

Terms of Reference

Systematization of evidence from selected mid-term evaluations

The MDG-F Secretariat is currently systematizing the experience of the Fund in several areas of interest related to the Fund's contribution to development effectiveness agenda. This initial systematization of the experience is an effort to distill common patterns of these wide ranging initiatives building on the completed mid-term evaluations in anticipation of the receipt of the bulk of final programme evaluations towards the end of 2012 and first half of 2013. The evidence gathered through the final evaluations will then be examined in the evaluation of the MDG Achievement Fund as a whole.

The MDG-F Secretariat is also seeking to contribute to wider UN system wide coherence discussions over the coming year. We believe that the experience of the MDG-F can illustrate many of the issues at stake. The conducted mid-term evaluations are a primary source of evidence of the opportunities and challenges of UN joint programmes. The areas currently under review are:

1. Contribution of UN operational activities to national development and to strengthening national capacities
2. The functioning of the UN development system: how to ensure relevance, coherence, effectiveness and efficiency?

We have selected six evaluators that have worked with the MDG-F Secretariat over the last year and a half in conducting mid-term evaluations of joint programs across several regions and thematic windows:

- 1) To tap into their wealth of knowledge and evidence through their work in several evaluations;

- 2) To facilitate a discussion among the selected consultants around key findings and potential recommendations based on the evidence gathered through the evaluations; and
- 3) To provide a venue for virtual exchange among peers on the key findings of this mid-term evaluations.

The **purpose of this assignment** is to conduct a rapid systematization of evidence building on the 32 mid-term evaluations already conducted by each of the evaluators.

The **tasks** to be performed by the evaluators are the following:

1. To conduct a desk review of respective mid-term evaluation processes and to participate to 2 or 3 teleconferences;
2. To respond to a set of questions (annex1. Questionnaire) and to prepare a paper based on the evidence collected.

The **calendar** for this assignment is as follows:

Work table to systematize evidence		
Confirmation of expression of interest by consultants	27 January	Secretariat
Terms of reference sent to the selected evaluators	27 January	Secretariat
Contracts amended	6 February	Secretariat
1 st teleconference on the terms of reference	1 February	Secretariat+ evaluators
Papers with evidence systemized submitted to the Secretariat	27 February	Evaluators
Key statements are consolidated and sent to evaluators to prepare the 2 nd teleconference	1 March	Secretariat
2 nd teleconference to discuss statements	6 March	Secretariat+ evaluators

The **estimated time for this assignment** is 15 working days per evaluator. This includes participation to teleconferences, to conduct desk review, and to write a paper to systematize the evidence. We are planning to amend existing contracts once confirmation of interest is received, or prepare a new contract for those evaluators that are no longer in contract with the MDG-F Secretariat.

