



Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation

Report on the Assessment of Government Evaluations

Mid-term Review of the Expanded Public Works (EPWP) Programme: Synthesis Report

Date Evaluation was completed: 01 October 2007

Name of assessor: Cathy Chames

Evaluation Number: 220

Date Assessment Completed: 26 February 2013

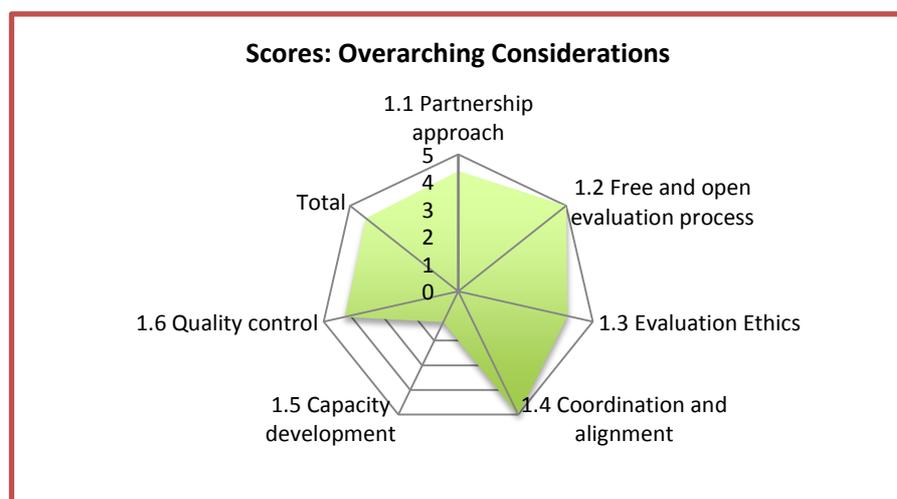
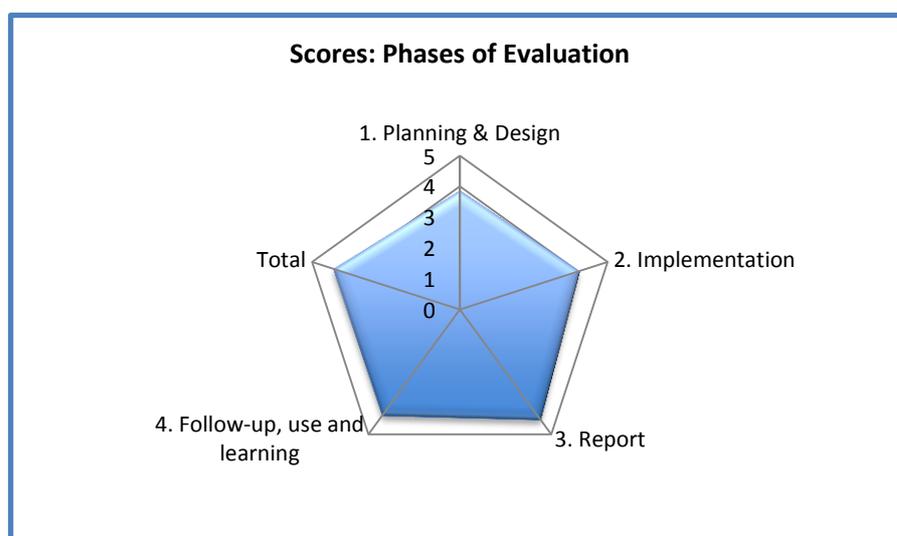
Evaluation Assessment Details

Title of evaluation report	Mid-term Review of the Expanded Public Works (EPWP) Programme: Synthesis Report
Completion Date of Evaluation	01 October 2007
Name of Assessor	Cathy Chames
Evaluation Number	220
Completion Date of Assessment	26 February 2013
Initiated by	Department of Public Works and EPWP Unit
Evaluation undertaken by	Human Sciences Research Council in partnership with the South African Labour and Development Research Unit, Rutgers University School of Law, and ITT Engineering Consultants
Evaluation area / sector	Labour issues & employment
	Poverty, socio-economic dev, access to credit <i>Additional</i>
National Outcome	Outcome 4
	Outcome 5 <i>Additional</i>
Type of Evaluation	Evaluation Synthesis
	Implementation <i>Additional</i>
What is being evaluated	Programme
	<i>Additional</i>
Geographic Scope	National
Period of Evaluation	April 2007 - October 2007
Known Cost of Evaluation	Approximately R700,000

Quality Assessment Scores

Phase of Evaluation	Score
Planning & Design	3.86
Implementation	4.04
Report	4.39
Follow-up, use and learning	4.23
Total	4.21

Overarching Consideration	Score
Partnership approach	4.39
Free and open evaluation process	5.00
Evaluation Ethics	4.06
Coordination and alignment	5.00
Capacity Development	1.25
Quality control	4.22



1. Planning & Design

1.1. Clarity of Purpose and Scope in TOR

STANDARD: *The evaluation was guided by a TOR with at least the following sections explicit: purpose, scope and objectives; expectations regarding design and methodology; resources and time allocated; reporting requirements; expectations regarding evaluation process and products.*

Comment and Analysis

There is no TOR available and there are conflicting views regarding the existence of a TOR for this evaluation. Whilst one interviewee stated that there was no TOR for the evaluation but rather an exchange of letters between HSRC and Shisaka (responsible for managing the contract) to have on-going work done as a draw-down facility; other interviewees indicated that there was a TOR for the task. The report makes reference to the TOR and provides an overview of the objectives of the TOR.

Rating 3

STANDARD: *The purpose of the evaluation was clear and explicit in the TOR*

Comment and Analysis

Although there appears to be no TOR it was noted that the goal and purpose of the exercise was clear. The letter of appointment explicitly states the purpose and objectives of the study: to conduct a mid-term review of the EPWP to assess: relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, outcome and impact of EPWP against expected results; overall quality and sustainability of the programme; recommendations on future direction and structure of the programme. The ability of the EPWP to scale up was also a key aspect which was under consideration by the EPWP management.

Rating 4

STANDARD: *The evaluation questions were clearly stated in the TOR and appropriate to addressing the evaluation purpose*

Comment and Analysis

No evaluation questions were explicitly stated, however, the objectives are stated and these are appropriate to addressing the evaluation purpose.

Rating 2

STANDARD: The approach and type of evaluation was suited to the purpose and scope of the evaluation TOR**Comment and Analysis**

A qualitative and quantitative approach was used for the evaluation combining an international comparative analysis, field work, and programme assessment through review of EPWP documents. This was well-suited to the scope of the evaluation. In terms of typology it is an evaluation synthesis since the results from each of these evaluations were combined in the final "synthesis report". The individual evaluations undertaken made use of an implementation evaluation and impact evaluation.

Rating 5***STANDARD: Intended users and their information needs were identified in the TOR*****Comment and Analysis**

There is no TOR available, however, the report states that the EPWP Unit and the EPWP Support programme commissioned the review in order to elicit recommendations on the future direction and structure of the programme. The letter of appointment from the DDG of the EPWP Unit (DPW) indicates that the findings of the Review will be tabled at the July Cabinet Lekgotla.

Rating 4***STANDARD: Key stakeholders were involved in the scoping of the TOR and determining the purpose of the evaluation*****Comment and Analysis**

The decision to conduct the evaluation was made by the Chief Operating Officer in consultation with the DDG at the time. The scope of the study was discussed in various forums within the EPWP unit including the senior management meetings where comments would have been solicited before finalising the TOR. The letter of appointment states that the MINMEC authorised the DPW to commission the Mid-term Review of the EPWP indicating that there may have been some consultation between key stakeholders in the scoping of the TOR.

Rating 5

1.2. Evaluation was adequately resourced

STANDARD: The evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of time allocated

Comment and Analysis

The letter of appointment states that the review was to be conducted over a period of four months. Interviewees indicated that this time frame was too short to conduct an adequate job.

Rating 2

STANDARD: The evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of original budget

Comment and Analysis

According to the interviewee, the original budget was cut. Furthermore, the original budget was not adequate to conduct a survey of former EPWP participants. In addition, budget cuts meant that less time could be spent on understanding the institutional dynamics of the EPWP in each province.

Rating 2

STANDARD: The evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of staffing and skills sets

Comment and Analysis

Due to the budget being cut, the evaluation team was constrained since the same amount of work had to be done with less budget making it difficult to appoint more staff. In terms of skills set, the team was well resourced as there was a mix of researchers and national and international academics and researchers. From the EPWP perspective it was noted that the support provided by Shisaka Development Management Services which had been contracted to support the EPWP to roll out the programme was particularly useful throughout the evaluation process.

Rating 3

STANDARD: 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 plan to incorporate capacity building of government staff. However, capacity of the junior staff at HSRC involved in the evaluation was developed.

Rating 2

1.3. Alignment to Policy Context and Background Literature

STANDARD: There was evidence that a review of the relevant policy and programme environments had been conducted and used in the planning of the evaluation by the evaluators

Comment and Analysis

A key component of the evaluation involved a review of EPWP related policies and documents thus providing evidence of a thorough review of policy and programme environments.

Rating 5

STANDARD: There was evidence of a review of appropriate literature having been conducted and used in the planning of the evaluation by the evaluators

Comment and Analysis

A key component of the evaluation was to conduct a review of literature on similar public works programmes conducted internationally thus providing evidence of a thorough review of appropriate literature.

Rating 5

1.4. The evaluation methods planned were appropriate to the project

STANDARD: 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

It was noted by interviewees that the evaluation team did not follow a theory of change but rather the intervention logic of the EPWP. The letter of appointment makes reference to the fact that the EPWP will be assessed on the basis of indicators formulated in the original logical model of the programme and the report also documents the intervention logic of the programme.

Rating 4

STANDARD: Key stakeholders were consulted on the design and methodology of the evaluation

Comment and Analysis

The HSRC worked in close consultation with the EPWP unit and Shisaka in the design and method of the evaluation.

Rating 5

STANDARD: The planned methodology was appropriate to the questions being asked

Comment and Analysis

The mixed method approach to the evaluation was appropriate since each method was aligned to each objective of the study. This included: an international review in order to learn lessons from other programmes internationally; a survey of EPWP implementers, key informant interviews, project site visits and document review in order to assess outputs and management and implementation in relation to effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, sustainability, etc. Interviewees confirm that it was a big programme and the method was suitable to the key question being asked: is the programme correctly designed and how should it be re-designed in order to take it to scale?

Rating 5

STANDARD: *Planned sampling was appropriate and adequate given the focus and purpose of evaluation*

Comment and Analysis

The synthesis report does not provide details of the sampling methods used, however, it is clear that the sample of survey respondents and key informants includes an adequate range of stakeholders across provinces. It was noted that the sample of 33 sites visited across all provinces does not constitute a scientifically representative sample, but were useful in the qualitative sense. There were problems with the lists of sites at provincial level, therefore EPWP officials had to propose the sites being visited which may have introduced an element of bias in the selection.

Rating **3**

STANDARD: *There was a planned process for using the findings of the evaluation prior to undertaking the evaluation*

Comment and Analysis

It was planned that the findings of the evaluation would be used to re-design phase 2 of the EPWP so that it could be scaled up. The process was not, however, clearly spelt out in the TOR.

Rating **3**

1.5. Inception phase

STANDARD: *The inception phase was used to develop a common agreement on how the evaluation would be implemented*

Comment and Analysis

Interviewees indicated that a common agreement on the implementation of the evaluation was achieved to some degree in the inception phase.

Rating **3**

2. Implementation

2.1. Ethical Review and Considerations

STANDARD: *Where data was gathered in contexts where ethical sensitivity is high, appropriate clearance was obtained 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

Ethical standards were applied in terms of protecting the identity of the subjects. However, no rigorous ethical clearance was required since the evaluation focused mainly on existing programme data and interviews were with EPWP officials.

Rating 5

2.2. Evaluator independence

STANDARD: *Where external, evaluation team was able to work freely without significant interference*

Comment and Analysis

It was noted that there was some pressure on the external evaluation team to change their method and approach during the evaluation process and to re-formulate the conclusions of the evaluation report. This was reportedly due to the fact that some unfavourable findings regarding the programme were being revealed. However, it was further indicated that there were some ideological differences between the evaluation team and senior management within the EPWP regarding the overall objectives of the programme. This led to the report being re-drafted a number of times.

Rating 2

STANDARD: The evaluation team was impartial and there was no evidence of conflict of interest

Comment and Analysis

There is no evidence of conflict of interest. Some concerns were raised with regards to the impartiality of the experts who were included in the evaluation team since they were perceived to be critics of the EPWP and its ideology. Despite this there was an overall perception that the team was credible and that they also had the backing and the mandate from the national department to conduct the study.

Rating 3

2.3. Key stakeholder involvement

STANDARD: Key stakeholders were consulted through a formalised mechanism or institutional arrangement during the evaluation

Comment and Analysis

A Project Steering Committee was established by the EPWP which was consulted throughout the evaluation process. This structure was managed by Shisaka and included senior management and chief directors within the EPWP unit.

Rating 5

STANDARD: Where appropriate, an element of capacity building of partners responsible for the evaluand was incorporated into the evaluation

Comment and Analysis

No capacity building of partners took place during the evaluation process.

Rating 1

2.4. Methodology

STANDARD: The methods employed in the process of the evaluation were consistent with those planned

Comment and Analysis

The methods employed were consistent with those planned.

Rating 5

STANDARD: Data collection was not compromised by fieldwork-level problems or unplanned diversions from original intentions

Comment and Analysis

Since the report is a synthesis of three research processes, it does not provide detail on issues encountered during data-collection. Interviewees did confirm some fieldwork level problems. Firstly, when obtaining a sample for the 33 site visits, there were some problems encountered at provincial level with the lists of projects and therefore the EPWP officials had to choose the sites. Secondly, obtaining the necessary documents and data in order to conduct the document and data analysis proved challenging, particularly since much of the data obtained from provinces was not deemed to be reliable. This is linked to a key finding of the study which is that only 6 out of the 73 indicators of the programme are being routinely reported on.

Rating 2

STANDARD: Forms of data gathering were appropriate given the scope of evaluation

Comment and Analysis

The evaluation made use of a range of data gathering techniques including key informant face to face interviews, telephonic survey, desktop study of secondary data to produce case studies, observations and discussions during site visits. This combination is appropriate given the scope of the evaluation.

Rating 5

STANDARD: The data analysis approach and methods were appropriate and sufficient given the purposes of the evaluation

Comment and Analysis

The data analysis approach was different for each component of the study: a thematic analysis was undertaken for the International Review; quantitative data analysis was undertaken for the survey of EPWP implementers; a combination of quantitative and qualitative analysis was undertaken for the assessment of EPWP outputs and management which included a further analysis of a number of key indicators on project performance. In order to produce the Synthesis Report, the information from all of these research processes was analysed and synthesised into findings, conclusions and recommendations.

Rating 5

STANDARD: Key stakeholders were significantly engaged as part of the methodology

Comment and Analysis

A range of key stakeholders were engaged including EPWP managers, officials and implementers at national, provincial and national level. In addition, interviews were also conducted with national and international academics, practitioners and policy analysts working in the area of public works, active labour market policies and social protection.

Rating 5

STANDARD: The methodology included engaging beneficiaries appropriately as a key source of data and information

Comment and Analysis

Beneficiaries were not engaged as a key source of data and information. This is a gap in the study since engagement with them may have provided some of their insights into the implementation of the programme and the effectiveness thereof. However, interviewees explained that the focus of the evaluation was more on the concept and design of the EPWP rather than impact. Furthermore, it would have been difficult to obtain a representative sample of the beneficiaries since they were a diverse group dispersed across the four sectors of the programme (social, environmental, infrastructure, economic).

Rating 2

2.5. Project management

STANDARD: The evaluation was conducted without shifts to scheduled project milestones and timeframes

Comment and Analysis

The four months allocated to this evaluation was insufficient time given the scope of the study. However, despite this the study was conducted within the timeframes. The report was finalised in October 2007 due to the multiple consultations around the findings and recommendations.

Rating 3

3. Report

3.1. Report was well-structured and presentation was clear and complete in each of these areas

STANDARD: Executive summary captured key components of the report appropriately

Comment and Analysis

The report contains no Executive Summary.

Rating 1

STANDARD: The context of the development intervention was explicit and presented as relevant to the evaluation

Comment and Analysis

The context of unemployment in South Africa and a detailed background to the EPWP is clearly presented in the report.

Rating 5

STANDARD: There was a clear rationale for the evaluation questions**Comment and Analysis**

The rationale for the evaluation is clearly stated - that 2007 is the half-way mark for the programme and therefore a mid-term review is required to assess implementation to date in order to elicit recommendations on future direction and structure of the programme.

Rating 5

STANDARD: The scope or focus of the evaluation was apparent in the report**Comment and Analysis**

The report clearly indicates that the mid-term review was undertaken through three components which include: International Review; Survey of EPWP Implementers; assessment of EPWP outputs and management.

Rating 5

STANDARD: A detailed methodology was outlined in the relevant section of a report (full report or 1/3/25) to the point that a reader could understand the data collection, analysis and interpretation**Comment and Analysis**

A clear and detailed methodology for each research process is outlined including the method used to synthesise the findings of the three research processes.

Rating 5

STANDARD: Key findings were presented in a clear way; they were made distinct from uncertain or speculative findings; and unused data was not presented in the body of the report

Comment and Analysis

The findings for each research process are clearly presented which is then followed by the findings of the overall assessment based on a set of criteria established for the Review, namely relevance, feasibility, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability.

Rating 5

STANDARD: Conclusions and recommendations were clear and succinctly articulated

Comment and Analysis

Conclusions and recommendations are clearly and succinctly communicated.

Rating 5

STANDARD: Acknowledgement of limitations of all aspects of the methodology and findings were clearly and succinctly articulated

Comment and Analysis

The limitations of the methodology have not been clearly articulated in a separate section of the report. This may be because it is a synthesis of three research processes, each of which had its own report which presumably would include an account of the limitations. The limitations of the findings were clearly articulated throughout the findings section of the synthesis report.

Rating 3

3.2. Writing and presentation

STANDARD: *Quality of writing and presentation was 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 report is well-written and well presented.

Rating 5

STANDARD: *Appropriate conventions were 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

Quantitative data is well presented using simple statistical language. Percentages are reported mostly according to a disaggregation into the four sectors of the EPWP which includes infrastructure, economic, environment and social sectors. When data is disaggregated according to other categories, these are clearly explained in the text.

Rating 5

3.3. Presentation of findings

STANDARD: *The use of figures and tables was such that it supported communication and comprehension of results; and data reported in figures and tables was readily discernible and useful to a reader familiar with data presentation conventions*

Comment and Analysis

Figures and tables are used throughout the report in order to illustrate the findings. The data is presented in a uniform way throughout with the use of bar charts and this allows for easy interpretation of findings.

Rating 5

STANDARD: Data analysis appeared to have been well executed**Comment and Analysis**

Data analysis for each of the three research processes appear to have been well-executed. It included analysis of primary data collected through surveys and observations at sites; and secondary data collected through EPWP project data and documents. A further analysis and synthesis of findings is then undertaken in this synthesis report.

Rating 5

STANDARD: Findings were supported by available evidence**Comment and Analysis**

All findings were supported by available evidence. One area where evidence was lacking was with regards to the issue of impact of the EPWP on beneficiaries. Findings from the Labour Force Survey of 2005 are inconclusive since they do not measure the impact of the programme on those directly involved in the programme. The findings of the Cross-sectional study of the EPWP (2007) were also used to demonstrate impact in terms of borrowing, saving and expenditure. However, these were also limited since they do not provide detailed analysis of the levels of household income and expenditure. These limitations are acknowledged in the report. It was further noted by interviewees that the EPWP data received from provinces was difficult to analyse since a number of projects which were not funded by EPWP were included on their lists. This raised questions of reliability of data. Despite this the evaluation team was able to reveal broad trends based on existing data.

Rating 3

STANDARD: The evidence gathered was sufficiently and appropriately analysed to support the argument

Comment and Analysis

The evidence gathered from the three research processes was further analysed in order to produce this synthesis report. This analysis is thorough and well-executed.

Rating 5

STANDARD: There was appropriate recognition of the possibility of alternative interpretations

Comment and Analysis

Alternative explanations for some of the findings are recognised throughout the report.

Rating 5

STANDARD: The report appeared free of significant methodological and analytic flaws

Comment and Analysis

The report appears free of significant methodological and analytic flaws.

Rating 5

3.4. Conclusions

STANDARD: Conclusions were derived from evidence

Comment and Analysis

In order to produce this synthesis report the evidence from the three research processes was analysed in accordance with the set of criteria for the Review, namely relevance, feasibility, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability. This meta-analysis provides the basis for the conclusions. It was raised by one interviewee that the conclusions with regard to the short term nature of employment offered by the programme did not take into full consideration the fact that the EPWP is part of a greater continuum of interventions offered by government to tackle unemployment and poverty which includes for example FET, education, sustainable job opportunities. These areas of government still experience many challenges and the EPWP cannot be expected to improve or 'fix' these challenges.

Rating **3**

STANDARD: Conclusions took into account relevant empirical and/or analytic work from related research studies and evaluations

Comment and Analysis

A key component of this evaluation was a review and analysis of International literature and studies regarding public works programmes in other countries. The key insights and lessons learnt from these studies were drawn out and used to support the conclusions of this study, particularly with reference to the future development of the EPWP. In addition, complementary reports and data into public works; and a range of other studies related to contextual issues such as labour markets and the poverty context in South Africa were utilised for this evaluation.

Rating **5**

STANDARD: Conclusions addressed the original evaluation purpose and questions

Comment and Analysis

The conclusions for each research process are presented and these, together with the synthesised findings on relevance, feasibility, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability address the evaluation purpose adequately. Due to inconclusive evidence from the EPWP data sources, limited conclusions could be drawn with regard to the current impact of the EPWP. However, the conclusions do address questions around the potential impact of the programme. Interviewees indicated that not all of the research questions were adequately addressed in the first draft of the report and therefore a synthesis report had to be produced in order to align the findings to the original research questions.

Rating **3**

STANDARD: Conclusions were drawn with explicit reference to the intervention logic or theory of change

Comment and Analysis

Although there is no explicit reference to the theory of change in the conclusions, the analysis and the synthesised assessment of the EPWP (relevance, effectiveness etc) makes reference to the programmes key objectives and intervention logic.

Rating **3**

3.5. Recommendations

STANDARD: Recommendations were made in consultation with appropriate sectoral partners or experts

Comment and Analysis

The evaluation findings and emerging ideas were further developed and tested through a series of meetings and discussions between the research coordinators and various experts in field. This included experts from SALDRU; Rutgers School of Law (US); and ITT (UK).

Rating **5**

STANDARD: Recommendations were shaped following input or review by relevant government officials and other relevant stakeholders

Comment and Analysis

Interviewees confirm that there was extended input from all stakeholders into shaping the recommendations. This included meetings with the Project Steering Committee and direct interaction with the EPWP Unit (government stakeholders).

Rating **5**

STANDARD: Recommendations were relevant to the policy context**Comment and Analysis**

Explicit reference is made to the policy context in the recommendations which state that EPWP objectives towards addressing the needs of the working poor unemployed need to be linked with government's social security system.

Rating 5

STANDARD: Recommendations were targetted to a specific audience sufficiently - were specific, feasible, affordable and acceptable**Comment and Analysis**

The recommendations are targetted to a task team made up of DPW, Treasury, Presidency, DSD and other line departments. They specifically address issues related to policy, programme design and implementation. Overall they appear to be affordable and feasible.

Rating 5

3.6. Relevant limitations of the evaluation have been noted**STANDARD: Relevant limitations of the evaluation were noted****Comment and Analysis**

There is no section in the report which covers limitations of the evaluation. This may be because it is a synthesis of three research processes, each of which had its own report which presumably would include an account of the limitations. The limitations of the findings were clearly articulated throughout the findings section of the synthesis report.

Rating 3

3.7 Protection of participants and risk considerations

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

Comment and Analysis

The report does not document procedures to ensure confidentiality. It was noted by interviewees that ethical standards were applied in terms of protecting the identity of the subjects throughout the evaluation process.

Rating 2

STANDARD: There were no risks to participants in disseminating the original report on a public website

Comment and Analysis

The report is already publicly available on the HSRC website. The anonymity the EPWP implementers, government officials and the EPWP site staff has been maintained and therefore there is no unfair risk to participants.

Rating 5

STANDARD: There were no unfair risks to institutions in disseminating the original report on a public website

Comment and Analysis

The report is already publicly available on the HSRC website. It provides a balanced account of the strengths and challenges of the EPWP and therefore does not present an unfair risk to the programme.

Rating 5

4. Follow-up, use and learning

4.1. Presentation to stakeholders

STANDARD: Results were presented to all relevant stakeholders

Comment and Analysis

The findings from each of the research processes were presented to key stakeholders throughout the evaluation process. Furthermore, during the analysis and synthesis process an interactive series of engagements was undertaken including a series of presentations and discussions of work in process between the research team and the project Steering Committee. In the final presentation of the draft report, a wide range of stakeholders attended the meeting.

Rating **5**

4.2. Resource utilisation

STANDARD: The evaluation was completed within the planned timeframes

Comment and Analysis

It was noted that four months was insufficient time in which to complete the evaluation. Furthermore, there were many re-drafts of the final report and this took time before it could be finalised.

Rating **2**

STANDARD: The evaluation was completed within the agreed budget

Comment and Analysis

The evaluation was completed within the agreed budget.

Rating **5**

4.3. Transparency

STANDARD: The report was publicly available (website or otherwise published document), except where there were legitimate security concerns

Comment and Analysis

The report has been published on the HSRC website. It was considered to be a public document at the time.

Rating 5

4.4. Lessons learnt

STANDARD: After completion of the evaluation, a reflective process was undertaken by staff responsible for the evaluand to reflect on what could be done to strengthen future evaluations

Comment and Analysis

It was noted in the report that a formal workshop between various researchers who had participated in data collection and reporting was undertaken after the three research processes with a view to analyse and synthesise research findings. In interviews it was confirmed that there was no meeting undertaken to review the evaluation; however, the project was frequently discussed at meetings following its completion.

Rating 2

4.5. Symbolic and conceptual value

STANDARD: The evaluation study was seen by interviewed stakeholders as having added significant symbolic value to the policy or programme (eg raised its profile)

Comment and Analysis

The EPWP started in 2004 as a high profile project in government at the time and had set ambitious targets to reduce unemployment. The study was significant in that it highlighted a number of shortcomings of Phase 1 of EPWP which resulted in much debate and discussion within the EPWP Unit and this gave important insights into the scaling up the programme.

Rating 5

STANDARD: The evaluation study was of conceptual value in understanding what has happened and possibly in shaping policy and practice

Comment and Analysis

The edited version of the evaluation was circulated by EPWP and Shisaka which lead to extensive discussion and debate of the findings and recommendations. The findings were also shared in Parliament. It was noted by interviewees that the review of International Literature on similar programmes provided useful insight into the design of the EPWP. For example, it was revealed that the EPWP had too many objectives compared to similar programmes internationally. Other key findings which assisted in shaping the programme were: that the duration of work opportunities was too short; and that the targets set by the EPWP to reduce unemployment were too limited in order to have any real impact on the unemployment crisis in South Africa. The current National Development Plan articulates the role of the EPWP in reducing unemployment and poverty.

Rating 5

4.6. Utilisation of findings and recommendations

STANDARD: There was clear evidence of instrumental use - that the recommendations of the evaluation were implemented to a significant extent

Comment and Analysis

The majority of the findings and recommendations were taken into consideration when planning Phase 2 of the EPWP. Based on some of the key findings and recommendations, the following changes were made to the programme: the design of the EPWP was re-visited and the objectives were re-formulated; the duration of work opportunities were extended; the targets for tackling unemployment were scaled up from 1 million to 4.5 million in five years; a wider range of stakeholders were brought on board as implementing agents and this included the non-state sector such as NGOs. Finally, this study has been used to inform future evaluations and reviews of the EPWP, most notably the current mid-term review of the second phase of the EPWP.

Rating 4

STANDARD: There was clear evidence that the evaluation has had a positive influence on the evaluand, its stakeholders and beneficiaries over the medium to long term

Comment and Analysis

The findings of the evaluation and its recommendations have resulted in increasing the targets of the EPWP and hence scaling up the programme in order to tackle problem of unemployment. However, there has been no increase in budget to match this scale up and the programme has not been able to reach its current targets. It has also been difficult to extend the duration of work opportunities since many EPWP projects, particularly in the infrastructure sector, are short term in nature.

Rating 3

References

Letter of Expression of Interest, 2007, HSRC.

Letter of appointment for Mid-Term Review of Expanded Public Works Programme, 2007, Shisaka Development Management Services.

Expanded Public Works Programme, National Department of Public Works, 2007. Mid-Term Review of the Expanded Public Works Programme, Synthesis Report. HSRC,

List of Interviewees

David Hemson, Project Leader and Senior Researcher: HSRC, telephonic interview, 15/2/2013.

Kgomotso Zantsi, Acting Chief, Monitoring and Evaluation: EPWP, telephonic interview, 25/2/2013.

Ismael Akhalwaya, former Senior Programme Manager: EPWP, telephonic interview, 26/2/2013.