



planning, monitoring and evaluation

Department:
Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Report on the Assessment of Government Evaluations

Evaluation Title:	Report on the Evaluation of the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP)
Evaluation Number:	234
Evaluation Completion Date:	01 March 2008
Period of Evaluation:	October 2007 - March 2008
Submitted:	24 February 2013 by Nana Davies
Approved:	07 June 2013 by Sean Walsh

Evaluation Details

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Known Cost:	R 1 080 000,00
Known Cost Type:	Estimate
Initiated By:	Public Service Commission
Initiated By Internal:	
Undertaken By:	Qondisa Consulting together with the Public Service Commission
Undertaken By Internal:	

Assessors

Assessment Documents

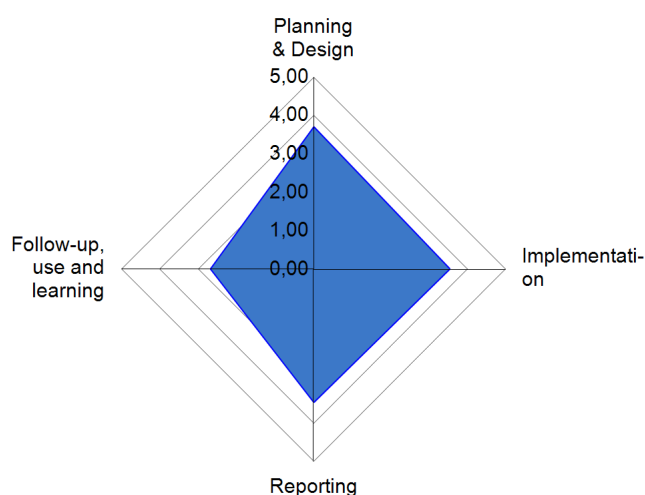
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Quality Assessment Scores

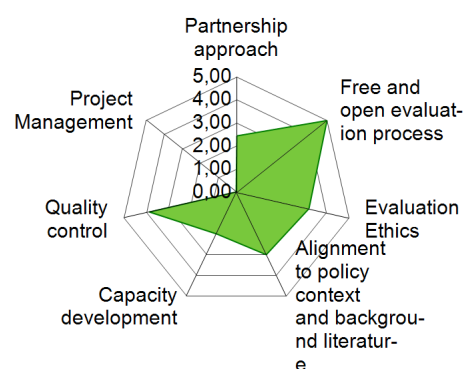
Phase of Evaluation	Score
Planning & Design	3,71
Implementation	3,56
Reporting	3,47
Follow-up, use and learning	2,68
Total	3,44

Overarching Consideration	Score
Partnership approach	2,45
Free and open evaluation process	5,00
Evaluation Ethics	3,22
Alignment to policy context and background literature	3,00
Capacity development	2,00
Quality control	3,87
Project Management	
Total	3,44

Scores: Phases of Evaluation



Scores: Overarching Considerations



Phase of Evaluation	Area of Evaluation	Score
Planning & Design	Quality of the TOR	4,00
Planning & Design	Adequacy of resourcing	
Planning & Design	Alignment to policy context and background literature	3,20
Planning & Design	Appropriateness of the evaluation design and methodology	3,82
Planning & Design	Project management (Planning phase)	

Phase of Evaluation	Area of Evaluation	Score
Implementation	Evaluation ethics and independence	3,00
Implementation	Participation and M&E skills development	2,50
Implementation	Methodological integrity	4,38
Implementation	Project management (Implementation phase)	
Reporting	Completeness of the evaluation report	4,15
Reporting	Accessibility of content	3,36
Reporting	Robustness of findings	3,41
Reporting	Strength of conclusions	3,45
Reporting	Suitability of recommendations	2,69
Reporting	Acknowledgement of ethical considerations	3,40
Follow-up, use and learning	Resource utilisation	
Follow-up, use and learning	Evaluation use	2,68
Total	Total	3,44

Planning & Design

Quality of the TOR

Standard:	The evaluation was guided by a well-structured and complete TOR or a well-structured and complete internal evaluation proposal (e.g. Background, Purpose, Evaluation Questions, Design & Methodology, Deliverables & Timeframes, Resource requirements, Intended Audience & Utilisation, etc).
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation was guided by a TOR, which explicitly included sections on objectives, scope of work, expectations regarding methodology, time allocated, reporting requirements, and expected evaluation deliverables. The TOR does not contain any reference to a purpose.
Rating:	4: The evaluation was guided by a well-structured and complete TOR or internal evaluation proposal of a good standard
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	
Standard:	The purpose of the evaluation stated in the TOR (or an internal evaluation proposal) was clear and e
Comment and Analysis:	The purpose of the evaluation was unclear in the TOR. It was stated in the report that given the importance of nutrition in the promotion of good health and effective learning for learners, the Public Service Commission (PSC) deemed it necessary to evaluate the NSNP to establish whether it is meeting its objectives. This was part of a series of evaluations the PSC was conducting on government's poverty reduction programmes and projects.
Rating:	2: 2
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	
Standard:	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 ToR specified that literature review, statistical survey and empirical investigation should take place. This was suited for the objectives and scope of the evaluation. Likewise, an implementation evaluation was well-suited as a type of evaluation as the assessment of the effectiveness of the programme was core to the evaluation.
Rating:	5: The approach and type of the evaluation was perfectly matched to the purpose and scope of the evaluation TOR and there was a reinforcing complementarity between the sections
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	
Standard:	The TOR (or an internal evaluation proposal) identified the intended users of the evaluation and their information needs
Comment and Analysis:	The intended users were not explicitly identified in the TOR. However, the TOR implied that the users will be policy makers and decision makers on NSNP service delivery.
Rating:	2: The TOR made only implicit or indirect mention of the users of the evaluation and their information needs
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	The evaluation questions in the TOR (or an internal evaluation proposal) were clearly stated and ap
Comment and Analysis:	Besides stating the objective of the evaluation, there were no evaluation questions in the TOR. The objectives were to holistically evaluate the effectiveness of the NSNP; to identify and highlight successes of the programme, as well as problematic areas that adversely influence the optimal implementation of the programme; and to provide recommendations in terms of the effective implementation of the programme. These objectives were appropriate to address the evaluation purpose.
Rating:	3: 3
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	Key stakeholders were involved in the scoping of the TOR and choosing the purpose of the evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	The TOR was developed in a participatory manner by the Public Service Commission (PSC) and the German Agency for Technical Co-operation (GTZ). The Department of Education (DoE) provided comments to the TOR.
Rating:	4: A wider range of stakeholders (i.e. beyond government stakeholders) were meaningfully involved in the scoping of the TOR and choosing the purpose of the evaluation
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Adequacy of resourcing

Standard:	The evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of time and budget allocated
Comment and Analysis:	The time allocated for the review was considered realistic. However, the evaluation was meant to start in August 2007 and end in February 2008, while it actually started in October 2007 and ended in March 2008.
Rating:	4: The evaluation was well resourced in terms of the time and budget allocated (i.e. there was some room for flexibility)
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	The evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of original budget
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of original budget. A total of R1,080,000 was allocated to the evaluation. This amount was however not stipulated in the TOR.
Rating:	5: 5
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	The team conducting the evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of staffing and skills sets
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation team consisted of members who had experience in conducting surveys and qualitative data gathering. The team leader sub-contracted a market analysis company for the survey component. Hence the evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of staffing and skills sets.
Rating:	4: The evaluation was well resourced in terms of staffing and skills sets
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	Where appropriate, the evaluation planned to incorporate an element of capacity building of partners
Comment and Analysis:	The TOR explicitly incorporated capacity building of staff from the PSC responsible for the evaluation.
Rating:	4: 4
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Alignment to policy context and background literature

Standard:	There was evidence that a review of the relevant policy and programme environments had been conducted
Comment and Analysis:	The TOR explicitly required a literature review to ensure the contextualisation of the programme. Hence, Chapter 2 in the report contained a sub-section on the policy and legislative framework for the NSNP. This literature review seemed to have informed the planning of the evaluation.
Rating:	5: 5
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	There was evidence of a review of appropriate literature having been conducted and used in planning
Comment and Analysis:	There was limited evidence of a thorough review of relevant literature having been conducted and used in the planning of the evaluation by the evaluator.
Rating:	2: 2
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Appropriateness of the evaluation design and methodology

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:	There is no reference to the intervention logic or theory of change in the report nor did it inform the planning of the study.
Rating:	1: There was no reference to the intervention logic or the theory of change in the TOR or the Inception Report
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	Key stakeholders were consulted on the design and methodology of the evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	Besides some input by the DoE to the TOR, the design and methodology were determined by the service provider, the PSC and GTZ.
Rating:	3: 3
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	The planned methodology was appropriate to the questions being asked
Comment and Analysis:	The planned methodology, consisting of literature review, interviews and focus groups was appropriate to the questions being asked.
Rating:	4: The planned methodology was well suited to the questions being asked and considered the data available
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	The sampling planned was appropriate and adequate given the focus and purpose of evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation applied purposive sampling. In each province, the study focused on samples of school districts, circuit coordinators, schools, principals, teacher coordinators, learners, members of school governing bodies, food handlers, food suppliers and teachers' union representatives. A list of district and schools participating in the NSNP was provided by each provincial Department of Education and this served as the basis for sampling. This sampling was appropriate and adequate given the objective of the evaluation.
Rating:	5: The sampling planned was creative and ideal for the focus, purpose and context of the evaluation
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	There was a planned process for using the findings of the evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	There was no evidence of a planned process for using the findings. One of the interviewees indicated that the evaluation report was meant to be submitted to Parliament. Whether this happened was uncertain.
Rating:	2: 2
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Project management (Planning phase)

Standard:	The inception phase was used to develop a common agreement on how the evaluation would be implemented
Comment and Analysis:	The inception phase was used to clarify timeframes, methodology and deliverables.
Rating:	4: The inception phase was used to good effect to achieve a common agreement and understanding of how the evaluation would be implemented
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Implementation

Evaluation ethics and independence

Standard:	Where data was gathered in contexts where ethical sensitivity is high, informed consent, assurances of confidentiality and appropriate clearance were achieved; e.g. through an ethics review board, in evaluation involving minors, institutions where access usually requires ethical or bureaucratic clearance
Comment and Analysis:	Despite conducting focus groups with learners in Grade 3-7, no ethical clearance was sought. These focus groups were however conducted in the presence of the teachers and by trained fieldworkers and with the support of the Department of Education. However, ethical clearance should have been obtained.
Rating:	2: Although there were indications that ethical protocols were observed, (e.g. informed consent agreements and/or an ethics review) no documentary evidence was available to support this
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	
Standard:	Where external, the evaluation team was able to work without significant interference and given access to existing data and information sources
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation team was initially able to work freely without significant interference by government officials or other stakeholders. The service provider reported regularly to the Steering Committee consisting of three managers from the PSC and one from GTZ. As the report was published by the PSC, the PSC requested the service provider to apply a certain reporting style and format and hence influenced the evaluation team. However this was mainly related to the format of the report.
Rating:	3: The evaluation team was able to work without significant interference and was given access to existing data and information sources
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	
Standard:	The evaluation team was impartial and there was no evidence of conflict of interest
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation was conducted by an external and impartial evaluation team. Staff members from the PSC provided some spot checks in the field and helped the evaluation team with securing interviews with government officials. Besides the PSC providing a reporting structure, interviewees reported that the evaluation team was external and impartial and there was no evidence of conflict of interest.
Rating:	4: 4
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Participation and M&E skills development

Standard:	Key stakeholders were involved in the evaluation through a formalised mechanism or institutional arrangement
Comment and Analysis:	A steering committee, consisting of PSC staff and GTZ, was consulted throughout the review process. It should be noted that DoE was not consulted in a formalised process although it was the key department.
Rating:	3: Key stakeholders were involved in the evaluation through a formalised mechanism or institutional arrangement (e.g. a steering committee or reference group)
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	Where appropriate, an element of capacity building of partners responsible for the evaluand and evaluators was incorporated into the evaluation process
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation team had planned to incorporate capacity building of PSC staff in the process of the evaluation. However, as key PSC staff left and other were too busy, no capacity building took place.
Rating:	2: There was some evidence of capacity building of partners responsible for the evaluand or evaluators but this was either unstructured or incomplete
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Methodological integrity

Standard:	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 planned. It consisted of literature review, quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis and report writing.
Rating:	5: 5
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	The methods employed in the process of the evaluation were consistent with those planned and implemented adequately
Comment and Analysis:	Data gathering forms consisted of literature review, interviews, and focus groups. These were appropriate given the scope of the evaluation.
Rating:	5: The methods employed in the process of the evaluation exceeded the provisions of those planned, were very well implemented and significantly improved on the scope and quality of data available for analysis
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	A pilot of basic data collection instrumentation occurred prior to undertaking data collection and it was used to inform the research process
Comment and Analysis:	Quantitative and statistical data was computed using MS Excel, while qualitative data was analysed based on themes developed from the objective of the evaluation. This was appropriate given the purpose of the evaluation.
Rating:	5: All components of data collection instrumentation were piloted considering implications of the diversity of application (e.g. tools, representative sites, mediums, languages, etc) which allowed for further refinement of all data collection instrumentation and informed the research process to an excellent quality standard
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	
Standard:	Data collection was not compromised by fieldwork-level problems or unplanned diversions from original
Comment and Analysis:	Despite heavy rain in certain areas, teachers not being readily available for interviews and the fieldwork coinciding with a public servant strike, data collection was not compromised.
Rating:	4: 4
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	
Standard:	Data was collected from key stakeholders (e.g. implementers, governance structures, indirectly affected stakeholders) as data sources
Comment and Analysis:	The executive summary was five pages long and covered background, objectives, scope of work, methodology, findings, recommendations and conclusions. It was well structured and captured the key components of the report appropriately.
Rating:	5: Data was collected from all of the key stakeholder groupings identified in the research plan and the intended sample was well achieved (approx. 90-100% of those intended)
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	
Standard:	The methodology included engaging beneficiaries appropriately as a key source of data and information
Comment and Analysis:	The context of NSNP was explicitly described and presented as relevant to the review as part of Chapter 2 'Conceptualisation of the National School Nutrition Programme'. While the history, policy and legislative context coupled with international examples were described explicitly, the link between appropriate nutrition and child development could have been described further.
Rating:	4: The methodology included meaningfully engaging beneficiaries as a primary source of data and information (or if based on secondary data, includes data from beneficiaries and beneficiaries consulted on emerging findings)
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	Key stakeholders were significantly engaged as part of the methodology
Comment and Analysis:	The steering committee, and particularly the PSC, was significantly engaged as part of the methodology. It should be noted that DoE was not sufficiently engaged despite being the key department. DoE provided the database of schools in the provinces and assisted with entry to the schools.
Rating:	3: 3
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	The methodology included engaging beneficiaries appropriately as a key source of data and informatio
Comment and Analysis:	As part of the methodology beneficiaries (i.e. learners, circuit coordinators, schools, principals, teacher coordinators, members of school governing bodies, food handlers, food suppliers and teacher union representatives) were engaged as a key source of data and information.
Rating:	5: 5
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Project management (Implementation phase)

Standard:	The evaluation was conducted without significant shifts to scheduled project milestones and timefram
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation was conducted with limited shifts to scheduled milestones and timeframes. The report was submitted one month after the planned deadline, but also started one month later than planned.
Rating:	3: 3
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	The steering committee, technical working group and service provider worked together adequately to facilitate achievement of the objectives of the evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	The rationale for conducting the evaluation was somehow vague in both the TOR and the report. It was stated in the report that: 'Given the importance of nutrition in the promotion of good health and effective learning, the Public Service Commission (PSC) deemed it necessary to evaluate the NSNP to establish whether it is meeting its objectives. This is part of a series of evaluations the PSC is conducting on government's poverty reduction programme and projects'.
Rating:	3: The steering committee, technical working group and service provider worked together adequately to facilitate achievement of the objectives of the evaluation
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Reporting

Completeness of the evaluation report

Standard:	The scope or focus of the evaluation is apparent in the report
Comment and Analysis:	According to the report the scope of the study was (incorrectly) related to the choice of the two provinces as being the poorest provinces. More appropriately the scope or focus of the evaluation was addressed in the objective of the evaluation and in the sub-section on data analysis.
Rating:	3: 3
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	A detailed methodology is outlined in the relevant section of the report to the point that a reader
Comment and Analysis:	A detailed methodology was outlined both in the executive summary and the main report. Hence, it was possible for the reader to understand the data collection, analysis and interpretation approaches used.
Rating:	5: 5
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	Acknowledgement of limitations of all aspects of the methodology and findings are clearly and succinct
Comment and Analysis:	There was a separate sub-section in the methodology chapter on limitations. Acknowledgement of limitations of all aspects of the methodology and findings were clearly and succinctly articulated.
Rating:	5: 5
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	Key findings are presented in a clear way; they are made distinct from uncertain or speculative find
Comment and Analysis:	Key findings were mostly well presented in the report. However, at times findings were presented without correlating tables or evidence. Also the data in the tables were presented according to each respondent group and this disaggregation was not considered relevant by the assessor.
Rating:	3: 3
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	Conclusions and recommendations are clear and succinctly articulated
Comment and Analysis:	There was a separate chapter on conclusions and recommendations. The conclusion sub-section seemed short, while the recommendations were clear and succinctly articulated.
Rating:	4: 4
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Accessibility of content

Standard:	The final evaluation report is user-friendly, written in accessible language and adequate for publication (e.g. adequate layout and consistent formatting; complete sentences and no widespread grammatical or typographical errors; consistency of style and writing conventions; levels of formality; references complete and consistent with cited references in reference list and vice versa; etc.)
Comment and Analysis:	There were a few examples in the report where the evidence did not support the analysis or where there was no evidence available. Otherwise the data analysis appeared to have been well executed.
Rating:	2: The final evaluation report is characterised by either inaccessible language or frequent formatting, spelling and grammar mistakes
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	Quality of writing and presentation is adequate for publication including: adequate layout and consi
Comment and Analysis:	The quality of writing and presentation was adequate for publication. There were small inconsistencies in referencing; otherwise, the report is well written. Some of the findings need to be checked against the evidence provided.
Rating:	4: 4
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	Figures, tables and 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.) and are readily discernible to a reader familiar with data presentation conventions
Comment and Analysis:	The evidence was most of the time sufficiently and appropriately analysed to support the argument.
Rating:	4: Figures, tables and conventions are well used for a variety of types of data presentations and supporting explanations make them accessible to readers
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	Appropriate conventions are used in presentation of data (e.g. use of appropriate statistical language)
Comment and Analysis:	Appropriate conventions were used in the presentation of data. However, it could have been useful for the reader if the relevant question had been described as part of the finding. Likewise, it would have been useful to know when a finding was derived from qualitative data as opposed to the survey.
Rating:	3: 3
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	The use of figures and tables is such that it supports communication and comprehension of results; a
Comment and Analysis:	In total there are two tables and 28 figures in the 46 page evaluation report. These tables and figures communicated the results well and were easy to read with the exception of the disaggregation of respondents. There was also inconsistency with the application of x and y axes. Sometimes x was percentage in agreement and other times this was depicted as y axis. Headings and labelling of tables and figures were applied.
Rating:	3: 3
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Robustness of findings

Standard:	Data analysis appears to have been executed to an adequate standard
Comment and Analysis:	The report had some analytical flaws but they were not significant.
Rating:	3: Data analysis appears to have been executed to an adequate standard for most datasets
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	Findings are supported by evidence which is sufficiently and appropriately analysed to support the argument, integrating sources of data
Comment and Analysis:	As the conclusion chapter is short it did not make reference to empirical or other analytical work from related research studies. Also the findings did not make references to other empirical research reports. Only the background chapter made references to empirical and other analytical work from related research studies but this was used to provide the context of the NSNP.
Rating:	2: The evidence gathered has been analysed to support the argument to an extent but this is not entirely sufficient or appropriate, and different data sources may be presented separately rather than integrated
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	Findings are supported by available evidence
Comment and Analysis:	The findings were mostly supported by available evidence. However there were some examples where the evidence did not support the analysis or where there was no evidence available.
Rating:	3: 3
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	There is appropriate recognition and exploration of the possibility of alternative interpretations
Comment and Analysis:	Conclusions addressed the original evaluation purpose and objectives.
Rating:	4: There is clear recognition of the possibility of alternative interpretations and these are concisely presented without detracting from other findings
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	The report appears free of significant methodological and analytic flaws
Comment and Analysis:	There was no reference to the intervention logic or theory of change in the conclusions.
Rating:	1: There is clear evidence of significant methodological and analytical flaws in the report
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	There is appropriate recognition of the possibility of alternative interpretations
Comment and Analysis:	There were examples where there was appropriate recognition of the possibility of alternative interpretations. Also there were suggestive interpretations.
Rating:	4: 4
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	Limitations of all aspects of the methodology and findings are clearly articulated (e.g. limitations of scope or evaluation design, recommendation for additional research, data collection challenges, etc)
Comment and Analysis:	Recommendations were made in consultation with the PSC only. Neither DoE or GTZ were consulted regarding the drafting of the recommendations. Also no other sectoral partners or experts were consulted on the recommendations.
Rating:	3: Limitations of all aspects of the methodology and findings are articulated
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Strength of conclusions

Standard:	Conclusions are derived from evidence
Comment and Analysis:	Recommendations were shaped following input from PSC officials. No other government officials took part in shaping the recommendations.
Rating:	2: Conclusions are derived from some evidence but do not encompass all of what was presented
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	Conclusions are derived from evidence
Comment and Analysis:	Although short, the conclusions are based on the evidence presented in the report.
Rating:	4: 4
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	Conclusions address the original evaluation purpose and questions
Comment and Analysis:	The recommendations were specific, feasible and acceptable and were addressed to relevant NSNP actors including the DoE.
Rating:	4: Conclusions address the original evaluation purpose and questions well
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	Conclusions are drawn with explicit reference to the intervention logic or theory of change
Comment and Analysis:	There was a separate sub-section in the methodology chapter on limitations. Acknowledgement of limitations of all aspects of the methodology and findings were clearly and succinctly articulated.
Rating:	5: The conclusions are exceptional in the manner that they provide a judgement on the intervention logic or theory of change and are clearly linked to design recommendations
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Suitability of recommendations

Standard:	Recommendations are made in consultation with relevant government officials, stakeholders and sectoral experts
Comment and Analysis:	There was no mention of ethical issues in the report, although focus groups were even conducted with children. An interviewee indicated that fieldworkers were trained in how to conduct focus groups and interviews with each target group and the questionnaires were piloted.
Rating:	2: Recommendations are made with indirect or partial consultation of government officials, stakeholders and sectoral experts
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	Recommendations are useful- they are relevant, specific, feasible, affordable and acceptable
Comment and Analysis:	The results were not presented to any stakeholders as it was not part of the ToR. Meetings were however conducted with PSC during the drafting of the report.
Rating:	2: Recommendations are of limited use - they vary in the degree to which they are relevant, specific, feasible affordable and acceptable
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	Recommendations are relevant to the current policy context
Comment and Analysis:	There were only few recommendations and they were predominately addressing programmatic issues.
Rating:	2: 2
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Acknowledgement of ethical considerations

Standard:	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:	The evaluation was completed within the agreed budget. A total of R1,080,000 was allocated to the evaluation.
Rating:	5: The full report documents all ethical procedures applied in text and provides examples of all confidentiality statements and informed consent agreements as appendices, as well as indicates how data will be stored and/or disposed of in the future
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	There are no risks to participants or institutions in disseminating the evaluation report on a public website
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation report was published and publicly available on the government website.
Rating:	5: All participants and institutions to the evaluation were formally informed that the original report would be disseminated on a public website and no risks exist
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	There are no risks to participants in disseminating the original report on a public website
Comment and Analysis:	There were no risks for participants in disseminating the original report on a public website.
Rating:	4: 4
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	There are no unfair risks to institutions in disseminating the original report on a public website
Comment and Analysis:	There were no risks to institutions in disseminating the original report on a public website.
Rating:	4: 4
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Follow-up, use and learning

Resource utilisation

Standard:	The evaluation was completed within the planned timeframes
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation was conducted with limited shifts to timeframes. The report was submitted one month after planned deadline, but the evaluation also started one month later than planned.
Rating:	3: 3
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	The evaluation was completed within the planned timeframes and budget
Comment and Analysis:	Interviewees indicated that the study was of value in understanding the impact of the NSNP. The recommendations were predominantly focused on operational issues and less on policy recommendations.
Rating:	3: The evaluation was completed within the planned timeframes and budget
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Evaluation use

Standard:	Results of the evaluation have been presented to relevant stakeholders
Comment and Analysis:	As it was uncertain whether the recommendations had been implemented. It was not possible to ascertain whether there had been any positive influence on stakeholders. However, a government officials said that they now know what is going on with the NSNP.
Rating:	2: Results of the evaluation have been presented to stakeholders involved in the management of the evaluation project only but not more broadly
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	A reflective process has been undertaken by the steering committee (if no steering committee exists)
Comment and Analysis:	No formal reflective process seemed to have been undertaken by staff responsible for the evaluation to reflect on what could be done to strengthen future evaluations.
Rating:	2: 2
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	The evaluation study is seen by interviewed stakeholders as having added significant symbolic value
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation was seen by stakeholders as having added value to the programme. One of the interviewees indicated that the report was meant to be submitted to Parliament. Whether this happened was uncertain.
Rating:	3: 3
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

Standard:	There is clear evidence of instrumental use - that the recommendations of the evaluation were implem
Comment and Analysis:	There was no clear evidence of instrumental use that the recommendations were implemented to a significant extent. Also interviewees said that they were uncertain as to whether this had happened.
Rating:	2: 2
Moderation:	Accepted
Approval:	

References

Public Service Commission. 2008. "Report on the Evaluation of the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP)". Published by the Public Service Commission.

List of Interviewees

Ms Maria Mlotchwa, Qondisa Consulting. Telephonic interview 20/02/2013.

Mr Justice Libago, Department of Basic Education. Telephonic interview on 19/02/2013.

Ms Ms Mmapeu de Jenga, Deputy Director: Consultative Evaluations, Office of the Public Service Commission. Telephonic interview 20/02/2013.

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