

The COVID-19 Global Evaluation Coalition brings together the evaluation units of countries, multilateral organisations and UN agencies who share an interest in evaluating pandemic response and recovery efforts to support learning and accountability. The Coalition’s collaborative approach provides broader scope to cover important issues that could not be covered by individual evaluation units alone, such as understanding collective results and coherence. The Coalition facilitates learning, communicates evaluation findings and improves evaluation quality to strengthen credibility. Finally, the evaluation units involved benefit from reduced costs by avoiding duplication and sharing resources.

**WHAT DOES THE COALITION DO?**



The COVID-19 Global Evaluation Coalition is an independent voluntary project supporting COVID-related evaluations conducted by participating institutions: project evaluations, institutional evaluations, and thematic studies. The Coalition produces learning products, and provides **technical guidance, communication** and **co-ordination**.



Through a partnership with the **Global Evaluation Initiative (GEI)** and in line with the OECD DAC EvalNet’s mandate, the Coalition also provides capacity support to a limited number of country-led evaluations.

→ *Collaborative evaluations supported under the umbrella of the Coalition provide a more holistic perspective on outcomes compared to evaluations focused on just one project or institution.*

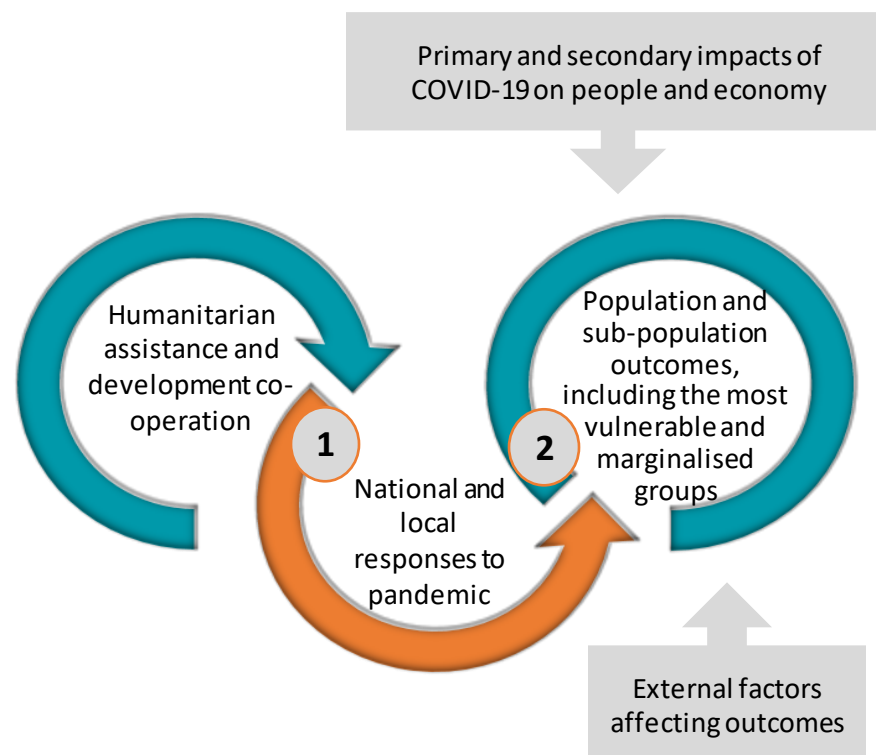
**THE COALITION’S COLLABORATIVE APPROACH**

As with other types of humanitarian and development co-operation, COVID-19 response efforts represent a contribution by international partners to the efforts of national governments and local communities, who are the primary and first responders to the crisis. While focusing on the role of international development co-operation, the Coalition’s multi-stakeholder approach supports mutual learning and collaboration that reflect this reality. **(Figure 1)**

The Coalition’s collaborative approach:

- Improves collaboration among partners to support collective learning and optimise the use of evidence
- Provides credible evidence and insights to inform future crisis responses
- Supports mutual or multidirectional accountability
- Improves our overall understanding of the collective global response
- Strengthens participants’ capacities to lead, conduct and co-ordinate evaluative work

**FIGURE 1.** Conceptual framework: Evaluating COVID-19 responses



**FOCUS EVALUATION QUESTIONS**

- 1** Relevance, coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of international support to national responses (including alignment, capacity effects, distortionary effects, timing)
- 2** Early results of efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and address the secondary effects of the pandemic

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

The COVID-19 pandemic was an unprecedented test of all people and communities. It challenged all governments’ abilities to react quickly, adapt to shifting priorities, mobilise and reallocate resources, and sustain a co-ordinated response. The international development and humanitarian assistance community was called on to complement national measures to address the immediate health and humanitarian crises, mitigate the negative socio-economic consequences, and support recovery. Understanding the role and effectiveness of international development co-operation is crucial to learning lessons and informing future co-ordination and crisis preparedness.

The Coalition is assessing the overall international response through its **Strategic Joint Evaluation of the Collective International Development and Humanitarian Assistance Response to the COVID-19 pandemic**. This global evaluation is guided by Coalition participants through a representative Steering Group, and includes case studies of the response in select countries, with a focus on the role of international development co-operation. It will draw on institutional evaluations and other individual and joint evaluative work. See the next page for details on the evaluation.

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



- A **collaborative learning** project looking at the overall international response to the pandemic – including both the direct and indirect impacts – with a focus on the relevance, coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency of development and humanitarian assistance in supporting the national response, including efforts to support equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.
- Reference period : 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2022
- The strategic joint evaluation aims to provide a global perspective. Selected case study countries cover a range of development contexts and pandemic impacts: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Georgia, Ghana, Kenya, Lebanon, Mozambique and Nicaragua, and a global study on the Large Ocean States/SIDS group. Provider case studies include Czechia, Germany, Saudi Arabia (KS Relief), Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, Spain, the Netherlands, United Arab Emirates, and USAID.
- This joint evaluation, based on the ‘learning by doing’ approach, creates an excellent opportunity to gain insights from other countries’ experiences and share lessons.

## EVALUATION QUESTIONS

**Descriptive:** How did national governments, and development and humanitarian actors respond to the pandemic?

**Relevance:** To what extent did COVID-19 support meet partner country needs and priorities?

**Coherence:** To what extent did responses align to ensure coherent approaches?

**Effectiveness:** What are the early results of the collective (national and international) response to COVID-19?

**Efficiency:** To what extent were funding and programming decisions and interventions timely and informed?

**Forward looking:** What good practices, innovations and lessons learned emerged? How might they inform future crisis preparedness?

## Example: Germany – A Country Led Provider Case Study

- The German Institute for Development Evaluation (DEval) is currently evaluating the German COVID-19 emergency response program (CERP), which ran between April 2020 and December 2021 and disbursed around EUR 4.7 billion.
- The DEval evaluation consists of two modules. Module one was a review of the CERP portfolio (portfolio analysis), focusing on relevance and efficiency. The second module includes an in-depth review of channels and instruments used, looking into effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, and relevance.
- Other country led provider case studies include South Africa, Mexico, and Spain.

## APPROACH & METHODOLOGY

- **Learn by doing:** This collaborative project is a unique opportunity for exchange and learning for all involved. The evaluation process will seek to maximise opportunities for learning-by-doing to help partners increase their capacities for evaluation.
- Identify **what worked, in which contexts, and why:** the evaluation will assess the collective response to the pandemic – inclusive of national, bilateral and multilateral responses – to draw lessons that can improve future collaboration.
- **Apply an appreciative inquiry lens to** highlight the strengths of both individual and collective responses and inform ongoing and future crisis preparedness.
- **Utilisation-focused approach**, planned and conducted in a way that enhances uptake.
- Combine **primary data** (i.e., interviews, surveys, workshops) and **secondary data** (synthesis of evaluations) **collection and analysis methods.**

## OBJECTIVES

- Document the collective response to the COVID-19 pandemic of state and non-state actors with a focus on where support was concentrated, how, and why
- Answer evaluative questions about the overall response effort, covering a diverse range of actors (national and international)
- Generate useful lessons and good practices to inform more effective co-operation and crisis preparedness for governments, communities, development agencies and humanitarian actors.

## GOVERNANCE

- The evaluation is managed by the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate, which houses the COVID-19 Global Evaluation Coalition.
- A **steering group** provides oversight and guidance to the evaluation. The group is comprised of individuals representing the diverse participants in the Coalition and includes a necessary base of expertise.

## WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Find additional details, including the terms of reference for the Strategic Joint Evaluation, on the Coalition website:

[www.covid19-evaluation-coalition.org](http://www.covid19-evaluation-coalition.org)

Contact: [COVID19evaluation@oecd.org](mailto:COVID19evaluation@oecd.org)

## SURVEY: AID AND THE PANDEMIC – WHAT LESSONS TO TAKE FORWARD?

[https://s2survey.net/covid\\_evaluation\\_survey/](https://s2survey.net/covid_evaluation_survey/)

Were you working in development and humanitarian aid in 2020-2022? We want your input! Take this 7-minute survey on your experience responding to the pandemic to support the evaluation and help improve future crisis responses.

