



EVALUATION PLAN FOR 2022–2024

1. Ongoing evaluations to be completed in 2022

Meta-evaluation of the Decentralised Evaluations Carried Out in 2017–2020

The meta-evaluations assess the quality of decentralized evaluations and produce information on the overall quality and effectiveness of development cooperation. As a new component, the use and usefulness of decentralised evaluations is also assessed. The meta-evaluation produces information for the development policy results report in 2022. The evaluation was launched in June 2021 and will be completed in February 2022.

Assessment of the Response of Finnish Development Policy and Cooperation to COVID-19 Pandemic

The purpose of the assessment is to enhance further the ability of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) to respond and adapt development policy and cooperation and humanitarian assistance in crisis situations by learning from its response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The objective of the assessment is to identify and document the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the management of development policy and cooperation as well as humanitarian assistance. Based on the related findings, the evaluation makes recommendations for future management of development policy and cooperation as well as humanitarian assistance with a view of maximizing the MFA's ability to respond to sudden crises. The results are also expected to benefit the strengthening of the humanitarian-development nexus. The assessment was launched in October 2021 and will be completed in March 2022.

Evaluation of Finland's Humanitarian Assistance

The evaluation is carried out to support the strategic planning of humanitarian assistance and covers the period 2016–2021. The evaluation assesses to what extent Finland's humanitarian assistance has met the needs of affected populations and its interconnections with development and peace interventions. The evaluation also assesses the functioning of partnerships and cooperation in Finnish humanitarian assistance and whether the current balance of partnerships of Finnish influencing is optimal. The management arrangements for humanitarian assistance in light of its effectiveness are also assessed as well as the function and purpose of the 2019 Humanitarian Policy as a guiding instrument for Finnish humanitarian assistance. The evaluation was launched in autumn 2021 and will be completed in September 2022.

Evaluation of the Finnish Development Policy Influencing in the European Union

The evaluation assesses MFA's development policy influencing in the European Union (EU). The purpose of this evaluation is to assess the relevance, effectiveness and coherence of the different development policy influencing activities by the MFA concerning the EU and its institutions, and to provide guidance to the MFA on the further strengthening of influencing activities. The evaluation was launched in autumn 2021 and will be completed in autumn 2022.

2. New evaluations to be started in 2022

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

Human rights and human rights-based development policy and cooperation

Finland's foreign, security and development policies are based on human rights, and the realisation of human rights is a key objective. They are thus included in the Government Report on Foreign and Security Policy and the Report on Development Policy across Parliamentary Terms. Guidelines for the implementation of human rights-based approach in development cooperation (HRBA) were published in 2015, but there is a need to update them. The purpose of the upcoming evaluation is to enhance the effectiveness of the HRBA in Finland's development cooperation. The evaluation will assess the practical application of HRBA in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development cooperation and, in particular, the effectiveness and added value of HRBA in development cooperation. The evaluation will provide information for updating the HRBA guidelines and for the development policy system reform (KeTTU). The Development Policy Committee may also use the evaluation results in its work theme on HRBA, gender equality and non-discrimination in Finland's development policy. The evaluation will start in 2022 and will be completed in 2023.

Natural resources, climate change and safeguarding biodiversity

Climate change, biodiversity and the management of natural resources are among Finland's five development policy priorities. Climate resilience, low-emission development and protection of the environment, with an emphasis on safeguarding biodiversity, are also among the cross-cutting objectives of Finland's development policy. In addition to climate change, loss of biodiversity has emerged as a global crisis in recent years, and climate change and biodiversity are considered as a whole. Activities in the natural resources sector can promote climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as safeguarding biodiversity. The evaluation will assess how Finland's development cooperation has supported and can continue to support nature-based solutions in poverty reduction, combating biodiversity loss, and mitigating and adapting to climate change. The evaluation will be developmental and support, in particular, the planning and implementation of the Development Policy Programme (priority area 4). The evaluation also supports the Action Plan for Climate Smart Foreign Policy. The evaluation will take into account different cooperation channels, forms and instruments. The evaluation will begin in 2022 and will be completed in 2023.

A performance audit of Finland's international climate finance by the National Audit Office of Finland (NAOF) was completed in 2021 and an analysis paper on international climate finance produced by the Development Policy Committee in the beginning of 2022. Both recommended that an evaluation should be carried out. The information provided by these two reports has been utilised in the MFA's climate finance plan currently under preparation. The evaluation on the effectiveness and results of climate finance will be topical later, when the climate finance plan has been implemented for a few years.

Influencing through development communications

The Unit for Communications on Sustainable Development and Trade at the MFA is responsible for communications with citizens, the media and stakeholders in matters relating to development policy and development cooperation. The Unit for Civil Society, on the other hand, is responsible for Discretionary Government Transfers for development cooperation of civil society organisations (CSOs), which also includes support for development communications. The means of communication

have included communication on current affairs, campaigns, media work (e.g. the Development Academy), the Kehitys magazine, public events (e.g. Educa fair, World Village Festival), global education and a programme on development issues for societal influencers. The evaluation will assess the effectiveness of communications, i.e. the extent to which development communication funded by the MFA as a whole has achieved the objective of increasing Finns' awareness of Finland's development policy and development issues. The evaluation will also assess how the different means of communication have worked and supplemented each other. The evaluation will begin in 2022 and will be completed in 2023.

JPO programme and international recruitments

The previous evaluation of the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) programme of the United Nations was carried out in 2012. The current JPO programme lasts until 2023 and includes an evaluation of the programme towards the end of the four-year period. The evaluation will provide information for the next JPO Action Plan for 2024-2027. The evaluation will assess how the MFA has planned, invested in and supported international recruitments and how the MFA's activities have promoted Finns' placement in international organisations. With regard to international recruitments, the evaluation continues the evaluations of Finland's policy influencing in multilateral organizations and in the EU as well as the review of Business to Government platform pilot. The evaluation will start in 2022 and will be completed in 2023.

Review of the use and utility of centralised evaluations

The report on the centralised evaluations complements the analysis of the use, utility and drivers of change of evaluations as one tool of knowledge management. The review also assesses the relevance and implementation of recommendations as well as reporting on the management responses. The review is based on the joint peer review of the evaluation units of Switzerland, Ireland and the MFA of carried out in 2020. The peer review recommended to assess the utility and use of the centralised evaluations. The review will be carried out in 2022 either internally in the Development Evaluation Unit of the MFA or as a separate consulting assignment.

3. New evaluations proposed for 2023 and 2024

The topics will be specified and agreed in 2022.

Evaluation of the Taxation for Development Action Programme (planning 2022, implementation 2023)

The evaluation will be planned in cooperation with the Unit for Development Finance and Private Sector Cooperation. The purpose will be to support the planning of the new action programme.

Right to education, right to learning (2023)

Report on Development Cooperation in the Education Sector was finalized in 2018. The following year, recommendations for implementation were drawn up. In 2020 started a coordination group lead by the MFA and Ministry of Education and Culture and consisting of different stakeholders to consider how Finland could become an internationally more important actor in the field of education and learning. In addition, significant additional investments have been made in education in multilateral cooperation (Global Partnership for Education, World Bank Coach Fund, Education Cannot Wait). The evaluation will assess the implementation of new initiatives and synergies between development cooperation and education exports and it will provide views on how to strengthen Finland's impact in

the field of education and learning in the future. The evaluation will take into account a number of different actors in the education sector in Finland, such as the Centre of Expertise in Education and Development which was established in September 2021.

Evaluation of country strategies (2023-2024)

The implementation of the current country strategies began in 2021. The evaluation of the country strategies will begin in 2023 and will be completed in spring 2024 so that the evaluation results will be available for the preparation of the next country strategies.

In addition, the following topics were raised during the preparation of this evaluation plan and will be considered in the next evaluation plan: development policy as part of foreign and security policy; development policy priority 4 (natural resources as part of economic development); inclusion of persons with disabilities; continuation of the thematic evaluations of results-based management (e.g. how the development policy system reform, KeTTU, supports results-based and adaptive management); promotion of the rights and status of indigenous people; and a meta-analysis of programme-based support organisations.