

# Evaluation Capacity Development through Joint Sector Reviews

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# I. Aim of paper/presentation

To analyse how Joint Sector Reviews can contribute to evaluation capacity development

## II. Changing Aid Architecture and M&E

- Paris Declaration: indicator 4 and indicator 11
- Limited progress: in 2007 only 7.5% countries largely developed result-oriented frameworks  
-> challenge: lack of country capacity for managing for development results
- Chicken-and-egg dilemma -> two track approach -> Joint Sector Reviews (JSRs)
- Assessment of 18 JSRs in education sectors of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger

## III. Evaluation Capacity Development

- Capacity development
  - From limited focus on human capacity development (technical assistance and training) to broader view including human capacity, organisational capacity and institutional capacity
  - Quality of output as entry point (EuropeAid, 2005)
- Definition ECD (World Bank, 2002): a systematic approach to the improvement of country institutions concerned with the monitoring, evaluation and reform of public sector activities and programs

## III. Evaluation Capacity Development (cont.)

- Characteristics of ECD
  - Demand for M&E prerequisite
  - Need for gradual building of M&E system, based on existing capacity
- Diagnosis of M&E demand and supply side -> also useful for diagnosis of sector M&E system
- Need of constant M&E of M&E system

## IV. Joint Sector Reviews

- Review: instrument between monitoring and evaluation
- Joint Sector Review: a type of joint periodic assessment of performance in a specific sector with the aim to satisfy donor and recipient's accountability and learning needs

## IV. Joint Sector Reviews (cont)

- Some characteristics of JSRs:
  - origin in Sector Wide Approaches
  - once or twice a year
  - broad range of state and non-state actors
  - input: performance report, financial report and additional studies
  - discussion in several technical working groups
  - conclusions and recommendations brought together in Annual Review Meeting
  - Aide Mémoire is the main documentary output



## V. ECD through JSRs: evidence from the ground

- Neglect of institutional and systematic issues during JSRs -> focus on sector content issues
- ECD nowhere a major issue
- Recommendation in last Aide Mémoire Burkina Faso, but recommendations not necessarily followed up

## V. ECD through JSRs: evidence from the ground (cont)

- Low quality of main output sector M&E system (= sector performance reports) -> acknowledged and (hardly) improved
- Refraining from investing in systemic issues risks to undermine the M&E reform agenda:
  - negligence of systemic issues counter to logic of new aid modalities (shift from content to process)
  - growing understanding of importance of institutional capacity for successful implementation of SWApS

## VI. ECD through JSRs: some suggestions

- JSRs from substance assessment and learning to summative meta-evaluation

### Supply side

- Focus in JSRs on output M&E system as entry point for ECD:
  - Attention to the quality of sector performance reports which form the input of JSRs
  - Identification of necessary in-depth evaluations
  - Use of meta-evaluations to assess the quality of individual evaluation reports for better decision making

## VI. ECD through JSRs: some suggestions (cont)

- Use of formative meta-evaluations to provide insights in the bottlenecks related to supply of performance and evaluation reports -> identification of needed capacity development activities
- Coordination, harmonisation and alignment of ECD activities of donors
- Harmonisation of different parallel M&E systems
- Strengthening of human evaluation capacities

## VI. ECD through JSRs: some suggestions (cont)

### Demand side

- Participation in JSRs: sense of ownership -> prerequisite for ECD
- Civil society organisations: potentially important actors of M&E demand side -> downward accountability
- Donors: stress and emphasise merits of evaluation systems, but without ownership partner countries no sustainable development
- Importance of visibility of outputs M&E systems

## VII. Conclusion

While at present JSRs do not pay systematic attention to systemic or institutional issues, they have the potential to contribute to ECD and to function ultimately as a meta-evaluation exercise.

# Thank you!

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