



# Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation

## Report on the Assessment of Government Evaluations

Evaluation Title:	Diagnostic/Implementation Evaluation of Nutrition Interventions for Children from Conception to Age 5
Evaluation Number:	441
Evaluation Completion Date:	01 March 2014
Period of Evaluation:	16 months (Nov 2012-Mar 2014)
Submitted:	31 October 2014 by Stephen Rule
Approved:	31 October 2014 by Mike Leslie

## Evaluation Details

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Period of Evaluation:	16 months (Nov 2012-Mar 2014)
Known Cost:	R 1,089,803.00
Known Cost Type:	Audited
Initiated By:	Department of Health
Initiated By Internal:	Yes
Undertaken By:	Khulisa Management Services
Undertaken By Internal:	No

## Assessors

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## Assessment Documents

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Document Name:	Document Type:	Added By:	Added On:
Final Evaluation Report _17 March 2014.docx	Evaluation report	Mike Leslie	15 August 2014
Nutrition Evaluation 1-5-25 Report_submitted (27March14).docx	Any other relevant documentation pertaining to the evaluation process	Mike Leslie	15 August 2014
Nutrition ToRs 12 08 20.pdf	Terms of Reference (ToR) for the evaluation	Stephen Rule	08 September 2014
Nutrition Evaluation 1-5-25 Report Approved 14.03.31.docx	Evaluation report	Stephen Rule	08 September 2014
Assessment Report at Moderation.pdf	Assessment Report at Moderation	Mike Leslie	28 October 2014

## Quality Assessment Summary

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Overall, this evaluation of nutrition interventions scored a good 3.68 out of 5. It was well conceived but was hampered by a budget and time allocations that proved to be hopelessly inadequate, thus scoring 3.31 for planning and design. Implementation scored 3.49, on the basis of good ethical practice, independence and methodological integrity but could have been better had more attention been given to M&E skills development and management of limited resources in the face of apparent scope creep. In spite of these constraints, the resultant report scored a high 3.94 owing to its excellent technical quality and inclusion of targeted findings on each of the 17 evaluation questions; assessments of each of the 18 nutrition interventions; and comprehensive, useful and feasible recommendations. To date there has been significant on-going follow-up of the findings and recommendations, yielding a score of 3.73, although the evaluation took place only six months ago. The evaluation output should serve as significant model for future diagnostic and implementation evaluations.

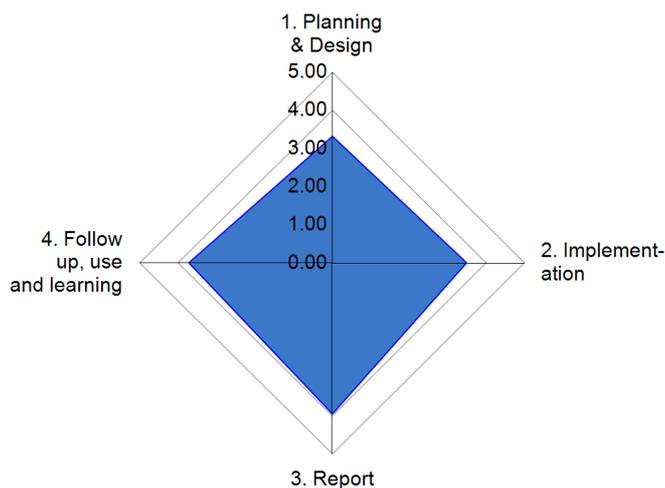
## Quality Assessment Scores

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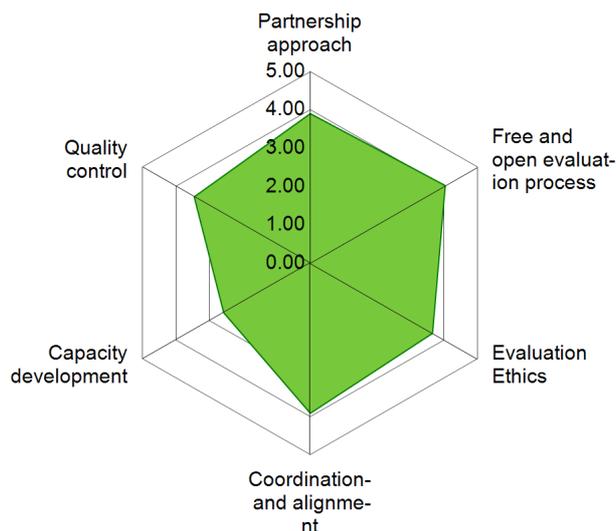
Phase of Evaluation	Score
1. Planning & Design	3.31
2. Implementation	3.49
3. Report	3.94
4. Follow-up, use and learning	3.73
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.68</b>

Overarching Consideration	Score
Partnership approach	3.91
Free and open evaluation process	4.04
Evaluation Ethics	3.67
Coordination and alignment	3.91
Capacity development	2.58
Quality control	3.46
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.68</b>

Scores: Phases of Evaluation



Scores: Overarching Considerations



Phase of Evaluation	Area of Evaluation	Score
1. Planning & Design	1.1. Quality of the TOR	3.67
1. Planning & Design	1.2. Adequacy of resourcing	1.91
1. Planning & Design	1.3. Alignment to policy context and background literature	3.00
1. Planning & Design	1.4. Appropriateness of the evaluation design and methodology	3.83
1. Planning & Design	1.5. Project management (Planning phase)	3.00
2. Implementation	2.1. Evaluation ethics and independence	3.73
2. Implementation	2.2. Participation and M&E skills development	2.30
2. Implementation	2.3. Methodological integrity	3.92
2. Implementation	2.4. Project management (Implementation phase)	2.00
3. Report	3.1. Completeness of reporting structure	4.33
3. Report	3.2. Accessibility of content	4.00
3. Report	3.3. Robustness of findings	3.73
3. Report	3.4. Strength of conclusions	4.29
3. Report	3.5. Suitability of recommendations	4.00
3. Report	3.6. Consideration of reporting risks and ethical implications	3.08
3. Report	3.7. Project management (Reporting phase)	4.00
4. Follow-up, use and learning	4.1. Resource utilisation	1.60
4. Follow-up, use and learning	4.2. Evaluation use	4.35
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>3.68</b>

# 1. Planning & Design

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## 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 TOR appeared to be comprehensive and explicit, specifying inter alia the background, purpose, scope, design, plan and timeline for the evaluation. However, extensive clarification was required once a service provider was appointed.

Rating: 3

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 was explicit, namely to "focus on identifying the critical system and implementation issues inhibiting or enabling people's access to nutrition-related interventions targeting children from conception to below the age of five, how these should be addressed and scaled up where appropriate".

Rating: 5

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: There were eight main evaluation questions, some with sub-questions. The issues included policy, regulations, implementational effectiveness or lack thereof, institutional arrangements and M&E systems. However, the service provider indicated that some of the evaluation questions were too vague. The example was given of the question "Are resources allocated appropriate and sufficiently (drawing on international evidence of cost benefit)?", and the service provider initially intended to look at national figures. However, the programme management later requested that staffing and budget allocations be examined at provincial and district level ("information that was difficult if not impossible to obtain").

Rating: 3

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: A jointly diagnostic evaluation as well as implementation evaluation was appropriate to determine whether the multiple nutrition interventions were suited to the context and whether they were effectively achieving their targets.

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: A tabulation in the TOR explicitly identified the intended users of the evaluation as political leadership and departmental officials at national and provincial levels; NGOs and other development partners; facility staff; and industry.

Rating: 3

Standard:	1.1.6. Key stakeholders were involved in the scoping of the TOR and choosing the purpose of the evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	Regarding stakeholder participation, the programme manager said that 'all government departments that were identified as key role players in improving the nutritional status of children were supportive'; and that 'a steering committee with representatives from DPME, Health, DAFF, DSD and DRDLF was established' also with inputs from UNICEF.
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 seven months of time allocated for completion of the evaluation proved to be totally inadequate.
Rating:	1

Standard:	1.2.2. The evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of original budget
Comment and Analysis:	The original budget was inadequate and was supplemented by 15%, which still proved inadequate. The service provider indicated that the project resulted in a financial loss for the company.
Rating:	1

Standard:	1.2.3. The evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of staffing and skills sets
Comment and Analysis:	The multiple inputs from participating departments, with differing sectoral specialities and skills, contributed adequately to the design of the evaluation.
Rating:	4

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 TOR required provision to be made by the service provider for involvement of participating departments in the evaluation activities if possible, but this was insufficiently explicit.
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: The programme manager indicated that 'There was already evidence of the nutrition status of under-five children in South Africa, from previous and recent surveys. Some indicators were improving whilst some were deteriorating; some provinces were viewed as performing better than others. Based on this perception and evidence, a need was identified to assess inhibiting and enabling factors to successful implementation of nutrition interventions'.

Rating: 3

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: The TOR certainly provides evidence of a sound grasp of literature on nutritional deficiencies and the objectives of National Outcome 2: "A long and healthy life for all South Africans", although explicit reference to international literature is scant.

Rating: 3

### 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: The TOR was explicit in its requirement that the evaluator was to be conversant with the 'theory of change' concept, as was the background section of the TOR in explaining the logic for six priority policy interventions.

Rating: 4

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

Comment and Analysis: Various government departments (Health, DAFF, DSD, DRDLR, DPME) as well as UNICEF made inputs into the design of the evaluation.

Rating: 4

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

Comment and Analysis: The TOR's methodological specifications were clear but not too rigidly prescriptive, and were appropriate to the questions that were to be asked.

Rating: 4

Standard: 1.4.4. Sampling was appropriate and adequate given focus and purpose of evaluation

Comment and Analysis: The sampling specifications of four selected provinces, and the district level selection, and suggested lists of informants were appropriate and adequate.

Rating: 4

Standard: 1.4.5. There was a planned process for using the findings of the evaluation

Comment and Analysis: The process for using the evaluation findings was clearly outlined in the TOR. Users were identified as political leadership, national and provincial government departments, developmental partners, facility and community level staff, industry). Timelines were not specified.

Rating: 3

## 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: The government programme manager indicated that during the inception phase, the evaluation questions needed clarification by means of accessing further information at provincial level. This facilitated common understanding of the evaluation implementation between government and service provider.

Rating: 3

## 2. Implementation

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### 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: Provincial departments were required to provide ethical clearance for the evaluation. This was more rapidly forthcoming from some provinces than others, notably the Western Cape, which appeared to exercise more stringent ethical standards in respect of data collection. This was also delayed by the advent of the December holiday period at the time.

Rating: 4

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

Comment and Analysis: There was no interference by the programme manager with the evaluation team, but the service provider indicated that additional requirements and suggestions from the Steering Committee effectively extended the brief and delayed completion.

Rating: 3

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

Comment and Analysis: There is no evidence that there might have been a 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: Several key stakeholders were consulted during the course of the project. This took place in the form of a Steering Committee, which according to the service provider was "continually informed and consulted throughout the evaluation process". However, it is noted that two of the identified stakeholders, Department of Agriculture and Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, failed to participate effectively.

Rating: 4

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

Comment and Analysis: No capacity building was incorporated into the evaluation process.

Rating: 1

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: No skills development for evaluators was incorporated.

Rating: 1

Standard: 2.2.4. Peer review of the agreed evaluation design and methodology occurred prior to undertaking data collection

Comment and Analysis: The programme manager said that external peer reviewers made inputs on the evaluation methodology and content.

Rating: 3

### 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 evaluation methodology utilised deviated minimally somewhat from that which was planned. One hundred of the anticipated 104 interviews and focus group discussions were conducted, with additional suggestions from the programme management being incorporated when possible.

Rating: 4

Standard: 2.3.2. A pilot of data collection instrumentation occurred prior to undertaking data collection

Comment and Analysis: The instruments were piloted in Gauteng, according to the service provider.

Rating: 4

Standard: 2.3.3. Data collection was not compromised by fieldwork-level problems or unplanned diversions from original intentions

Comment and Analysis: The challenges encountered were a delay in ethical clearance from provincial authorities in one of the sampled provinces, and the broad scope of the evaluation, which 'resulted in very lengthy interviews with respondents who often had time constraints..... [and] many respondents gave only cursory information around the issues that we sought to explore more deeply'. The completion of the evaluation was thus also delayed and the service provider and programme manager indicated that a longer period should have been allocated for the evaluation.

Rating: 3

Standard: 2.3.4. Forms of data gathering were appropriate given the scope of evaluation

Comment and Analysis: Qualitative methodologies entailing in-depth interviews and focus group discussions with 100 individuals or groups appeared to be essential to cover the huge scope of 18 interventions, 17 research questions, and an investigation of 6 moderating factors.

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 evaluation report's Annex 3 (pages 133 to 196) comprises a valuable, appropriate and sufficient qualitative analysis of each one of 18 nutrition interventions against each of the 17 research questions.

Rating: 4

Standard: 2.3.6. Key stakeholders were significantly engaged as part of the methodology

Comment and Analysis: The service provider indicated that the Steering Committee was composed of key stakeholders, who were informed and consulted throughout the evaluation. Two stakeholders who were supposed to be part of the Steering Committee (per the TOR) – DoA and the DRDLR – were, according to the service provider, "not really involved", but this appeared not to impact greatly on the evaluation process.

Rating: 4

Standard: 2.3.7. The methodology included engaging beneficiaries appropriately as a key source of data and information

Comment and Analysis: The methodology included 40 focus group discussions across four provinces and was inclusive of 267 individual beneficiaries of nutrition interventions. These comprised pregnant women and mothers of children under five years old who were located at sampled health facilities, as well as other beneficiary participants in NGO programmes.

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: There were significant shifts to the project milestones, with an extension of the completion date by about nine months owing partially to delays in obtaining ethical clearance.

Rating: 2

## 3. Report

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### 3.1. Completeness of reporting structure

Standard:	3.1.1. Executive summary captures key components of the report appropriately
Comment and Analysis:	The executive summary of 14 pages is comprehensive and includes summaries of the evaluation methodology, findings, conclusions and recommendations.
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 pervasive poverty and poor nutritional practices is well documented and integrated into the report.
Rating:	4
Standard:	3.1.3. There is a clear rationale for the evaluation questions
Comment and Analysis:	The rationale for the evaluation questions pertain inter alia to the broader policy aim of alleviating poor nutritional practices across the country. The evaluation questions about policy appropriateness and implementational effectiveness therefore have a clear rationale.
Rating:	5
Standard:	3.1.4. The scope or focus of the evaluation is apparent in the report
Comment and Analysis:	The very wide scope of the evaluation is totally apparent in the report. The service provider indicated dissatisfaction with a degree of vagueness in some of the evaluation questions, which required clarification.
Rating:	3
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 methodological approach is explained well, inclusive of the purposefully selected sampling of two districts in each of four provinces; the data collection processes; and the analytical approach.
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:	The limitations of the study are well articulated in respect of methodology (sampling bias, planned vs actual data collection) and quality of responses (respondent time and knowledge constraints).
Rating:	5

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: Key findings are made very clear in different formats and tabulations throughout the report.

Rating: 5

Standard: 3.1.8. Conclusions and recommendations are clear and succinctly articulated

Comment and Analysis: The conclusions about the ongoing severe challenges in nutritional adequacy, and the explicit technical recommendations on how to ameliorate conditions and intervene more effectively are clearly articulated.

Rating: 5

## 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 is well written and accessible to practitioners, perhaps less so to the lay reader.

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 publishable. Only a few minor syntactical or grammatical errors were noticed.

Rating: 4

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: Conventions utilised in the textual and graphic presentation of data appropriately adhere to quantitative and qualitative norms.

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 report contains 16 tabulations, 21 figures and 8 information boxes, many of which also contain figures and tables. The richness of the content of these components adds to the visual communication of the evaluation findings and enhances comprehension.
Rating:	4

### 3.3. Robustness of findings

Standard:	3.3.1. Data analysis appears to have been well executed
Comment and Analysis:	The data from multiple sources appears to have been thoroughly processed and analysed.
Rating:	4

Standard:	3.3.2. Findings are supported by available evidence
Comment and Analysis:	The wide range of technical findings are supported by the evidence collected.
Rating:	4

Standard:	3.3.3. The evidence gathered is sufficiently and appropriately analysed to support the argument
Comment and Analysis:	The evidence gathered during the evaluation is well analysed and comprehensively presented to support the arguments made in the report.
Rating:	4

Standard:	3.3.4. There is appropriate recognition of the possibility of alternative interpretations
Comment and Analysis:	Recognition of alternative interpretations is not explicit.
Rating:	2

Standard:	3.3.5. The report appears free of significant methodological and analytic flaws
Comment and Analysis:	No major methodological or analytical flaws could be discerned in the report, although there was not acknowledgement that the extensive qualitative data and the ways in which they were sampled, might have been interpreted differently
Rating:	4

Standard:	3.3.6. Relevant limitations of the evaluation are noted
Comment and Analysis:	The limitation of being health-focussed, rather than social development or agriculture-focussed is acknowledged.
Rating:	4

### 3.4. Strength of conclusions

Standard: 3.4.1. Conclusions are derived from evidence  
Comment and Analysis: The extensively laid out conclusions are systematically presented in terms of each of the 18 nutrition interventions and the 17 evaluation questions.  
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 factor in the previous findings of several UNICEF and other international studies.  
Rating: 4

Standard: 3.4.3. Conclusions address the original evaluation purpose and questions  
Comment and Analysis: Each of the 17 evaluation questions is explicitly answered in relation to each of the 18 nutrition interventions.  
Rating: 5

Standard: 3.4.4. Conclusions are drawn with explicit reference to the intervention logic or theory of change  
Comment and Analysis: Many of the nutrition interventions are based on expectations of influencing and changing the behaviour of individuals and households in respect of nutritional practices. The report conclusions recognise these expectations, although not always explicitly.  
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 work-shopped with key stakeholders prior to being finalised.  
Rating: 4

Standard: 3.5.2. Recommendations are shaped following discussions with relevant government officials and other relevant stakeholders  
Comment and Analysis: The recommendations were work-shopped with key stakeholders, primarily government officials, prior to being finalised.  
Rating: 4

Standard: 3.5.3. Recommendations are relevant to the current policy context  
Comment and Analysis: The recommendations speak directly to the current policy context of capacity and resource constraints and pervasive poverty.  
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 pertain largely to better focus, coordination and capacity enhancement, all of which speak directly to the challenges identified. They are specific, feasible and acceptable. Political will to allocate sufficient ongoing budget will render them affordable.  
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: Stakeholders work-shopped the report recommendations with the service providers, but there was not a formal peer review of the draft report.  
Rating: 2

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: Procedures to ensure the confidentiality of individual responses and of processes of obtaining informed consent are not explicit.  
Rating: 2

Standard: 3.6.3. There are no risks to participants in disseminating the original report on a public website  
Comment and Analysis: The report does not specify the names of individual participants in the evaluation study and the questions asked were in no way personal, so it can be concluded that public dissemination of the report poses no risks to the participants.  
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: No unfair institutional risks exist regarding dissemination of the findings collected from various government departments and their agencies, whose activities are in any event supposed to be transparently in the public domain.  
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:	The Department (programme management) and the service provider, together with representatives of provincial departments, met for a project closure meeting shortly after submission of the final report. Some of the provincial delegates required further information, and were given clarity on certain issues pertaining to the evaluation. The programme manager indicated that the consensus on the evaluation was generally positive.
Rating:	4

## 4. Follow-up, use and learning

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### 4.1. Resource utilisation

Standard:	4.1.1. The evaluation was completed within the planned timeframes
Comment and Analysis:	Owing to delays in receiving ethics clearance and data collection, the planned timeframe was extended.
Rating:	2

Standard:	4.1.2. The evaluation was completed within the agreed budget
Comment and Analysis:	The original budget was increased by about 15% to cater for unforeseen expenses, however this was inadequate and had to be subsidised by the service provider.
Rating:	1

### 4.2. Evaluation use

Standard:	4.2.1. Results of the evaluation have been presented to all relevant stakeholders
Comment and Analysis:	All stakeholders have been presented with the results and have engaged fairly extensively with the conclusions and recommendations.
Rating:	4

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:	Several reflection processes have been undertaken subsequent to the evaluation, engaging with the outcomes thereof.
Rating:	4

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 is definitely seen as having added value to the policy and various nutrition interventions.
Rating:	5

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 study is comprehensive and conceptually rich. It has been a primary input for subsequent discussions and workshops on planning the way forward, up to and including a meeting held as recently as last week (September 2014).
Rating:	5
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:	A workshop aimed at developing an implementation plan was convened in September 2014. The findings and recommendations of the Evaluation were prominent at the workshop. The programme manager indicated that 'the team is in the process of receiving management responses from various Government Departments and putting a team together for the development of an implementation plan. The service provider has also been involved in subsequent follow-up meetings aimed inter alia at realising the recommendations.
Rating:	4
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 is not yet publicly available on the Department of Health website.
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:	Some six months after completion of the evaluation there is already evidence that recommendations are being discussed and that an implementation plan is being developed. The programme manager said that 'Even though the recommendations have not been implemented yet, the report has led to the inclusion of Nutrition indicators in the MTSF process'.
Rating:	4
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:	Active engagement with the report and its recommendations is in progress according to both the programme management and the service provider.
Rating:	N/A

## References

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Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation, 2012. Terms of Reference for Diagnostic/Implementation Evaluation of Nutrition Interventions for Children from Conception to age 5.

Khulisa Management Services, 2014. FINAL EVALUATION REPORT: SHORT, Diagnostic/Implementation Evaluation of Nutrition Interventions for Children from Conception to Age 5.

Khulisa Management Services, 2014. FINAL EVALUATION REPORT, Diagnostic/Implementation Evaluation of Nutrition Interventions for Children from Conception to Age 5.

## List of Interviewees

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Ms Edna Berhane, report co-author, researcher at Khulisa Management Services, 8th September 2014.

Ms Tshimi Lynn Moeng Mahlangu, Cluster Manager: Health Promotion and Nutrition, Department of Health, 8th & 17th September 2014.

Ms Mary Pat Selcaggio, report co-author, Director of Health, Khulisa Management Services, 16th September 2104