Group Operations Evaluation Department

In Brief…
The Group Operations Evaluation (GOE) Department is an independent and specialized body with the prime responsibility to plan, design and conduct the evaluation of the operations funded by the IDB Group in line with internationally recognized evaluation principles.

Primary Objectives

- Guide future operational and policy decisions to improve the effectiveness and impact of the development interventions of the IDB Group.
- Enable collective and effective on-going learning and contribute to position the IDB Group as a knowledge institution.
- Enhance accountability at all levels.

Main Functions

- Perform independent evaluation of operational activities in line with internationally recognized evaluation principles.
- Recommend actions to the Board of Executive Directors to increase the Group’s development impact.
- Disseminate evaluation results and findings of the Bank’s evaluation activities to internal and external stakeholders.
- Ensure that lessons drawn from experience are effectively incorporated into the operational system.
- Support the Board of Executive Directors in its oversight functions.
- Ensure alignment and compliance of the IDB Group business priorities with evolving evaluation standards and practices.
- Promote evaluation culture both within the IDB Group and in member countries.

The GOE Department’s task is to contribute to transforming the IDB Group into a world class learning organization that continuously improves its operations by drawing lessons from the evaluation findings to enhance the development effectiveness of the Group’s interventions. The department strives to participate in the realization of the IDB Group’s overarching objectives as envisaged in the IDB Group ‘1440H Vision’ by promoting accountability, integrity, transparency and knowledge-sharing.

The GOE Department products are guided by a set of principles, including responsiveness to institutional needs; production of reports that generate lessons and recommendations which are useful, ethical, relevant; and compliance with International Good Practice Standards.

Evaluations conducted by the department provide sound assessment of the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, output, outcome and impact of the
IDB Group’s interventions, and sustainability of the development results achieved.

Background

The evaluation function in IDB was initiated in 1411H (1991G) through the establishment of the Operations Evaluation Office (OEO) to evaluate both completed and on-going operations. Subsequently, the scope of the activities of OEO was extended to include other areas of operations evaluation such as country assistance and sector evaluations.

As part of the IDB Reform Program, OEO was upgraded in July 2009 and became an independent department that reports directly to the Board of Executive Directors of the Bank. It was renamed the Group Operations Evaluation Department (GOE Department) and its mandate and scope of work has been further widened. The new expanded role of the GOE Department covers all IDB Group activities, including the evaluation of operations of the Islamic Research & Training Institute (IRTI), Islamic Corporation for Development of the Private Sector (ICD), Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC), and Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC).

Independence and Credibility

Independence is a crucial factor for the objectivity and credibility of effective evaluation. To preserve its independence, the GOE Department does not engage itself in policy formulation or ongoing activities of the IDB Group’s operations units. However, the independence of the evaluation function does not mean working in isolation.

An effective evaluation involves active interaction with operations units. Moreover, a strong self-evaluation system by Bank operations units is a prerequisite for an objective independent evaluation.

Value

The GOE Department strives to contribute actively in improving the quality of IDB Group interventions by facilitating the process of learning from experience.
Product Structure

The GOE Department discharges its duties through an Annual Work Program (AWP) and Mid-Term Business Plan (MTBP). Each year, the department independently selects a set of activities for evaluation and includes them in the AWP. Upon approval of the AWP by the Audit Committee of the Board, the GOE Department conducts evaluations and disseminates its findings.

Way Forward

• Development of new higher level evaluation products, such as corporate, policy and portfolio evaluation.
• Wider coverage of evaluation activities of the IDB Group (IRTI, ICD, ICIEC and ITFC).
• Enhancement of knowledge management activities (evaluation briefs, workshops and learning events, etc.).
• Full alignment of the IDB Group's self and independent evaluation functions with International Good Practice Standards.
• Strengthening cooperation and partnership with other development financing institutions (joint evaluations, familiarization visits, etc.).

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