



Ministry for Foreign
Affairs of Finland

EVALUATION PLAN FOR 2021–2023

1.1 The following on-going evaluations, based on the Evaluation Plan 2020, will be completed in 2021

Evaluation of Economic Development, Job Creation and Livelihoods

Reinforcing developing countries' economies is one of four policy priorities of Finland's development policy. The evaluation assists the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA) in identifying its most successful interventions as well as developing a comprehensive understanding of related challenges. Furthermore, the evaluation assesses Finland's strengths and weaknesses in order to improve future development cooperation with partner countries and institutions in the area of economic development, job creation and livelihoods. It considers how Finland's objectives related to the Priority Area 2 (PA2) and other elements of economic development in the 2016 Development Policy have been fulfilled through the various thematic approaches, cooperation modalities and funding instruments. The evaluation will be finalized in January 2021.

Mapping of Finland's Peacebuilding Efforts

Peacebuilding, conflict prevention and mediation have been long-running themes in Finland's foreign policy. The Development Evaluation Unit prepares a review on the MFA's cooperation in peacebuilding, conflict prevention and mediation and the results of the cooperation in 2016-2020. The review will be finalized in the beginning of 2021.

Evaluation on Water Diplomacy

Water sector has been present in Finnish development cooperation for a long time but the concept of water diplomacy is rather recent although increasingly dominant. The purpose of the evaluation is to support the MFA in the process of incorporating the water diplomacy in its foreign and development policy toolbox and increase the MFA's preparedness to undertake carefully targeted actions. The evaluation will be finalized in June 2021.

Evaluation on Development Cooperation Carried out by the Department for Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, including the Wider European Initiative (WEI)

Due to the long history of development cooperation in the region by Finland, there is a need for a holistic understanding of its long-term impacts. Similarly, there is a need for understanding whether any such impact has been lasting and sustainable. The long-standing partnerships, a mix of interventions and their continuum, and a range of evaluations conducted allows for a longer time perspective and a track-record of developments in the region. This is to serve the Ministry not only to develop its development cooperation in the region but also to learn from any lessons that can help scale up impact and sustainability in other regions.

The overall purpose of the evaluation is to inform the MFA on the achievements of its development policy and cooperation in the region over the past decade, and to support the Ministry in deciding

how to best achieve its policy objectives and to enhance its management of the programme in the region at strategic level. The evaluation will be finalized in May 2021.

[Evaluation on the Transition Process in Vietnam](#)

Vietnam has been one of Finland's main development cooperation partner countries for almost four decades. Due to Vietnam's remarkable development has the focus of bilateral relations between Finland and Vietnam increasingly been shifting from bilateral grant-based development cooperation towards mutually beneficial cooperation and more comprehensive partnerships. The purpose of the evaluation is to support the achievement of goals for the transition process in Vietnam. From this Vietnam-focused evaluation relevant insights and lessons can be generated for transition processes elsewhere in Finland's partner countries. The evaluation is also expected to help understand, how development cooperation can support this kind of transition process and build new partnerships and cooperation. Furthermore, the evaluation is expected to assist the MFA further develop synergies between development cooperation and Team Finland (TF) as well as between different development cooperation modalities and instruments. Finally, the evaluation is expected to shed light on what the MFA can learn from its peer organizations. The evaluation will be finalized in June 2021.

[1.2 New evaluations to be started in 2021](#)

The purpose and objectives of the evaluations will be defined in more detail during the planning of each evaluation.

[Metaevaluation of Project and Programme and Centralized Evaluation 2017-2020](#)

The MFA commissions meta-evaluations on a regular basis. The purpose of the metaevaluation is to assess the quality of evaluations as well as the overall quality of development cooperation and its results. The results of the metaevaluation will be used in the preparation of the next Development Policy Results Report. The evaluation will start in the beginning of 2021 and will be finalized in the beginning of 2022.

[Finland's Development Policy influencing in the EU](#)

The methods and principles used by Finland to influence EU development policy in a broad sense will be evaluated with regard to all fields of co-operation under the administration of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The practices used by Finland to engage EU decision-making will be assessed. The timing of the evaluation after Finland's EU Presidency, will allow the evaluation to acknowledge the EU Presidency, even if the effects of the Presidency will only be visible in the future. The evaluation will also take into account the NDICI (Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument) and the development cooperation objectives. The evaluation will start in the fall of 2021 and will be finalized by the summer of 2022.

[Evaluation on Humanitarian Assistance](#)

Finland's Humanitarian Policy was approved in 2019. The evaluation will assess the effectiveness and processes of humanitarian assistance. The evaluation results will be used in the strategic planning of humanitarian assistance. The evaluation will assess the results, Finland's position in international humanitarian community, funding, policy priorities (people with disabilities, women and girls) and resources (financial and human). The evaluation will start in the fall of 2021 and will be finalized by the summer of 2022.

[Global Pandemic and Adaptability of Development Policy and Cooperation](#)

Covid-19 and global pandemic effected the development policy and cooperation. The objectives and principles of development policy needed adjustments. The evaluation will assess the adaptability of development policy and cooperation in wide and sudden crises, e.g. global pandemic. The evaluation will assess the internal distribution of work in the MFA, adaptability of funding and cooperation and financing of humanitarian assistance and development cooperation. The evaluation will take into account the Nordic initiative of Building Back Better and Greener. The evaluation will complement the earlier evaluations on forced displacement and country programmes in fragile contexts by providing valuable information to enhance the nexus of development cooperation and humanitarian assistance. The evaluation results will be used to enhance adaptive management of development policy and cooperation. The evaluation will start in the fall 2021 and will be finalized in the spring of 2022.

1.3 New evaluations proposed for 2022 and 2023

The role of Finland's development policy in climate finance and climate policy (2022–2023)

The implementation of the Development Policy Programme (development policy priority area 4) will be supported especially in the context of climate finance related to the national implementation of the Agenda2030. The policy coherence of development policy and the Agenda2030 will be assessed. Finland's development policy investments made together with the IFC and the cooperation with civil society will be taken into account. The evaluation could be carried out as a joint evaluation with the Ministry of the Environment/the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE). The results of the audit on climate financing carried out by the National Audit Office of Finland will be available for the planning of evaluation..

International recruitments and JPO Programme (end of 2022)

The current JPO programme ending in 2023 includes an evaluation in the end of its four-year period. The evaluation results will be used in the planning of the new JPO programme in 2024-2027. The evaluation will take into account also international recruitments and learning from peer countries. The evaluation complements the earlier evaluation on Finland's influencing activities in multilateral organizations.

Human Rights and Human Rights-based Development Policy and Cooperation (2023)

Human rights are an integral part of Finland's foreign and security policy and mainstreamed in development policy and cooperation. They are thus included in the Government Report on Foreign and Security Policy and in the long-term development policy principles. The evaluation will consider also the cooperation with civil society. The evaluation will be based on the guidelines for human rights-based approach (HRBA) published in 2015. The metaevaluation and the evaluability assessment done in 2018 have provided valuable information. The need for evaluation on human rights and HRBA will be reconsidered in 2022 when the reform of development cooperation has been implemented for some time. The evaluation will assess how the reform is proceeding and what kind of changes it has brought.

Right to Education, Right to Learn (2023)

The MFA commissioned a study on Stepping Up Finland's Global Role in Education in 2018. The following year recommendations for implementation were approved and in 2020 a coordination group to enhance Finland's actions in education and learning was formed. The coordination group is lead by the MFA and the Finnish National Agency for Education. Furthermore Finland has strengthened her support to education through multilateral partners (Global Partnership for

Education, Maailmanpankin Coach-rahasto, Education Cannot Wait). The evaluation will assess the implementation of these different initiative and the synergies of development cooperation and education export. The evaluation will take into account different actors in education sector in Finland (e.g. National Agency for Education, Ministry of Education and Culture, Education Finland).

Country Programmes (self-assessment 2022 and evaluation 2024)

The new country strategies and programmes will come into operation in 2021. The mid-term evaluation of country programmes will be done as self-assessment in 2022. The Development Evaluation Unit is currently developing the guidance for self-assessment. The mid-term evaluation of country programme will provide a possibility to make adjustments to the country programmes also due to the changes in contexts. The final evaluation of country programmes is planned for 2024 in order to provide lessons and information for the preparation of next country programmes.

Further subjects of evaluation that will be considered in the preparation of the next evaluation plan: development policy priority area 4 (climate change and natural resources), disability inclusion and thematic evaluation on results-based management (e.g. how the reform process of development cooperation supports results-based and adaptive management).