

The role of NES in developing national M&E systems

Evidence from a survey in 20 aid-dependent African countries

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Overview

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2. Research objective
3. Data collection
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 - 4.1. Organisational features
 - 4.2. NES' contribution to PRSP M&E
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1. Background (1)

- changes in aid paradigms (see Paris Declaration) → M&E reform agenda

Donors

- **Harmonisation**

coordination, rationalisation, exchange of information

- **Alignment**

rely upon and use recipient's M&E

Partner countries

- **Establish results-oriented M&E system (see indicator 11)**

M&E capacity development

1. Background (2)

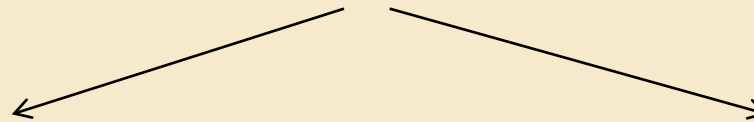
➤ progress in implementation of M&E reform agenda: slow & difficult

	2005	2010
<i>Alignment</i>		
PFM	40%	48%
Procurement	40 %	44%
<i>Harmonisation</i>		
Joint missions	18%	19%
Joint analytical work	42%	43%
<i>Managing for results</i>		
Results-oriented frameworks	2 out of 44 (4.5%)	16 out of 76 (21%)

→ methodology, statistics > systemic issues

1. Background (3)

- chicken-and-egg dilemma
- little strategic engagement in M&E capacity development
 - potential of national evaluation societies largely neglected



partner countries

aid agencies

NES absent from PRSP M&E policies

NES not mentioned in M&E capacity development

...and also largely absent from academic radar

↔ upsurge of NES in developing countries

2. Research objective

- exploring & analysing NES' contribution to country-led M&E
 - a first exploratory study & building block into more in-depth research on NES' performance & factors of influence
 - broaden the empirical evidence base on NES in low and middle-income countries
 - mapping key features & contributions to national M&E
 - focus on countries involved in PRSP processes

3. Data collection (1)

- limited systematic secondary data, particularly on NES in developing countries

→ online survey to fill the gap:

- targeted at low and middle-income countries
- available in English & French
- 40 NES from 37 countries (out of population of 67 NES in 56 countries)
- 24 African countries, 8 Asian and 5 in Central & Latin America

- this stage: focus on PRSP & Africa → **23 NES from 20 African countries**

3. Data collection (2)

- two sets of questions in online survey:
 - NES **main characteristics**

 - **NES' perceived contributions** to their various goals & **opportunities and threats** to their performance

- **respondents:**
 - leading members of NES → social desirable answering

- **survey data triangulated with other data:**
 - secondary data, informal discussion with NES' leaders & members, participant observation

4. Selected findings & discussion

4.1. Organisational characteristics (1)

➤ goals & activities

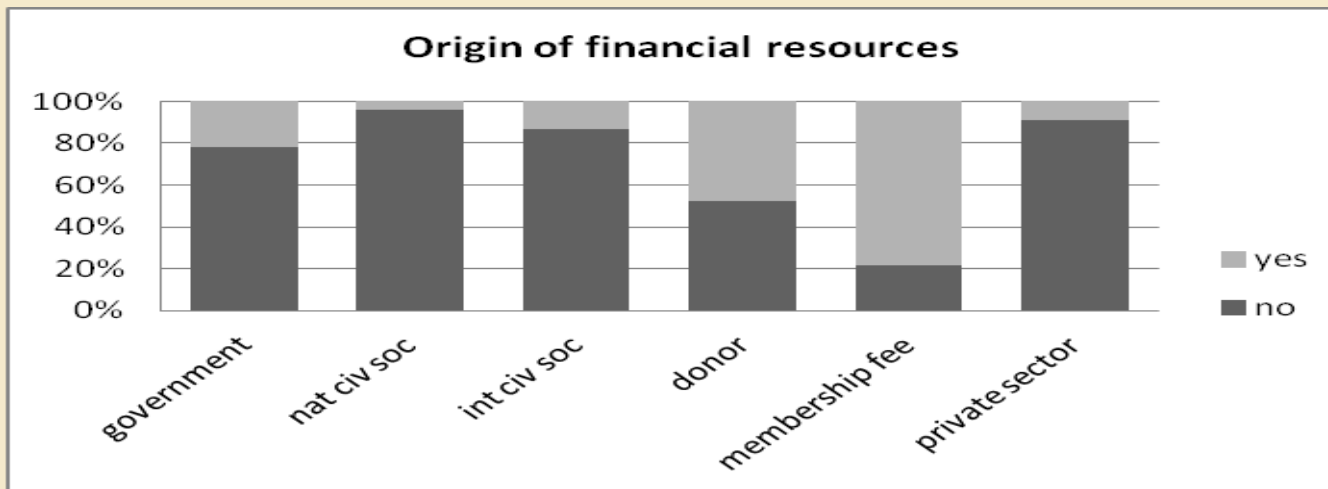
- regrouping into two broad and interrelated categories

Oriented towards its members			Oriented towards policy & societal impact		
Defend the interests of evaluators as professionals	Education & training & capacity building of members	Networking	Policy-advisory work	Stimulate evaluation culture	Advocacy

4.1. Organisational characteristics (2)

➤ financial & human resources

- limited access to resources (budgets & staff)
 - NES are largely and structurally dependent upon volunteers
- origin of resources ?
 - financial dependence → co-optation and ↓ (perceived) impartiality
 - NES diversify resources, with predominance of membership fees (80%)

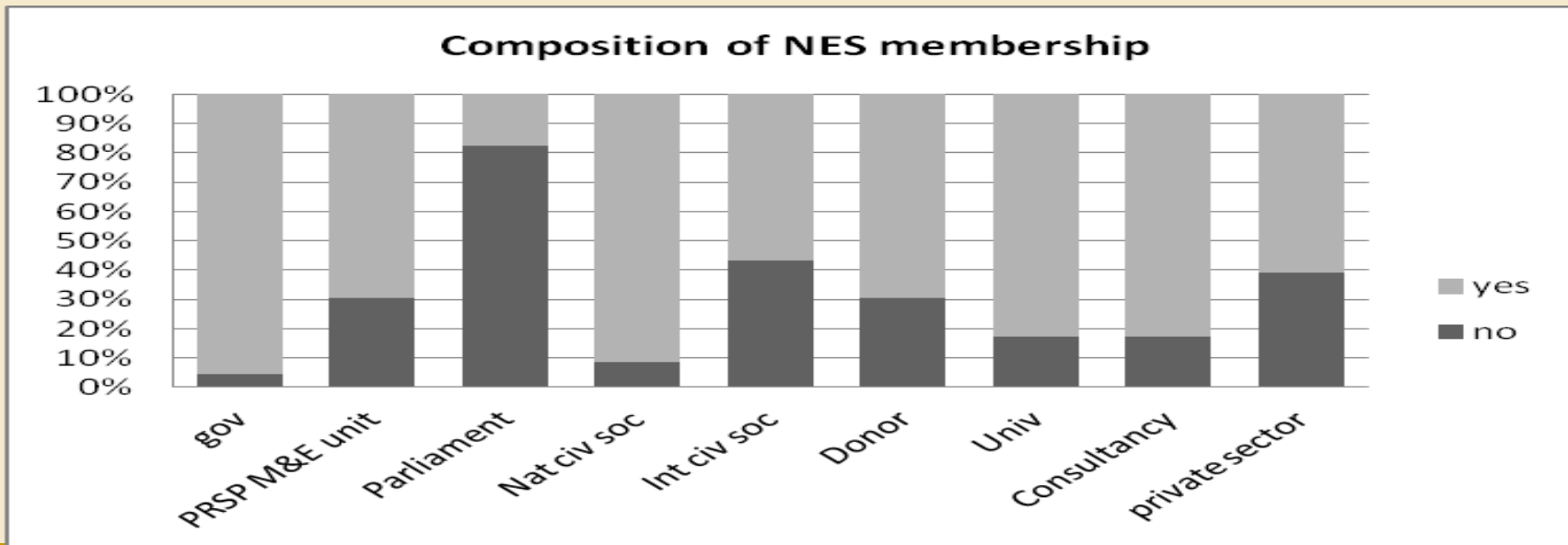


4.1. Organisational characteristics (3)

➤ membership size and composition

- organisational membership limited
- large variation in number of individual members
 - from 4 to 250, most: 21-50

- pluriform membership



4.1. Organisational characteristics (4)

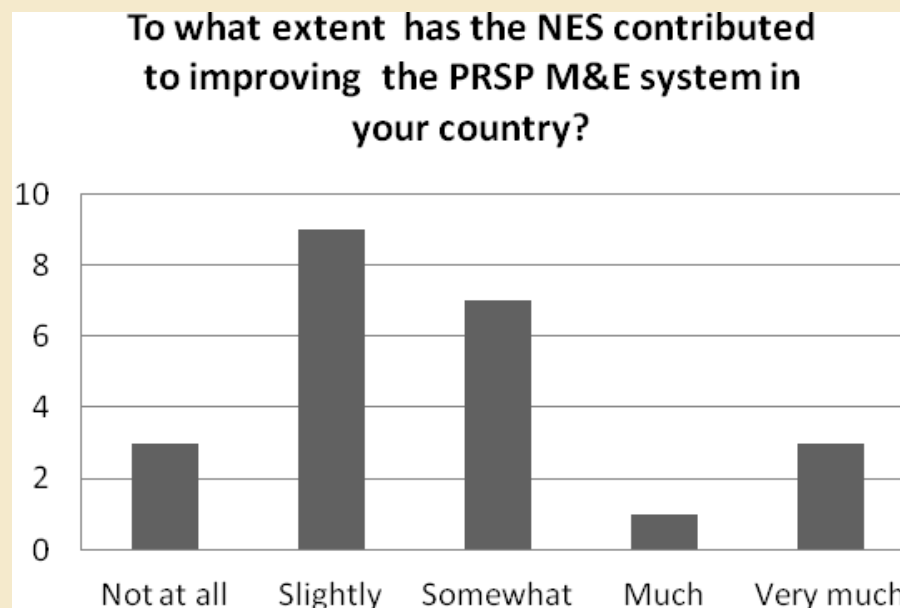
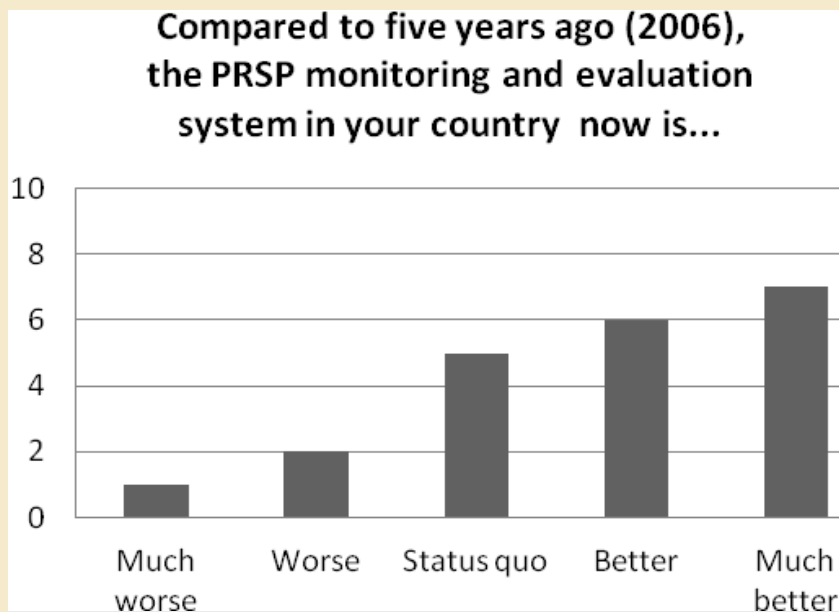
▪ pluriform membership

- identified as **key asset** by NES respondents
 - ✓ diversity in methodological backgrounds
 - ✓ access to different types of information & resources
- **bridging potential** among **M&E supply and demand side** → sustainable M&E systems
- led by **national** M&E stakeholders
 - ✓ truly country-led ↔ blueprints from the outside
 - ✓ domestic demand > aid-generated demand
 - ✓ downward accountability > donor upward accountability
- least represented : parliament (only present in 4 NES out of 40) → ↓ domestic accountability ?

4. Selected findings and discussion

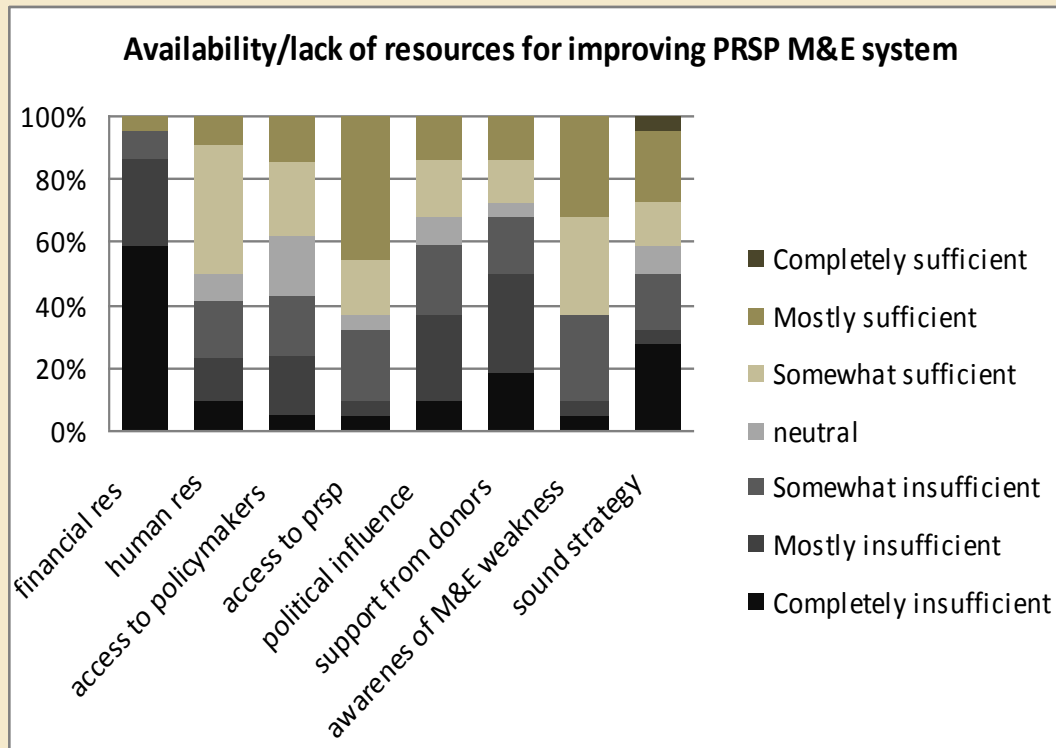
4.2. NES' contribution to PRSP M&E

- NES' perceived changes in PRSP M&E: in line with DAC survey findings
- NES' perceived contributions : modest and unequal
- positive correlation between contributions & progress



4.2. NES' contribution to PRSP M&E (2)

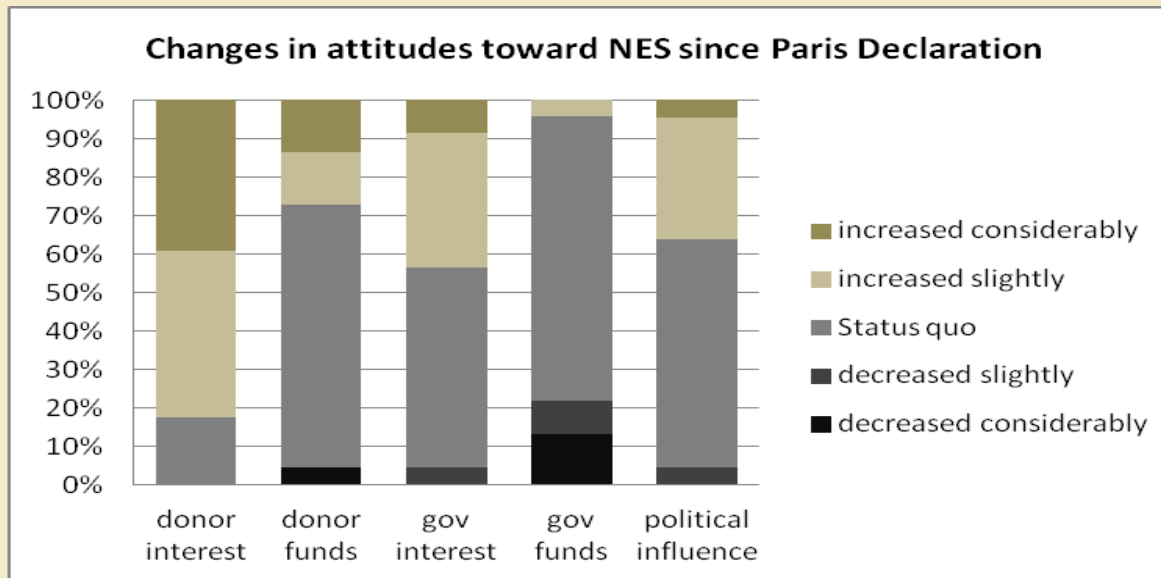
- variation in NES' contributions → influencing factors?



4.2. NES' contribution to PRSP M&E (3)

- any Paris-induced changes in behaviour of donors & national governments towards NES?

- ✓ correlation between donor & government behaviour
- ✓ donor interest > government interest
- ✓ no translation of interest into funding



5. Conclusion - further research

- by virtue of pluriform membership, NES offer an asset for sustainable truly country-led M&E > blueprints from the outside
- interest in NES is growing, but thus far mainly lip service
- need for further in-depth research on NES' performance
 - comparison among different goals
 - analysis of influence of (combinations) of organisational features & contextual factors
 - use of network analysis & QCA

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Website O* platform: www.ua.ac.be/iob/aid_effectiveness

Thank you!

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