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To evaluate or not: evaluability study of 40 interventions of Belgian Development Cooperation

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Highlights

- initial conditions for quality and relevant evaluations are not always met in Belgian development cooperation
- an evaluability assessment framework was elaborated focusing on theoretical evaluability, practical evaluability and evaluation context
- the assessment framework differentiates among the different OECD/DAC criteria
- the context dimension scores better than theoretical and practical evaluability in particular
- conditions are in place to evaluate effectiveness and efficiency, the opposite is true for impact and sustainability

1. Introduction

Within development cooperation, evaluations have become increasingly important to account for the use of resources, learn from experiences of the past and support future policy-making and practice. At the same time, there is a growing concern with interventions' evaluability which most development agencies define in line with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) as "*the extent to which an activity or project can be evaluated in a reliable and credible fashion*" (OECD/DAC, 2002:21).

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