



Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation

Report on the Assessment of Government Evaluations

Evaluation Title:	Evaluation of Budget Support in South Africa
Evaluation Number:	418
Evaluation Completion Date:	30 September 2013
Period of Evaluation:	2000-2011
Submitted:	03 February 2014 by Tim Mosdell
Approved:	04 February 2014 by Mike Leslie

Evaluation Details

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Known Cost:	R 6,000,000.00
Known Cost Type:	Estimate
Initiated By:	European Commission
Initiated By Internal:	No
Undertaken By:	Particip
Undertaken By Internal:	No

Assessors

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Assessment Documents

Document Name:	Document Type:	Added By:	Added On:
Volume 1 - 130930.pdf	Evaluation report	Mike Leslie	27 November 2013
Volume 3 - 130930.pdf	Evaluation report	Mike Leslie	27 November 2013
Volume 2 - 130930.pdf	Evaluation report	Tim Mosdell	29 January 2014
Assessment Report at Moderation.pdf	Assessment Report at Moderation	Mike Leslie	31 January 2014

Quality Assessment Summary

This is an exceptionally good quality evaluation, scoring 4.02 using the assessment tool. In terms of the phases of the evaluation, the planning and design of the project was particularly strong (4.25) and is partly the result of years of ongoing work by the OECD - Development Assistance Committee. The methodology deployed in the evaluation was appropriate to the study and while being ambitious, was well executed, despite significant challenges. The evaluation report was also strong (4.02). The main report was well structured and followed a clear logic. The objectives of the study translated well into research questions, which in turn structured the analysis. The findings, conclusions and recommendations were all well articulated and well supported by evidence. The conclusions were all cross referenced to the research questions, and the recommendations similarly cross referenced to the conclusions, making for a highly coherent and compelling report. The evaluation was conducted on time and on budget and was particularly well resourced from a skills point of view.

In terms of Overarching Considerations, the evaluation was particularly strong in terms of a partnership approach and consultation. Consultation was robust during all phases of the evaluation resulting in a score of 4.44. Related to this, coordination and alignment was also a strong feature with a score of 4.13. Quality control was also robust at 4.11. The one area where the evaluation did not score well was in terms of capacity development, but it was not the objective of the project to play this role.

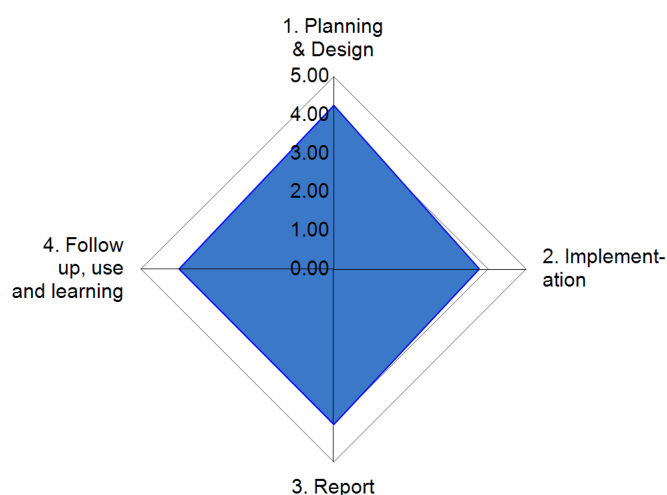
This is an important study as it provides a strong rationale for the continuation of budget support activities in South Africa, and as such has important implications for implementing departments and National Treasury.

Quality Assessment Scores

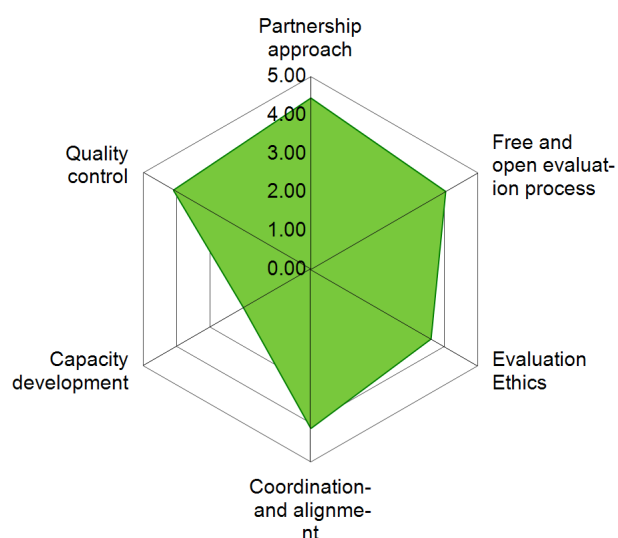
Phase of Evaluation	Score
1. Planning & Design	4.25
2. Implementation	3.79
3. Report	4.03
4. Follow-up, use and learning	4.00
Total	4.02

Overarching Consideration	Score
Partnership approach	4.44
Free and open evaluation process	4.04
Evaluation Ethics	3.61
Coordination and alignment	4.13
Capacity development	2.00
Quality control	4.11
Total	4.02

Scores: Phases of Evaluation



Scores: Overarching Considerations



Phase of Evaluation	Area of Evaluation	Score
1. Planning & Design	1.1. Quality of the TOR	4.21
1. Planning & Design	1.2. Adequacy of resourcing	4.09
1. Planning & Design	1.3. Alignment to policy context and background literature	4.60
1. Planning & Design	1.4. Appropriateness of the evaluation design and methodology	4.17
1. Planning & Design	1.5. Project management (Planning phase)	5.00
2. Implementation	2.1. Evaluation ethics and independence	3.64
2. Implementation	2.2. Participation and M&E skills development	3.30
2. Implementation	2.3. Methodological integrity	4.04
2. Implementation	2.4. Project management (Implementation phase)	4.00
3. Report	3.1. Completeness of reporting structure	4.00
3. Report	3.2. Accessibility of content	3.73
3. Report	3.3. Robustness of findings	4.00
3. Report	3.4. Strength of conclusions	4.29
3. Report	3.5. Suitability of recommendations	4.46
3. Report	3.6. Consideration of reporting risks and ethical implications	3.77
3. Report	3.7. Project management (Reporting phase)	
4. Follow-up, use and learning	4.1. Resource utilisation	4.00
4. Follow-up, use and learning	4.2. Evaluation use	4.00
Total	Total	4.02

1. Planning & Design

1.1. Quality of the TOR

Standard:	1.1.1. The evaluation was guided by a well-structured and complete TOR or a well-structured and complete internal evaluation proposal
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation was guided by a comprehensive TOR dated 13 July 2012. The TOR is a comprehensive document in its own right and was underpinned by substantial research and methodological detail, including contextual detail and a methodology that is the result of many years of planning and design.
Rating:	5
Standard:	1.1.2. The purpose of the evaluation stated in the TOR (or an internal evaluation proposal) was clear and explicit
Comment and Analysis:	The purpose of the evaluation was set out in the TOR and was to assess the extent to which Budget Support in SA contributed to achieving sustainable results on employment creation and poverty reduction via sustainable growth and the provision of social services.
Rating:	4
Standard:	1.1.3. The evaluation questions in the TOR (or an internal evaluation proposal) were clearly stated and appropriate for addressing the evaluation purpose
Comment and Analysis:	Indicative evaluation issues were clearly stated in the TOR, on the explicit understanding that they would be refined and translated into evaluation questions that are adapted to the SA context once the project commenced.
Rating:	4
Standard:	1.1.4. The approach and type of evaluation was suited to the purpose and scope of the evaluation TOR (or an internal evaluation proposal)
Comment and Analysis:	The approach outlined in the TOR involves three steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Assessing the inputs provided by budget support,- Assessing the outcomes of budget support, and- Synthesising the findings and drawing conclusions around how budget support has contributed to changes in SA. This approach is well suited to the purpose and scope of the evaluation TOR.
Rating:	4
Standard:	1.1.5. The TOR (or an internal evaluation proposal) identified the intended users of the evaluation and their information needs
Comment and Analysis:	The TOR identifies Donors and the SA Government as the intended users of the evaluation, with their information needs being directly related to maximising budget support impacts in the country.
Rating:	4

Standard:	1.1.6. Key stakeholders were involved in the scoping of the TOR and choosing the purpose of the evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	Key stakeholders were involved in the scoping of the TOR. Within the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC), several evaluation departments of bilateral and multilateral aid agencies took the initiative for providing more rigorous evidence and, over time, developed a methodology for the evaluation of budget support. This is given expression in the TOR.
Rating:	4

1.2. Adequacy of resourcing

Standard:	1.2.1. The evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of time allocated
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of time allocated. The evaluation spanned approximately a year, with the signing of the contract in September 2012 and the draft final report being presented in Sept 2013. The project was not conceptualised at the start of the intervention, but rather took shape over time with the development of the OECD/DAC Framework.
Rating:	4

Standard:	1.2.2. The evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of original budget
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of the original budget, although the evaluation team did indicate that, had there been more budget, the project could have benefitted from primary research instead of relying on outputs from previous/other studies. Nevertheless, in their view, this did not materially compromise the quality of the evaluation.
Rating:	4

Standard:	1.2.3. The evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of staffing and skills sets
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of staffing and skills sets and included highly experienced international experts and local resources. Vincenzo Caputo, the team leader, is a well known expert in methodology for the evaluation of budget support operations at country level.
Rating:	5

Standard:	1.2.4. Where appropriate, the evaluation planned to incorporate an element of capacity building of partners/staff responsible for the evaluand
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation did not explicitly plan to incorporate an element of capacity building of partners and staff, although it was implicitly understood that partners would learn and benefit through the process.
Rating:	2

1.3. Alignment to policy context and background literature

Standard: 1.3.1. There was evidence that a review of the relevant policy and programme environments had been conducted and used in planning the research

Comment and Analysis: There is ample evidence that a review of the relevant policy and programme environment was conducted in planning the evaluation. This context is explicitly outlined in the TOR.

Rating: 4

Standard: 1.3.2. There was evidence of a review of appropriate literature having been conducted and used in planning the research

Comment and Analysis: There is strong evidence of a review of appropriate literature. Indeed, a comprehensive indicative reference list for the evaluation was appended to the TOR.

Rating: 5

1.4. Appropriateness of the evaluation design and methodology

Standard: 1.4.1. There was explicit reference to the intervention logic or the theory of change of the evaluand in the planning of the evaluation

Comment and Analysis: There was explicit reference to the intervention logic. According to the 3 step methodology, the intervention logic of the evaluation is based on a comprehensive evaluation framework, which includes a specific theory of change - namely that government and civil society actions, in their interaction with the context, play a direct role in the determination of development results. The inputs and direct effects of budget support provide a contribution to enhance the government and civil society strategies/action.

Rating: 5

Standard: 1.4.2. Key stakeholders were consulted on the design and methodology of the evaluation

Comment and Analysis: Key stakeholders were consulted on the design and methodology of the evaluation. An inception mission in SA included consultation with National Treasury, the DPME, and implementing Departments. The focal point of consultations was between the evaluation team and the National Treasury - International Development Cooperation Unit.

Rating: 4

Standard: 1.4.3. The planned methodology was appropriate to the questions being asked

Comment and Analysis: The planned 3 step methodology was appropriate to the questions being asked.

Rating: 4

Standard:	1.4.4. Sampling was appropriate and adequate given focus and purpose of evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	Sampling was appropriate and good given the focus and purpose of the evaluation with approximately 170 key informants met across various sectors.
Rating:	4
Standard:	1.4.5. There was a planned process for using the findings of the evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	There was a planned process for using the findings of the evaluation. A key element of the intervention logic and theory of change refers to the action and strategies of government and civil society. The TOR is also explicit around dissemination of the final report to national core stakeholders, the donor community, and the wider community of political leaders, government officials, academics, civil society organisations and private sector representatives.
Rating:	4

1.5. Project management (Planning phase)

Standard:	1.5.1. The inception phase was used to develop a common agreement on how the evaluation would be implemented
Comment and Analysis:	A comprehensive inception mission was used to develop a common agreement on how the evaluation would be implemented. This resulted in active engagement with the TOR on the part of DPME, National Treasury and Implementing Departments. During this phase, the methodology was refined and the sectors for review finalised.
Rating:	5

2. Implementation

2.1. Evaluation ethics and independence

Standard: 2.1.1. Where data was gathered in contexts where ethical sensitivity is high, appropriate clearance was achieved through an ethics review board; e.g. in evaluation involving minors, institutions where access usually requires ethical or bureaucratic clearance, and situations where assurances of confidentiality was offered to participants

Comment and Analysis: As an European Commission evaluation, the project was subject to the ethical oversight of the European Parliament. Apart from this no specific ethics clearance was deemed necessary. During the project, however, care was taken to ensure the identity of key informants, particularly those involved in story telling relating to access to justice, was not disclosed.

Rating: 3

Standard: 2.1.2. Where external, the evaluation team was able to work freely without significant interference

Comment and Analysis: The evaluation team was able to work freely without interference. During the course of the evaluation, various stakeholders expressed strong interests, but this was not regarded as interference by the evaluation team.

Rating: 4

Standard: 2.1.3. The evaluation team was impartial and there was no evidence of conflict of interest

Comment and Analysis: There was no evidence of conflict of interest.

Rating: 4

2.2. Participation and M&E skills development

Standard: 2.2.1. Key stakeholders were consulted through a formalised mechanism or institutional arrangement

Comment and Analysis: Key stakeholders were consulted through a number of formal mechanisms. There was a strong consultative element to the inception mission at the beginning of the project. Consultation also occurred in both the Management Group and the Reference Group which met regularly. In addition to this, in depth consultation meetings were also held around each of the three focus sectors (Governance, Economic Development, Water).

Rating: 5

Standard: 2.2.2. Where appropriate, an element of capacity building of partners responsible for the evaluand was incorporated into the evaluation process

Comment and Analysis: Capacity building was not explicitly incorporated into the evaluation process, although local stakeholders involved in the project gathered experience and learned through the process.

Rating: 2

Standard:	2.2.3. Where appropriate, the evaluation team incorporated an element of skills development amongst the evaluators (e.g. students, interns, recent graduates, etc)
Comment and Analysis:	Capacity building was not explicitly incorporated into the evaluation process, although the evaluators involved in the project deepened their experience and learned through the process.
Rating:	2

Standard:	2.2.4. Peer review of the agreed evaluation design and methodology occurred prior to undertaking data collection
Comment and Analysis:	The methodology used was a result of a five year initiative of the OECD - Development Assistance Committee. This process involved numerous revisions and reviews, and was subject to quality control measures including peer review.
Rating:	4

2.3. Methodological integrity

Standard:	2.3.1. The methods employed in the process of the evaluation were consistent with those planned
Comment and Analysis:	The methods employed in the evaluation were consistent with those outlined in the TOR, although refinements were made during the inception mission.
Rating:	4

Standard:	2.3.2. A pilot of data collection instrumentation occurred prior to undertaking data collection
Comment and Analysis:	The methodology was piloted in the design phase undertaken by the OECD - Development Assistance Committee.
Rating:	4

Standard:	2.3.3. Data collection was not compromised by fieldwork-level problems or unplanned diversions from original intentions
Comment and Analysis:	Fieldwork challenges were experienced, particularly around ensuring that data inconsistencies were cleaned up. Part of the problem was that data required spanned many years and was not consistently collected, hence requiring cleaning and validation. Assumptions needed to be made at times. However, these challenges were adequately resolved.
Rating:	3

Standard:	2.3.4. Forms of data gathering were appropriate given the scope of evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	The forms of data gathering were appropriate given the scope of the evaluation. Data gathering across the different sectors was a large and complex undertaking. Three forms of quantitative data were collected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financial Data (sector budget and expenditure), - Administrative data (data on activities implemented under the various public programmes and related outputs), - Data on development results (sectoral trends). In addition to this, qualitative methods were used to support the quantitative data (interviews with informed persons and story-telling).
Rating:	4

Standard:	2.3.5. The data analysis approach and methods were appropriate and sufficient given the purposes of the evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	The data analysis approach and methods were appropriate given the purpose of the evaluation. The three step approach, including an assessment of inputs, an assessment of outcomes, and synthesising conclusions, was well suited to the purposes of the evaluation.
Rating:	4

Standard:	2.3.6. Key stakeholders were significantly engaged as part of the methodology
Comment and Analysis:	Approximately 170 key role-players were interviewed as part of the methodology. These interviews covered overarching issues related to budget support and also spanned the focus sector areas. A number of interviews were also conducted with stakeholders in non-forcal areas. In addition to this, in depth group engagement meetings were also held around each of the three focus sectors (Governance, Economic Development, Water).
Rating:	5

Standard:	2.3.7. The methodology included engaging beneficiaries appropriately as a key source of data and information
Comment and Analysis:	Given that the key beneficiaries of the project were government officials, donors and civil society, the bulk of the qualitative work of the evaluation involved engaging with beneficiaries as a key source of data and information.
Rating:	4

2.4. Project management (Implementation phase)

Standard:	2.4.1. The evaluation was conducted without significant shifts to scheduled project milestones and timeframes
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation was conducted without significant shifts to scheduled project milestones and timeframes.
Rating:	4

3. Report

3.1. Completeness of reporting structure

Standard:	3.1.1. Executive summary captures key components of the report appropriately
Comment and Analysis:	An executive summary clearly sets out the main components of the report.
Rating:	4
Standard:	3.1.2. The context of the development intervention is explicit and presented as relevant to the evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	The context of the development intervention is explicitly included in the report, and is set out comprehensively.
Rating:	4
Standard:	3.1.3. There is a clear rationale for the evaluation questions
Comment and Analysis:	There is a clear rationale for the ten evaluation questions. These questions were related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Relevance and design of the budget support,- The policy dialogue,- Financial inputs,- Public spending/budget management,- Policy formulation/implementation processes,- Employment and private sector development,- Water,- Access to justice/legislative- Other sectors,- Impact.
Rating:	4
Standard:	3.1.4. The scope or focus of the evaluation is apparent in the report
Comment and Analysis:	The scope of the evaluation is apparent in the report and enjoys a dedicated section at the beginning of the report, where the period of review is outlined, as well as the fact that the evaluation only covers budget support operations funded by the EU. The thematic scope of the evaluation is also presented in this section which includes sectors that receive or received EU budget support.
Rating:	4
Standard:	3.1.5. A detailed methodology is outlined in the relevant section of the report to the point that a reader can understand the data collection, analysis and interpretation approaches used
Comment and Analysis:	The methodology is comprehensively outlined in relevant sections of the report, and is accessible to a wide range of readers. The methodology is succinctly summarised in the executive summary and is accessible to a wide range of readers, including lay people. The body of the report includes the detailed methodology and is accessible to readers familiar with evaluation methodology and with the sectors covered.
Rating:	4

Standard:	3.1.6. Acknowledgement of limitations of all aspects of the methodology and findings are clearly and succinctly articulated
Comment and Analysis:	Acknowledgement of the limitations of the methodology is articulated in a dedicated section of the report and focuses primarily on the challenges of collecting data over different time periods and of the availability of information.
Rating:	4
Standard:	3.1.7. Key findings are presented in a clear way; they are made distinct from uncertain or speculative findings; and unused data is not presented in the body of the report
Comment and Analysis:	The key findings are presented in a clear way and are expressed as answers to the evaluation questions, and are organised according to the ten research questions. The findings are then summarised in a section of the report which provides an Overall Assessment.
Rating:	4
Standard:	3.1.8. Conclusions and recommendations are clear and succinctly articulated
Comment and Analysis:	The conclusions and recommendations are clearly articulated and grouped into four clusters in the report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cluster 1 (Development co-operation: priorities and modalities) - Cluster 2 (Value added of the EU-SA development co-operation) - Cluster 3 (Outcomes and impacts at sector level) - Cluster 4 (Other key issues regarding the implementation of the budget support modality in South Africa).
Rating:	4

3.2. Accessibility of content

Standard:	3.2.1. The final evaluation report is user-friendly, written in accessible language and its content follows a clear logic
Comment and Analysis:	The report follows a clear logic with Volume 1 representing the main report. The main report is user-friendly and structured as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction, - Context, - Key methodological elements, - Answers to the evaluation questions, - Overall assessment, - Conclusions, and - Recommendations. Volume 2 provides a detailed information matrix - it contains denser information and is less accessible to the lay reader but contains significant data and evidence backing up the main report. Volume 3 represents the appendices to the report and includes the TOR, Evaluation Matrix, additional context information, list of informants, list of references, and a glossary.
Rating:	4

Standard: 3.2.2. Quality of writing and presentation is adequate for publication including: adequate layout and consistent formatting; complete sentences and no widespread grammatical or typographical errors; consistency of style and writing conventions (e.g. tense, perspective (first person, third person); levels of formality; references complete and consistent with cited references in reference list and vice versa; etc.

Comment and Analysis: The quality of the writing is good and is free of significant grammatical or typological errors. The layout of the report in its current form is not visually appealing and could be improved. Although a list of abbreviations and acronyms is provided, the body of the report uses too many abbreviations, detracting from the general flow. Despite these issues, the quality of the report is adequate for publication.

Rating: 3

Standard: 3.2.3. Appropriate conventions are used in presentation of data (e.g. use of appropriate statistical language; reporting of p-values where appropriate; not reporting statistically insignificant findings as significant; clarifying disaggregation categories in constructing percentages; not using quantitative language in reporting qualitative data, etc.)

Comment and Analysis: Appropriate conventions are used in the presentation of data.

Rating: 4

Standard: 3.2.4. The use of figures and tables is such that it supports communication and comprehension of results; and data reported in figures and tables are readily discernible and useful to a reader familiar with data presentation conventions

Comment and Analysis: The use of figures and tables in the report support communication and understanding of the results.

Rating: 4

3.3. Robustness of findings

Standard: 3.3.1. Data analysis appears to have been well executed

Comment and Analysis: The data analysis appears to have been well executed, particularly in the context of some of the data challenges faced by the evaluation team.

Rating: 4

Standard: 3.3.2. Findings are supported by available evidence

Comment and Analysis: The findings are strongly supported by available evidence, which is comprehensively set out in the main report and in volume two of the report.

Rating: 4

Standard:	3.3.3. The evidence gathered is sufficiently and appropriately analysed to support the argument
Comment and Analysis:	The evidence is well analysed to support the argument. The evidence is comprehensive and compelling, and is set out in detail.
Rating:	4
Standard:	3.3.4. There is appropriate recognition of the possibility of alternative interpretations
Comment and Analysis:	There is an explicit recognition in the report that the study provides the tools and framework to promote an increased awareness of the policy alternatives, to promote wider policy thinking and to open up new areas of dialogue.
Rating:	4
Standard:	3.3.5. The report appears free of significant methodological and analytic flaws
Comment and Analysis:	The methodology used is appropriate and compelling and appears to be free of significant methodological and analytic flaws, despite some of the challenges related to data collection faced.
Rating:	4
Standard:	3.3.6. Relevant limitations of the evaluation are noted
Comment and Analysis:	The limitations to the evaluation are noted in the report under a section entitled Challenges and Limitations. Most of the limitations were related to availability of information, and the quality and consistency of data.
Rating:	4

3.4. Strength of conclusions

Standard:	3.4.1. Conclusions are derived from evidence
Comment and Analysis:	The conclusions are derived from evidence and are linked in the report to the specific research questions underpinning the evaluation.
Rating:	4
Standard:	3.4.2. Conclusions take into account relevant empirical and/or analytic work from related research studies and evaluations
Comment and Analysis:	The conclusions take into account related research studies and evaluations as a review of these was a structured element of this evaluation
Rating:	4
Standard:	3.4.3. Conclusions address the original evaluation purpose and questions
Comment and Analysis:	The conclusions address the evaluation purpose and are linked explicitly to the research questions in the report.
Rating:	5

Standard:	3.4.4. Conclusions are drawn with explicit reference to the intervention logic or theory of change
Comment and Analysis:	The conclusions are drawn with explicit reference to the intervention logic with the conclusions being structured according to clusters which in turn are directly related to the intervention logic. - Cluster 1 (Development co-operation: priorities and modalities) - Cluster 2 (Value added of the EU-SA development co-operation) - Cluster 3 (Outcomes and impacts at sector level) - Cluster 4 (Other key issues regarding the implementation of the budget support modality in South Africa).
Rating:	4

3.5. Suitability of recommendations

Standard:	3.5.1. Recommendations are made in consultation with appropriate sectoral partners or experts
Comment and Analysis:	The recommendations were made after substantial consultation with appropriate sectoral partners and experts. This consultation occurred at a range of levels including the Management Group, Reference Group, Sector Specific meetings, and direct one-on-one consultation.
Rating:	5

Standard:	3.5.2. Recommendations are shaped following discussions with relevant government officials and other relevant stakeholders
Comment and Analysis:	The recommendations were made after substantial discussion with relevant government officials and stakeholders. This consultation occurred at a range of levels including the Management Group, Reference Group, Sector Specific meetings, and direct one-on-one consultation. Substantial input was received from implementing departments and National Treasury.
Rating:	5

Standard:	3.5.3. Recommendations are relevant to the current policy context
Comment and Analysis:	The recommendations are directly related to the current policy context and are directly relevant to the future of the budget support modality in South Africa.
Rating:	4

Standard:	3.5.4. Recommendations are targetted at a specific audience sufficiently - are specific, feasible, affordable and acceptable
Comment and Analysis:	The recommendations are targeted at government officials in National Treasury and in implementing departments, as well as donors and civil society role players. The recommendations are clear and specific and are potentially affordable and acceptable.
Rating:	4

3.6. Consideration of reporting risks and ethical implications

Standard: 3.6.1. Peer review of the draft evaluation report occurred prior to finalisation of the evaluation report

Comment and Analysis: The draft report was subject to extensive peer review in Brussels prior to finalisation, and was the subject of a discussion seminar in the European Commission.

Rating: 4

Standard: 3.6.2. The full report documents procedures intended to ensure confidentiality and to secure informed consent where necessary (in some cases this is not needed - e.g. evaluation synthesis - in which case N/A should be recorded)

Comment and Analysis: While the full report does not document procedures to ensure confidentiality, the evaluation team was careful not to include any direct references that could compromise confidentiality - particularly in the case of the story telling methodology.

Rating: 3

Standard: 3.6.3. There are no risks to participants in disseminating the original report on a public website

Comment and Analysis: There is no apparent risk to participants in disseminating the report on a public website.

Rating: 4

Standard: 3.6.4. There are no unfair risks to institutions in disseminating the original report on a public website

Comment and Analysis: There are no apparent unfair risks to institutions in disseminating the original report on a public website.

Rating: 4

3.7. Project management (Reporting phase)

Standard: 3.7.1. A project closure meeting that reflected on the challenges and strengths of the evaluation process occurred

Comment and Analysis: An EC Evaluation Unit will sign off on the project, but this has not yet occurred.

Rating: N/A

4. Follow-up, use and learning

4.1. Resource utilisation

Standard: 4.1.1. The evaluation was completed within the planned timeframes

Comment and Analysis: The evaluation was completed within the planned timeframes.

Rating: 4

Standard: 4.1.2. The evaluation was completed within the agreed budget

Comment and Analysis: The evaluation was completed within budget.

Rating: 4

4.2. Evaluation use

Standard: 4.2.1. Results of the evaluation have been presented to all relevant stakeholders

Comment and Analysis: The report has been presented to a wide range of South African role-players at a post-evaluation stakeholder workshop in Pretoria. It has also been presented to a EC seminar in Brussels. However, the report has not yet been formally published and as such is not yet available to the public, and had not yet been widely presented beyond those who were involved in the evaluation.

Rating: N/A

Standard: 4.2.2. A reflective process has been undertaken by the steering committee (if no steering committee exists then by the evaluation management team or the involved department officials) to reflect on what could be done to strengthen future evaluations

Comment and Analysis: A reflective process is planned by the study team with an EC Evaluation Unit, although this has not yet happened.

Rating: N/A

Standard: 4.2.3. The evaluation study is seen by interviewed stakeholders as having added significant symbolic value to the policy or programme (e.g. raised its profile)

Comment and Analysis: The evaluation study is seen by National Treasury in particular, as having added significant value to the budget support initiative as it provides a strong argument for the continuation and strengthening of the programme.

Rating: 4

Standard: 4.2.4. The evaluation study is of conceptual value in understanding what has happened and possibly in shaping policy and practice

Comment and Analysis: The evaluation study has significant conceptual value in shaping policy and practice as it provides a strong rationale for continued budget support activities in South Africa.

Rating: 4

Standard: 4.2.5. Development of a draft improvement plan has been started, but not completed, based on the findings and recommendations set out in the evaluation

Comment and Analysis: While National Treasury has started reflecting on the implications of the evaluation report, it is too soon for this to have been translated into any improvement plan.

Rating: N/A

Standard: 4.2.6. The report is publicly available (website or otherwise published document), except where there were legitimate security concerns *Note: only apply if sufficient time has elapsed since completion of the evaluation

Comment and Analysis: The report has not yet been publicly released.

Rating: N/A

Standard: 4.2.7. There is clear evidence of instrumental use - that the recommendations of the evaluation were implemented to a significant extent *Note: only apply if sufficient time has elapsed since completion of the evaluation

Comment and Analysis: It is too soon to see evidence of instrumental use.

Rating: N/A

Standard: 4.2.8. There is clear evidence that the evaluation has had a positive influence on the evaluand, its stakeholders and beneficiaries over the medium to long term *Note: only apply if sufficient time has elapsed since completion of the evaluation

Comment and Analysis: It is too soon to see evidence of positive influences of the evaluation.

Rating: N/A

References

Interview Martyn Pennington on evaluation of Budget Support to South Africa - <http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/blog/interview-martyn-pennington-evaluation-budget-support-south-africa>

Interview Jürgen Lovasz on evaluation of Budget Support to South Africa - <http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/blog/interview-j%C3%BCrgen-lovasz-evaluation-budget-support-south-africa>

Interview Marcus Cornaro on Evaluation of Budget Support to South Africa - <http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/blog/interview-marcus-cornaro-evaluation-budget-support-south-africa>

Evaluation of Budget Support in South Africa - Final Report Volume 2, September 2013, Evaluation carried out on behalf of the European Commission.

High Level Executive Summary - http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/macro-eco_pub-fin/blog/evaluation-budget-support-south-africa-high-level-executive-summary

Evaluation of Budget Support in South Africa - Final Report Volume 3, September 2013, Evaluation carried out on behalf of the European Commission.

Richard Young on evaluation of Budget Support to South Africa - <http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/blog/interview-richard-young-evaluation-budget-support-south-africa>

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List of Interviewees

Tino Smail - Evaluation Coordinator, Particip, Telephonic Interview, 21 January 2014.

Vincenzo Caputo - Team Leader, Particip, Telephonic Interview, 21 January 2014.

Neville Pretorius - Deputy Director, International Development Cooperation Unit - National Treasury, Telephonic Interview, 29 January 2014.