



Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

Report on the Assessment of Government Evaluations

Evaluation Title:	Implementation Evaluation of EPWP in the Social Sector: Phase Two (2009/10 - 2013/14)
Evaluation Number:	508
Evaluation Completion Date:	08 June 2015
Period of Evaluation:	29 May 2014 - 8 June 2015
Submitted:	27 October 2015 by Nana Davies
Approved:	02 November 2015 by Mike Leslie

Evaluation Details

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Known Cost Type:	Referenced
Initiated By:	Department of Social Development and Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
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Assessors

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Assessment Documents

Document Name:	Document Type:	Added By:	Added On:
EPWP final full report 15 06 08.docx	Evaluation report	Mike Leslie	07 September 2015
Final summary report 15 07 13.doc	Evaluation report	Mike Leslie	07 September 2015
EPWPInception20140704zCHMchangesaccepted.docx	An inception report	Nana Davies	18 October 2015
EPWPToR20140402aCHM.pdf	Terms of Reference (ToR) for the evaluation	Nana Davies	18 October 2015
RevisedEPWPPProposal20140704zCHMchangesaccepted.docx	The proposal selected to conduct the evaluation	Nana Davies	18 October 2015
Assessment Report at Moderation.pdf	Assessment Report at Moderation	Mike Leslie	22 October 2015

Quality Assessment Summary

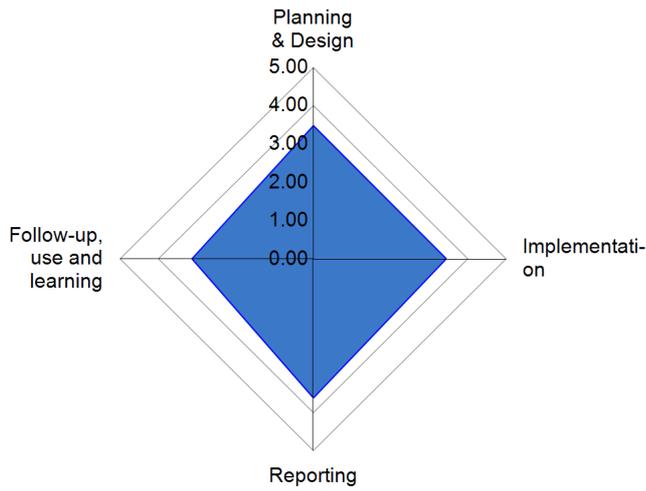
This review received an overall score of 3.46 in the Evaluation Quality Assessment Tool. Some of the strengths of the evaluation were the following: A clear Terms of Reference was developed in a participatory manner by DMPE, DSD and DPW and with input from the EPWP Social Sector Extended Steering Committee (score 3.50). The choice of type of evaluation, (an implementation evaluation) was appropriate to elucidate the evaluation question around coordination, institutional arrangements, likelihood of achieving outcomes and impact, expansion, design and lessons learned. Hence the score for appropriateness of the evaluation design and methodology was 4.00. Although the budget was originally considered appropriate it should have increased when the scope of fieldwork increased during the inception phase (score 2.43). A Theory of Change was developed and although it was more of a logic model it did inform the evaluation design (score 4.00). Furthermore conclusions were drawn with explicit reference to the Theory of Change (score 4.00). The evaluation proposal reflected a highly skilled team with expertise in the sector. In reality the evaluation was led by a more junior research fellow, with insufficient support from the EPRI team but with guidance from the DPME and with assistance in setting up fieldwork by the DSD (score 2.43). Despite this, the evaluation process was credible and adhering to ethical standards (score 3.00). The Service Provider included good capacity building components in the process by giving junior government officials the opportunity to carry out instrument design and fieldwork (score 3.43). The evaluation report is well-structured, easy to read (score 4.00) and addresses all the evaluation questions in the TOR. The evaluation deliverables, including the evaluation report were presented and validated by the Steering Committee. The DSD found that the evaluation has added significant symbolic value to the programme and an improvement plan has already been developed. However, no reflective process for strengthening evaluations in the future has taken place between the Steering Committee and the Service Provider (score 2.00). In terms of the phases of the evaluation, the score is highest for the reporting phase (3.62) and lowest for the follow up, use and learning phase (3.13). In terms of the overarching considerations, the highest scores are in the areas of 'alignment to policy context and background literature' (3.73) and 'evaluation ethics' (3.70), while 'capacity development' (3.20) and 'partnership approach' (3.28) score the lowest. Overall, the evaluation was well executed, with rigor and good quality. It should be mentioned that one of the EPRI evaluation staff involved in the evaluation and interviewed for this quality assessment, is now an employee at PDG, the service provider currently responsible for the quality assessments and administrating the quality assessors and sub-contractors. However, this potential conflict of interest was declared and the individual staff member has not been involved in any aspect of the administration of this quality assessment. .

Quality Assessment Scores

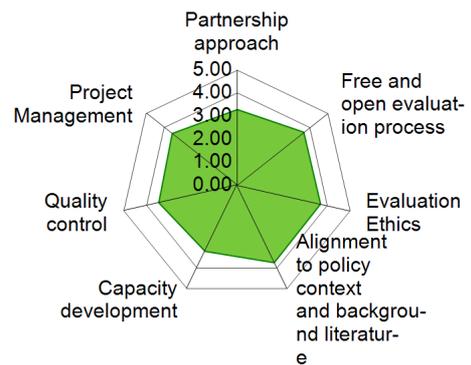
Phase of Evaluation	Score
Planning & Design	3.49
Implementation	3.45
Reporting	3.62
Follow-up, use and learning	3.13
Total	3.46

Overarching Consideration	Score
Partnership approach	3.28
Free and open evaluation process	3.67
Evaluation Ethics	3.70
Alignment to policy context and background literature	3.73
Capacity development	3.20
Quality control	3.47
Project Management	3.57
Total	3.46

Scores: Phases of Evaluation



Scores: Overarching Considerations



Phase of Evaluation	Area of Evaluation	Score
Planning & Design	Quality of the TOR	3.50
Planning & Design	Adequacy of resourcing	2.43
Planning & Design	Appropriateness of the evaluation design and methodology	4.00
Planning & Design	Project management (Planning phase)	4.00
Implementation	Evaluation ethics and independence	3.00
Implementation	Participation and M&E skills development	3.43
Implementation	Methodological integrity	3.37
Implementation	Project management (Implementation phase)	4.00
Reporting	Completeness of the evaluation report	3.00
Reporting	Accessibility of content	4.00
Reporting	Robustness of findings	3.80
Reporting	Strength of conclusions	4.00
Reporting	Suitability of recommendations	3.00
Reporting	Acknowledgement of ethical considerations	3.57
Follow-up, use and learning	Resource utilisation	2.00
Follow-up, use and learning	Evaluation use	3.42
Total	Total	3.46

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 fairly well-structured TOR. The core components were present like background, purpose, evaluation questions, methodology, deliverables, timeframes, resource requirement, utilization etc. However, the format kept changing leaving one to think at times that it was a copy and paste TOR. Although, the TOR makes reference to quantitative data collection and it was a requirement that the team should have experience in quantitative evaluation techniques, it was not clear from the TOR what the client had in mind.

Rating: 3: The evaluation was guided by a well-structured and complete TOR or internal evaluation proposal of an adequate standard

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 timing of the evaluation was towards the end of phase 2 and while the implementing departments were starting the planning of phase 3. The evaluation questions were focused on coordination of the programme along with assessment of the design, the likelihood of the programme achieving its outcomes and impacts, opportunities for expansion and lessons learned. The evaluation was an implementation evaluation of the EPWP Social Sector Phase Two, with focus on whether the right coordination and institutional arrangements are in place to be able to achieve outcomes and impact and for scaling up. This is a well suited type of evaluation to elucidate these evaluation questions. Likewise, a mixed method approach was well suited for the scope of the evaluation.

Rating: 4: The approach and type of the evaluation was well-suited to the purpose and scope of the evaluation TOR

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 and their information needs are identified in the TOR on page 4. The intended users are sector lead, EPWP lead, implementing departments, Treasury and SETAs. The focus on the intended use topics is predominantly on coordination, which appear to be one of the motivating factors for requesting the evaluation. The information needs were meaningfully differentiated.

Rating: 3: The TOR (or an internal evaluation proposal) identified the intended users of the evaluation and their information needs

Standard: Key stakeholders were involved in the scoping of the TOR and choosing the purpose of the evaluation

Comment and Analysis: DPME conducted a half-a day participatory process with the DPW and DSD where they jointly identified the key questions that should be addressed in the evaluation. Both DPW and DSD were keen to have the coordination questions included while DPME also wanted inclusion of the likely impact, design and expansion questions as well. These three departments were the main stakeholders in determining the TOR and choosing the purpose of the evaluation. DoH and DBE added their comments afterwards and the TOR was presented to the Extended Steering Committee, where national and provincial stakeholders had a chance to comment.

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

Adequacy of resourcing

Standard:	The evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of time and budget allocated
Comment and Analysis:	The total budget was R1,254,542 and the anticipated duration of the evaluation was nine months which the government officials interviewed found adequate for the scope of the evaluation. However, the number of interviews increased during the inception phase without an increase in the budget. Hence the service provider found the budget inadequate. As the time allocated was good but the budget was inadequate, the score below is adequate (3).
Rating:	3: The evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of time and budget allocated
Standard:	The team conducting the evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of staffing and skills sets
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation team was not adequately resourced in terms of staffing and skills set. In reality the evaluation was lead by a junior person who had limited experience in terms of conducting big evaluations. She did receive some input from senior and very experienced consultants as well as from an expert, but it was not found sufficient. There is a discrepancy in the proposal as under the team section she was meant to play a coordinating role, while in 'level of effort table' she has been allocated the most days. The evaluation team was also meant to have had a junior researcher on board but this did not happen.
Rating:	2: The evaluation was under-staffed or lacked some skills sets appropriate for the type and sector of the evaluation

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:	In the TOR there was explicit reference to need for the service provider to develop a theory of change. Likewise the proposal and the inception report are also making reference to the theory of change. This was furthermore discussed in the inception phase. However, there was not visual representation of the Theory of Change in the TOR or the inception report. The Theory of Change did inform the evaluation design.
Rating:	4: The intervention logic or theory of change meaningfully informed and shaped the TOR or the Inception Report, including a visual representation
Standard:	The planned methodology was appropriate to the questions being asked
Comment and Analysis:	The Terms of Reference suggested a methodology which was appropriate to elucidate the evaluation questions. As this was an implementation evaluation with focus on whether the right coordination and institutional arrangements are in place to be able to achieve outcomes and impact and for scaling up, primary data collection at national, provincial and district level was appropriate.
Rating:	4: The planned methodology was well suited to the questions being asked and considered the data available

Standard:	The sampling planned was appropriate and adequate given the focus and purpose of evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	EPRI had a sample of 77 semi structured interviews and 17 focus groups with stakeholders from national and provincial government as well as NGOs and participants. This sample was applied in 5 provinces and was appropriate and adequate for an implementation evaluation.
Rating:	4: The sampling planned was good given the focus, purpose and context of the evaluation

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 clarified a few points where EPRI had a different understanding of the terms of reference as to that of the evaluation steering committee. For example the inception meeting clarified that all five programmes had to be evaluated in each of the five provinces. (EPRI had originally understood it to be one per province).
Rating:	4: The inception phase was used to good effect to achieve a common agreement and understanding of how the evaluation would be implemented

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: EPRI ensured that interviewees were providing informed consent before taking part of the evaluation. For the focus group participants the fieldwork team read out a the consent form translated in to local language. Also, the focus group participants were told that they could use nicknames like e.g. a fruit so they could speak anonymously. Finally, EPRI split the team from their supervisor so they could speak freely. EPRI did not do submit their research protocol to an ethics review board as it was not found necessary.

Rating: 4: There was clear evidence that ethical protocols were observed for most data collection instances including: informed consent agreements; confidentiality; documenting and storing data notes, recordings or transcripts; 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

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 able to work without significance interference. However, they struggled to obtain data for DSD and DPW. This was partly due to bad documentation keeping and as a result some of the documents came after the data collection had taken place. Even one of their strategic plans had been lost. There was also an incidence where the DPW did not want to share relevant data-sets from previous research.

Rating: 2: There was some evidence that the evaluation team was not supported to get access to existing data and information sources

Participation and M&E skills development

Standard: Key stakeholders were involved in the evaluation through a formalised mechanism or institutional arrangement

Comment and Analysis: DPME was leading the evaluation on behalf of the evaluation steering committee consisting of DPME, DPW and DSD. The five implementing departments were invited to be involved in the evaluation, but it was only DSD who was involved. The participants in the EPWP and the NGOs were only involved as subjects of the evaluation. There has been no presentation or feedback to them.

Rating: 3: Key stakeholders were involved in the evaluation through a formalised mechanism or institutional arrangement (e.g. a steering committee or reference group)

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 process included a Theory of Change workshop where the extended steering committee attended (35 people in total). The workshop applied a capacity building approach. It was facilitated by a professor from University of Johannesburg and a Theory of Change was built from scratch. Furthermore, two government officials were nominated to be capacity built as part of the evaluation. One of them attended the fieldwork and the other one took part of instrument development.
Rating:	4: Structured capacity building of evaluators and partners responsible for the evaluand was incorporated into the evaluation process

Methodological integrity

Standard:	A literature review was developed which informed the analytical framework and findings of the evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	A literature review was developed and it informed the analytical framework and findings of the evaluation. For the first draft, EPRI received a lot of comments to the literature review. For example, while they focused on public work programmes in general there was little focus on coordination and management of public work programmes. This was changed in the revised literature review.
Rating:	4: A good quality literature review was developed which was insightful in terms of the analytical framework and provided good context for the findings

Standard:	The methods employed in the process of the evaluation were consistent with those planned and implemented adequately
Comment and Analysis:	Primary data was collected from the stakeholder groups outlined in the proposal. Secondary analysis of documents and existing data sets was conducted. For example an assessment of the likely poverty alleviation impact of the stipend was conducted using household income data provided by focus group participants as well as the National Income Dynamics Survey (NIDS) dataset. This was consistent with the planned methods and implemented adequately.
Rating:	4: The methods employed in the process of the evaluation were consistent with those planned and implemented well (in terms of time, coverage, and content)

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:	Although the revised proposal makes reference to 'data collection tools will be piloted (likely in the Western Cape), then reviewed by EPRI, and then submitted to the TWG for comments before being finalised' a formal pilot of instruments did not take place. This was due to limited time in the fieldwork phase. EPRI did however change the instruments after the first few data collection sessions.
Rating:	2: A pilot of data collection instrumentation occurred but not in a way that could meaningfully test or improve upon instrumentation

Standard:	Data was collected from key stakeholders (e.g. implementers, governance structures, indirectly affected stakeholders) as data sources
Comment and Analysis:	Data was collected from the coordinating/lead departments at national and provincial levels; and the five implementing departments at the national level as well as in five targeted provinces. Focus group discussions and interviews were held with provincial programme coordinators (provincial sector lead departments and National Department of Public Works regional coordinators). In each of the five provinces the evaluation team visited two implementation sites, where the team interviewed EPWP participants in focus groups, their supervisors, and recipients of the services they provide. One NPO per province was also interviewed, except in Limpopo where the interview did not take place. In total 186 respondents took part of the evaluation and these respondents were all key stakeholders. However, according to the limitation section in the report interviews did not take place with Deputy-Director Generals who were intended to participate in the EPWP-SS coordinating structure.
Rating:	4: Data was collected from the intended key stakeholder groupings in line with the envisioned range and type of stakeholders (approx. 80-89% of intended)

Standard:	The methodology included engaging beneficiaries appropriately as a key source of data and information
Comment and Analysis:	The methodology included focus groups with the participants of the EPWP. However no interviews took place with community members who benefited from the work of the participants.
Rating:	3: The methodology included engaging beneficiaries as a source of data and information (or if based on secondary data, includes data from beneficiaries)

Project management (Implementation phase)

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:	Throughout the evaluation process, the service provider worked closely with the DPME Evaluation Manager who provided strong support. The two programme managers in DSD assisted in setting up interviews when the service provider struggled with this. The Steering Committee was involved in reviewing the various deliverables.
Rating:	4: The steering committee, technical working group and service provider worked together in a flexible and constructive manner facilitating achievement of the objectives of the evaluation

Standard:	Support provided by the evaluation secretariat (e.g. the administrators responsible for the evaluation) facilitated achievement of the objectives of the evaluation (eg turnaround times, addressing problems, preparation for meetings etc)
Comment and Analysis:	The DPME facilitated good administrative support of the evaluation. Minutes from the Steering Committee's meeting were drafted and comments to the deliverables were provided timeously, which facilitated the achievement of the objectives of the evaluation.
Rating:	4: Good support was provided by the evaluation secretariat and facilitates timely and constructive achievement of the objectives of the evaluation

Reporting

Completeness of the evaluation report

Standard: The first draft evaluation report was of a sufficient quality to go to stakeholders and did not require major changes

Comment and Analysis: The first draft of the evaluation report was considered 'rough' and not of sufficient quality to go to stakeholders. Insufficient analysis had been provided and it was relying too little on primary and particularly quantitative data. The evaluation report required major changes.

Rating: 2: A first draft of the evaluation report was of a poor quality and required major changes

Standard: The final evaluation report is well-structured and complete in terms of the following: executive summary; context of the development evaluation; evaluation purpose, questions and scope; methodology; findings and analysis; conclusions and recommendations

Comment and Analysis: The final evaluation report is well-structured and complete. It consists of an executive summary, context of the evaluation, evaluation purpose, methodology including questions and scope, findings and analysis, conclusion and recommendations. The Theory of Change forms part of the annexes but otherwise there is no exceptional use of the appendices to supplement the main report content structure.

Rating: 4: The final evaluation report is well-structured, complete and presents the following report components well: executive summary; context of the development evaluation; evaluation purpose, questions and scope; methodology; findings and analysis; conclusions and recommendations

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: The final full evaluation report is concise and user-friendly . It is written in accessible language and is adequate for publication. On page 30 and page 46 there are incomplete references.

Rating: 4: The final report is well written, accessible to the common reader and ready for publication with only minor spelling, grammar or formatting mistakes

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: Figures, tables and appropriate conventions are used in the presentation of data and are readily discernible to a reader familiar with data presentation conventions. This was particularly the case with the chapters on training implementation and the likelihood of achieving EPWP objectives. In total there are 19 figures and 13 tables in the report.

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

Robustness of findings

Standard:	Data analysis appears to have been executed to an adequate standard
Comment and Analysis:	Each section of the findings start with a description, which leads in to an analysis and a separate conclusion. The analysis has been well executed for all datasets throughout the report.
Rating:	4: Data analysis appears to have been well executed for all datasets
Standard:	Findings are supported by evidence which is sufficiently and appropriately analysed to support the argument, integrating sources of data
Comment and Analysis:	Throughout the report the service provider presents an argument supported by analysis of evidence containing integration of primary and secondary data. For example on pages 32-33 when analysing the roles of the Overall Coordinator and Sector Lead Coordinator, the service provider makes reference to a written generic responsibility matrix for national and provincial levels where there are some overlaps in functions. The service provider continues to emphasize this argument by providing quotation and analysis from primary data, where respondents highlights that these roles have been confusing and overlapping.
Rating:	4: The evidence gathered is well analysed, integrated and supports the argument in key sections of the report, without presenting data which are not used in the argument
Standard:	There is appropriate recognition and exploration of the possibility of alternative interpretations
Comment and Analysis:	There are a few examples where the service provider does recognise and explore different alternative interpretations of evidence presented; for example on page 46 when discussing reasons for senior management's non-attendance in senior management coordination structures.
Rating:	3: There is appropriate recognition of the possibility of alternative interpretations
Standard:	The report appears free of significant methodological and analytic flaws
Comment and Analysis:	The report appeared free of significant methodological and analytical flaws. The report documents some of the processes applied to ensure that it is methodological sound in the methodology section and list some of the limitations it has encountered.
Rating:	4: The report documents some of the methodological and analytical processes used to ensure that it is free of methodological and analytic flaws
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:	The service provider has listed a range of limitations to the methodology and findings on page 21-22. It appears to be the key limitations including scope and data collection challenges.
Rating:	4: Limitations of all aspects of the methodology and findings are clearly articulated and distinguish between different kinds of limitations

Strength of conclusions

Standard:	Conclusions are derived from evidence
Comment and Analysis:	A separate conclusion follows each section where findings are presented and analysis of evidence provided. The conclusions are derived from evidence and are often supported by multiple sources of data that has been well analysed.
Rating:	4: Conclusions are derived from evidence and well supported by multiple sources of data that has been well analysed

Standard:	Conclusions address the original evaluation purpose and questions
Comment and Analysis:	Each concluding section addresses components of the the original evaluation purposes and questions. The final composite conclusion addresses all the evaluation questions.
Rating:	4: Conclusions address the original evaluation purpose and questions well

Standard:	Conclusions are drawn with explicit reference to the intervention logic or theory of change
Comment and Analysis:	There are clear references to and judgement of the Theory of Change and the programme logic in the final conclusion.
Rating:	4: Conclusions are drawn with an explicit reference to, and provide a clear judgement on, the intervention logic or theory of change

Suitability of recommendations

Standard:	Recommendations are made in consultation with relevant government officials, stakeholders and sectoral experts
Comment and Analysis:	The recommendations were developed with strong support from the DPME and a bit of input from the peer reviewer. They were validated by by the steering committee. However no beneficiary/participant representative took part of the validation of recommendations' workshop.
Rating:	3: Recommendations are made in consultation with relevant government officials, stakeholders and sectoral experts

Standard:	Recommendations are useful- they are relevant, specific, feasible, affordable and acceptable
Comment and Analysis:	The report presents 7 recommendations that are useful, relevant, specific, feasible, affordable and acceptable. They are also presented in a user-friendly way, although they do not clearly identify the users.
Rating:	3: Recommendations are useful- they are relevant, specific, feasible, affordable and acceptable to an extent

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 full report documents the process applied to ensure confidentiality and informed consent in a separate subsection of the methodology chapter. 'All participants in the interviews and focus groups were provided with an informed consent form providing background and purpose of the study and the reason why they have been asked to participate, the types of questions that will be asked, the right not to participate, and the risks and benefits associated with participation. For respondents at site level (participants, their supervisors, and recipients of the service they provide) the consent form was read out in their preferred language. Respondents were assured that they would not be cited by name in the report. Participants in focus groups were allowed to choose nicknames instead of stating their real names, to ensure them of complete anonymity'. However, there are no examples of the consent forms in the appendices.

Rating: 3: The full report documents some procedures intended to ensure confidentiality and to secure informed consent where necessary

Standard: There are no risks to participants or institutions in disseminating the evaluation report on a public website

Comment and Analysis: No risks to participants or institutions were found in disseminating the evaluation report on a public website. The evaluation report has documented that at the request of one government official they did not quote him/her in order to respect him/her and avoid any risk situations. It is uncertain whether the respondents were informed that the report would be on a public website.

Rating: 4: There are no risks to participants or institutions in disseminating the original full evaluation report on a public website

Follow-up, use and learning

Resource utilisation

Standard:	The evaluation was completed within the planned timeframes and budget
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation was completed within budget but not within the planned timeframes. Originally it was meant to be finalised in December 2014, but the revised proposal made provision to finalise by end of January 2015 due to late start. As a result of challenges in receiving documents and datasets from the departments and the numbers of revisions to the draft report, the final report was submitted in June 2015.
Rating:	2: The evaluation was completed outside of the planned timeframes and over budget, but with approval of the commissioning organisation

Evaluation use

Standard:	Results of the evaluation have been presented to relevant stakeholders
Comment and Analysis:	EPRI presented the draft evaluation findings and recommendations at two validation workshops one with the steering committee and one with the extended steering committee, and relevant comments were included. Particularly the DPME supported the service provider in shaping the report. The evaluation report was however never presented in the provinces for the participants or for the NGOs but some of the provincial government officials took part in the validation workshops.
Rating:	3: Results of the evaluation have been presented to relevant stakeholders in government

Standard:	A reflective process has been undertaken by the steering committee with the service provider (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:	DSD has been considering the implication of the evaluation findings and recommendations and there is an improvement plan in place. No reflective process has been undertaken with the steering committee and the service provider to reflect on what could be done to strengthen future evaluations.
Rating:	2: The steering committee undertook a meeting in which some form of reflection occurred, but not in a clear, reflective process

Standard:	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 DSD government officials found the evaluation study as having added significant symbolic value to the programme. As a result of having an improvement plan senior management has been forced to follow up with the recommendations and ensure budget application to the Treasury is sufficient. They have gained good knowledge on what is happening on local level as well. Government officials in DSD and DPW have realised the importance of good record keeping and continuous monitoring of the programme.
Rating:	4: The evaluation study is seen by interviewed stakeholders as being of substantial symbolic value to the policy or programme and has noticeably raised its profile amongst stakeholders

Standard:	The evaluation study is of conceptual value in understanding what has happened and possibly in shaping future policy and practice
Comment and Analysis:	Particularly, the discussion on what EPWP social sector is about has been of significant conceptual value for the programme. Likewise, the reflection on how to improve access to services and employability has been useful.
Rating:	4: The evaluation study is of conceptual value in understanding what has happened and some interviewed stakeholders indicated the likelihood of it constructively shaping policy and practice

References

Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME). 2014. Terms of Reference for the Implementation Evaluation of the EPWP in the Social Sector.

Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI). June 2015. Implementation Evaluation of EPWP in the Social Sector: Phase Two (2009/10 - 2013/14), Final Full Report.

Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI). June 2015. Implementation Evaluation of EPWP in the Social Sector: Phase Two (2009/10 - 2013/14), Final Summary Report.

Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI). July 2014. Inception Report for the Implementation Evaluation of EPWP in the Social Sector.

Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI). July 2014. Revised Proposal for the Implementation Evaluation of EPWP in the Social Sector.

List of Interviewees

Interview: Matodzi Amisi, Evaluation Manager: Evaluation & Research Unit: DPME. Telephonic Interview. 25 September 2015.

Interview: Zanele Maseko, Programme Manager EPWP Social Sector, DSD. Telephonic Interview. 29 September 2015.

Interview: Cara (Meintjes) Hartley, Consultant: PDG (Previous Research Fellow: EPRI). Face to Face Interview. 30 September 2015.