not limited to, the State-level; and (ii) broad priority activities for the way forward.

C. Expected Focus of the Consultation

5. The consultation is expected to focus on the following areas:
 - Gap analysis: Main strengthens and gaps in M&E capacities at different levels of governance in India and priorities for the future
 - M&E capacity development partnerships: discuss opportunities for purposeful partnerships for evaluation capacity development activities
 - Use of evidence: The need for building capacities on the use of data for M&E

Independent Evaluation Office

D. Time and venue

6. The consultation will be held at the Claridges Hotel in New Delhi, India on 7 November 2023 from 2:30 – 6:10 pm.

E. Agenda and format of discussions

7. The consultation's structure will include selected keynote addresses as well as discussions in plenary sessions and working groups. The consultation will take a participatory and interactive approach, incorporating a blend of group discussions, case studies, hands-on exercises, and presentations.

F. Key background documentation

8. A wide range of material will be circulated in advance of the event such as the NDB evaluation policy and other documents.

G. Communication and media coverage

9. A press release and media toolkit will be developed for media attention. Interested media representatives will be invited to participate in the event, and relevant information and documentation related to the consultation will be made available through the IEO webpages on the NDB website (<https://www.ndb.int/governance/independent-evaluation/>), as well as circulated to participants via email.

H. Participants

10. The consultation will be attended by a range of professionals and practitioners involved in evaluation, public policy and decision-making. This includes NDB staff, evaluation professionals, government officials, development practitioners, and representatives of evaluation networks, private sector, civil society, and research and academic institutions.