Executive Feedback

Title of the evaluation | Outcome Evaluation of the Education Capacity Development Partnership Fund (CDPF) Phase I and II
---|---
Sequence No | 2018/002
Region | EAPR
Office | Cambodia
Coverage | Cambodia
Evaluation Type | Thematic area
Year of Report | 2018

OVERALL RATING

Highly Satisfactory
Exceeds UNICEF/UNEG standards for evaluation reports and decision makers may use the evaluation with a high degree of confidence

SECTION A: BACKGROUND (weight 5%)

Highly Satisfactory

The object of the evaluation is described in detail and the relative importance of the intervention within UNICEF is discussed. The report presents a background section that is informative and provides a summary of the socio-economic and institutional context of Cambodia. Also, the way in which relevant contextual aspects had an impact on the project implementation is discussed and an assessment of the needs of target groups is presented. The report also provides a clear and complete description of the programme's intended results, including a Theory of Change model that was reconstructed by the evaluation team along with a graphic illustration of it, which is included in the annexes. Finally, the report describes in detail the roles and contributions of the implementation agency and its partners.

SECTION B: EVALUATION PURPOSE, OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE (weight 5%)

Highly Satisfactory

The report does an excellent job at clearly describing the purpose of the evaluation, i.e. providing evidence-based findings and documenting lessons learned from Phases I & II of CDPF; as well as at explaining how the evaluation is to be used and who its primary intended users will be. Both the object and the specific objectives of the evaluation are discussed in detail. What will and what not be covered is particularly well explained.

SECTION C: EVALUATION METHODOLOGY (weight 15%)

Highly Satisfactory
The report fully describes the details of the methodological aspects of the evaluation, discussing elements such as data collection methods which are both appropriate for the task at hand and varied so as to purposefully cover the scope of this evaluation and to allow for triangulation of evidence. Data collection tools and data sources are specified; and the evaluation framework, including the criteria retained and the rationale for the exclusion of Impact, is clearly explained. Similarly, the evaluation questions are duly presented in the report as well as the evaluation matrix, specifying the evaluation method used in each case. The report also discusses the ethical considerations applied in the evaluation process, including the evaluators' obligations, respect for the participants' human rights and the participation of children in the evaluation, explicitly mentioning the UNICEF procedures for Ethical Research Involving Children. Finally, the methodology section presents a clear list of limitations coupled with the mitigation strategies used.

SECTION D: EVALUATION FINDINGS (weight 20%)

Highly Satisfactory

The evaluation presents robust evidence to support the assessment made in the findings section and the information is clearly introduced with a summary of the main findings followed by a breakdown of the different levels of evidence collected. The findings are presented following the evaluation framework and responding to key evaluation questions in each case. Both positive and negative findings are presented and the evaluation is strong at explaining the links of causality among the inputs, outputs and outcomes. In addition, the findings include a discussion around unexpected effects and a complete analysis of the intervention's M&E system is provided as well as of the way monitoring data influenced decision-making.

SECTION E: EVALUATION CONCLUSIONS & LESSONS LEARNED (weight 15%)

Highly Satisfactory

The conclusions are succinct and present an analysis of the intervention's strengths and areas for improvement that is forward-looking. They are objectively based on the information presented in the findings section. The report also presents lessons learned that are based on the findings. They are correctly identified and generalized, which maximizes their usefulness in different contexts.

SECTION F: RECOMMENDATIONS (weight 15%)

Highly Satisfactory
The report presents recommendations that are derived logically from what is discussed in the findings and conclusions. They provide clear, actionable guidance to improve the implementation of Phase III of CDPF. Recommendations are presented in order of priority, under different thematic aspects, and clearly identify target groups for action. Also, the evaluation does a good job at describing in much detail the process followed in developing the recommendations and the level of stakeholder participation in this process.

SECTION G: EVALUATION STRUCTURE/PRESENTATION (weight 5%)

- Satisfactory

The report is concise and easy to navigate, presents all standard sections in the customary order, and clearly indicates sections, titles and subtitles. Also, the writing style is straightforward and clear. The only exception to this is that the executive summary precedes the table of contents and list of acronyms. The annexes are particularly complete and greatly increase the overall credibility of the report.

SECTION H: EVALUATION PRINCIPLES (weight 15%)

- Highly Satisfactory

The report does a good job at clearly describing the consultation and data-validation done with different stakeholders throughout the evaluation process. The evaluation uses a rights-based framework and the report language reflects this. In addition, the evaluation presents an assessment of the inclusion of equity considerations and gender in the design of the intervention, along with an analysis of the involvement of duty bearers, rights holders and the most vulnerable children in the object of the evaluation, as per the ToRs.

SECTION I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (weight 5%)

- Highly Satisfactory

The executive summary successfully captures the most prominent information within the evaluation, which is provided in a concise manner and includes only data that is further developed in the core of the evaluation report. The executive summary provides a complete overview of the intervention, discusses the evaluation purpose, the intended audience and touches upon all relevant aspects of the evaluation.

Does the evaluation meet UN SWAP evaluation performance indicators?

- 9 Meets requirements

Recommendations for improvement
Lessons for managing future evaluations:

This is a very high quality evaluation report that observes good practices and can be used with confidence. The evaluation uses a solid methodology that links to the evaluation purpose, and presents findings that draw on different levels of evidence and that explain the links of causality among inputs, outputs and outcomes. The evaluation consistently mainstreams GEEW and equity principles, and a gender analysis is provided in all sections of the report. Furthermore, the evaluation steering committee actively participated in the evaluation, and the evaluation process was highly participative and included a wide range of stakeholders whose input was often elicited.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Observations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>This section observes good practices. No further improvement is required.</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>This section observes good practices. No further improvement is required.</td>
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<td>E</td>
<td>This section observes good practices. No further improvement is required.</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>The recommendations observe good practices. No further improvement is required.</td>
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<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>The evaluation report observes in general good practices. However, it would be recommended that the executive summary be presented after the table of contents and list of acronyms in order to follow the standard of evaluation reports and to facilitate readers' navigation of the document.</td>
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<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>The report observes good practices concerning UN-SWAP indicators. No further improvement is required.</td>
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<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>The executive summary observes good practices. No further improvement is required.</td>
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