

KEY INITIATIVES: 2022-23

As part of the COVID-19 Global Evaluation Coalition's work to support credible, independent evaluations of COVID-19 response and recovery efforts, two key initiatives are being undertaken jointly by the Coalition in 2022-2023, in addition to technical and peer learning support:

1. The Strategic Joint Evaluation of the Collective International Development and Humanitarian Assistance Response to COVID-19
2. Country-led evaluations of partner countries' national responses to COVID-19

1. STRATEGIC JOINT EVALUATION OF THE COLLECTIVE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic was an unprecedented test of development co-operation's ability to react quickly, adapt to shifting priorities, mobilise and reallocate resources, and build and sustain a co-ordinated global response. Understanding how the collective response of international development and humanitarian assistance actors played out in practice is crucial to learning lessons and informing future co-ordination and crisis preparedness.

SUBJECT & SCOPE

- Individual and collective responses to COVID-19 of international development and humanitarian assistance providers in ODA-recipient countries and territories
- Thematic focus on equitable access to vaccines and vaccination-related efforts
- Global in scope, with a series of in-depth case studies of development co-operation providers and partner countries
- Evaluation-reference period : 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021

OBJECTIVES

- Document the collective response to COVID-19 of OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members with a focus on where support was concentrated, how, and why
- Situate the collective bilateral response within the broader international context, looking beyond the response of OECD DAC members at those of multilateral development agencies, civil society organisations, philanthropic foundations and other providers
- Generate useful lessons and good practices to inform future co-operation and crisis preparedness

EVALUATION QUESTIONS

Descriptive: How was the international development and humanitarian assistance response to COVID-19 funded and where were efforts focused?

Relevance: To what extent was development co-operation responsive and adaptive to the needs and priorities of partner countries? What factors facilitated or impeded responsiveness and adaptability?

Coherence: To what extent was development co-operation coherent in responding to COVID-19 at the country level? What factors facilitated or impeded coherence?

Effectiveness: What are the early results of the collective international development and humanitarian assistance response to COVID-19 in partner countries?

Forward looking: What good practices, innovations and lessons learned emerged from COVID-19 response efforts? How might they inform future crisis preparedness?

APPROACH & METHODOLOGY

- Utilisation-focused approach: Grounded in the identified evaluative needs of policy and decision-makers
- Applying principles of appreciative inquiry: Focus on strengths to identify good practices for future application
- Mixed-methods design, including a meta-review of existing evaluative work, data analysis, key stakeholder interviews, and a series of in-depth case studies
- A series of 14 to 20 illustrative case studies to provide in-depth examples at the organisation and country levels

CASE STUDIES

- **Development agency (provider) case studies** will examine the priorities, follow through on commitments and funding and programming decisions. They will help identify the factors (positive or negative) affecting responsiveness and adaptability, and assess the mechanisms in place to co-ordinate efforts across actors.
- **Partner country case studies** will examine the collective response to COVID-19 at the country-level, inclusive of national, bilateral and multilateral response efforts. They will examine alignment with national strategies and priorities, coherence across efforts, and the extent to which support helped address the health and humanitarian crises and socio-economic fallout of COVID-19.

Timeline



Interested in the evaluation?

Additional details can be found on the Coalition website:
www.covid19-evaluation-coalition.org

To express interest in joining the evaluation reference group or others ways of being involved, please contact the Secretariat:
COVID19evaluation@oecd.org



2. COUNTRY-LED EVALUATIONS OF NATIONAL RESPONSES TO COVID-19



OVERVIEW

The COVID-19 Global Evaluation Coalition, in collaboration with the Global Evaluation Initiative (GEI), has partnered with three country governments with an interest in evaluating their national responses to COVID-19, including the extent to which humanitarian and development co-operation effectively supported those responses. Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Malawi were selected to pilot this initiative.

Respective national partners will own and lead the evaluations. The Coalition and GEI will support evaluations through the provision of technical and financial assistance, and the mobilisation of resources and international partners.

RATIONALE AND VALUE-ADD

- Provide credible, useful insights and valuable lessons as per the purpose and objectives of each evaluation.
- Improve collaboration among financing and implementing partners to support collective learning and optimise the use of evaluative evidence.
- Support mutual or multidirectional accountability
- Provide useful lessons for other countries and contribute to our overall understanding of the collective global response.
- Help strengthen national agencies' capacities to lead, conduct and co-ordinate evaluative work, while also contributing to the long-term resilience of national coping systems.



Burkina Faso

Ministère de
l'Économie, des
Finances et de la
Prospective



In June 2020, the Government of Burkina Faso adopted their National Response Plan to the COVID-19 Pandemic to ensure effective coordination and operational management of the crisis. The Plan sought to maintain a balance of national strategic priorities (taking into account other challenges Burkina Faso continues to face) and plan for the post-crisis recovery process.

The evaluation will examine the various measures taken by the government, through the implementation of the Plan, to respond to COVID-19 and mitigate its negative socio-economic impacts on households, vulnerable people, the education sector, and small businesses and enterprises. The evaluation will also examine the extent to which international development and humanitarian assistance provided to the country has aligned with national strategic priorities and supported the implementation of the country's national response plan.

The evaluation is led by the Direction Générale de l'Économie et de la Planification, Secrétariat General, Ministère de l'Économie, des Finances et de la Prospective, Burkina Faso.

The Ghana CARES "Obaatpana" programme is a two-phase comprehensive programme that had been developed as a blueprint, post COVID-19, for Ghana's economic recovery and structural economic transformation. Phase one of the programme sought to stabilise the economy (July- December 2020) by reducing the cost of basic services; ensuring food security; protecting businesses and workers; and further strengthening the health system. Phase two (2021-2023) aims to revitalise and transform the economy.

The aim of the evaluation is to assess the relevance, efficiency and early effects of the Ghana CARES Obataanpa programme with specific emphasis on the recovery response efforts designed for the well-being of vulnerable groups in the Ghanaian society. Notably, for women's economic activities, and support for the youth, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

The evaluation is led by the Monitoring and Evaluation Division of Ghana's National Development Planning Commission.

Ghana

National
Development
Planning Commission



Malawi

Ministry of Finance
and Economic Affairs



COVID-19 Urban Cash Intervention (CUCI) is a social protection program implemented to reduce COVID-19 induced vulnerability among the urban residents of four major cities in Malawi. Starting in February 2021, the program targeted 35 percent of the urban population, and disbursed MK 35,000 (equivalent to 42.72 US\$) per month, for six months, to the selected beneficiary households.

The purpose of the evaluation is to assess the unintended effects of the CUCI program on both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, mainly its potential impacts on violence against women, food insecurity of non beneficiaries and labour supply.

The evaluation is led by the Monitoring and Evaluation Division, Department of Economic Planning and Development of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, Malawi.

Want more information? Find additional details, including the terms of reference for each evaluation on the Coalition website:

www.covid19-evaluation-coalition.org

We are looking for other partners to support the evaluations. **Interested?**

Contact the Secretariat: COVID19evaluation@oecd.org

How can your organisation get involved?

- Share data and insights from relevant evaluations
- Seek the support of programme colleagues either at missions abroad (e.g. embassies) or headquarters to provide country specific data or insights on the COVID-19 response
- Co-manage or co-commission an evaluation
- Provide technical support
- Help fund an evaluation
- Participate in a reference group or technical advisory group

