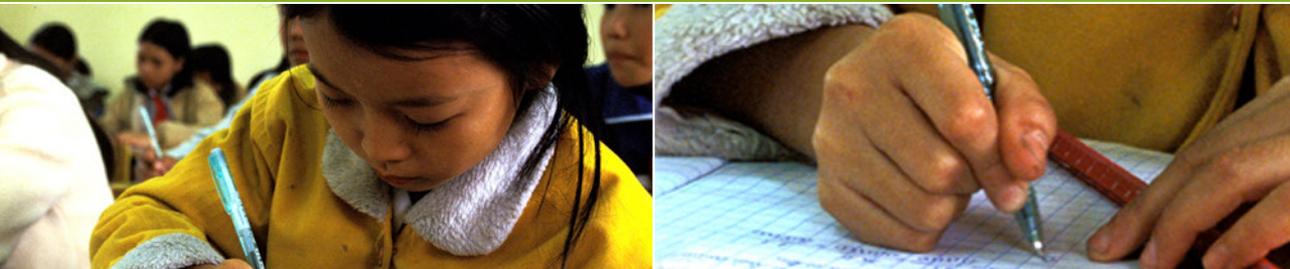


Evaluation of Norwegian Aid
- some Experiences with OECD DAC Standards
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<http://www.concept.ntnu.no/english/>

Evaluation of Norwegian development cooperation – some experiences with OECD DAC evaluation standards

Tale Kvalvaag
Director, Evaluation Department
25 September 2014



Outline

1. Presentation of Norad's Evaluation Department, including principles and standards
2. Challenge: capturing results – what's missing?
3. Experiences with the «OECD model» – similarities and differences

Norad's Evaluation Department

Principles for the evaluations which we commission

- Government regulations for financial management

- Instructions for evaluation activities in the Norwegian aid administration (MFA Secretary General, 2006)

- OECD DAC's evaluation standards for development evaluation

- OECD DAC's evaluation criteria

DAC's Quality Standards for Development Evaluation

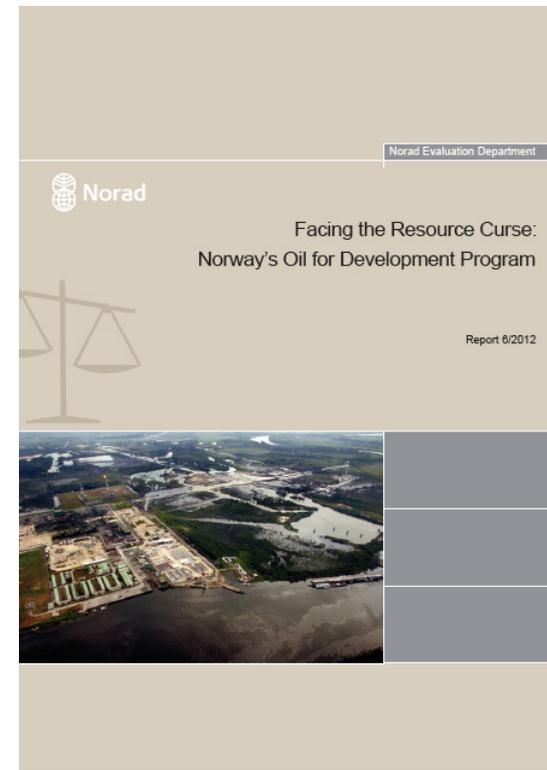
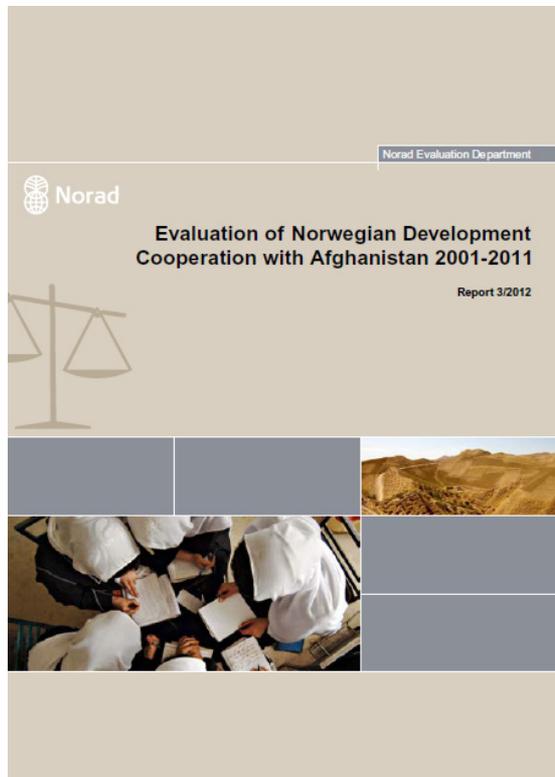
- Builds on OECD DAC Principles for the Evaluation of Development Assistance
- Covers the evaluation process and the product
- For commissioners and practitioners



OECD DAC evaluation criteria

- Relevance
 - Effectiveness
 - Efficiency
 - Impact
 - Sustainability
-
- Additional criteria for humanitarian aid (connectedness, coherence, coverage)

Some examples of using evaluation criteria



Challenge to report on outcomes and impacts

- Our annual report 2011 concluded that none of the evaluations that year could account for results at these levels.
- An evaluability study looked into the reasons why this was the case.
- A recent literature study also pointed out that unintended effects are easily ignored when development assistance is evaluated.

How to capture results?

- Evaluability study: improve tools, but also need for organizational changes (evaluation culture, management priority, incentives)
- Our annual report this year: The need for better preparations
- The need to look into the intervention logic behind the evaluation object ('Theory of Change')



Experiences with the OECD DAC standards

- Quality standards and evaluation criteria are both useful
- But: they only take us this far without looking at the «big picture»
- The need for a Theory of Change and baseline data
- «Evaluation culture»
- What is «good enough» quality?
- Need for an evaluation policy?

Similarities and differences

Similarities: Several

Differences

- Preconception: aid is the most evaluated sector?
- Checks and balances
- Not only infrastructure or large investments (human rights, conflict areas, humanitarian disasters)

How to overcome common challenges?

- Agreeing on standards
- Delimitations (not all five criteria)
- Cooperation with aid administration (evaluand)
- Baseline studies
- Real-time evaluations
- Expectation management