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

Details of the Speakers, Presenters and Panellist are available [here](#).

Participants. Over 100 participants from relevant government offices, development partners, officials from NDB member countries, the Chair and representatives of the NDB Board of Directors, NDB project staff, relevant research and academic organizations, non-governmental organizations, foundations and private sector organizations, representatives of NDB Management and staff, media, and others. Additional participants joined through virtual technology.

Objectives. Organised by the NDB Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) in cooperation with the Indian Ministry of Finance, the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (Niti Aayog, India) and the Evaluation Community of India, the central focus of the event was to discuss and share lessons from the evaluation conducted by IEO of NDB's COVID-19 emergency response loans and hold an initial consultation on Evaluation Capacity Development (ECD) in India.

Key takeaways. While broadly agreeing with the findings and recommendations in the IEO *COVID19 evaluation* report, among other issues, participants underlined the following: the need for NDB and others to make systemic policy, process and procedural refinements to ensure improved preparedness for similar future emergencies that cut across countries; strengthen internal capacities to respond promptly to emergencies; expand cross-fertilization of lessons, knowledge and experiences across countries to improve effectiveness; enhance real-time monitoring systems and process including leveraging digital technology to make adjustments to emergency development assistance during implementation for improved outcomes; ensure operational effectiveness, address systemic shocks through a system-level approach; the need to balance the financial sustainability of each multilateral development bank with the scale and size of intervention and innovation; the importance of managing risk and subsequent trade-offs, including by maintaining social safety nets and walking the tightrope between maintaining the general public's well-being and ensuring economic growth.

With regard to *evaluation capacity development*, and building on the experiences from Bangladesh, Brazil, India and other countries, *inter-alia*, the participants noted the need to: ensure deeper coordination of ECD initiatives to ensure complementarity and minimize overlaps for greater efficiency and results; strengthen partnerships at all levels of governance and particularly devote due attention to capacity development at the local level; promote sharing of experiences especially in innovative evaluation methodologies; and conduct evaluation with due attention to customisation of methodologies and processes to local contexts. Further similar consultations will be organised in other NDB member countries as a basis to undertake tailored actions on ECD.

**New Delhi, 7 November 2023,
Independent Evaluation Office (IEO)**