



Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation

Report on the Assessment of Government Evaluations

Report on the Evaluation of the Impact of the Rural Housing Programme 2009/10

Date Evaluation was completed: Published: August 2010

Name of assessor: Katie Gull

Evaluation Number: 53

Date Assessment Completed: 12 March 2013

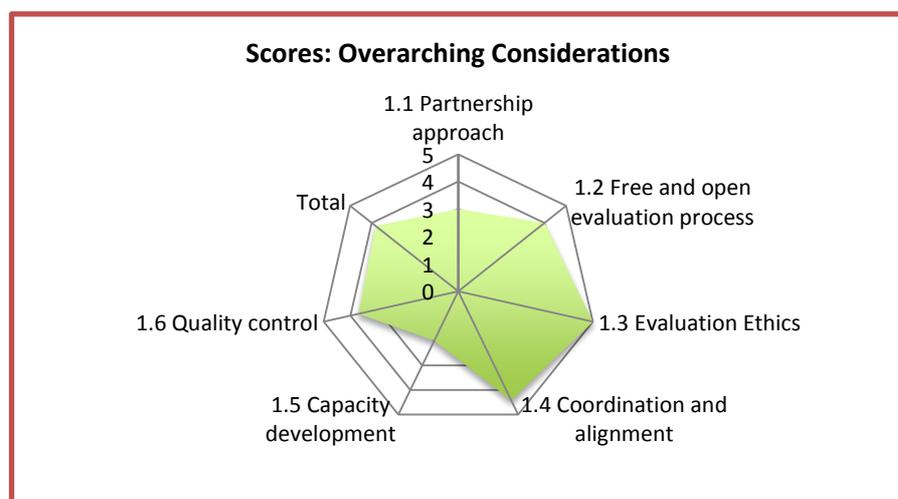
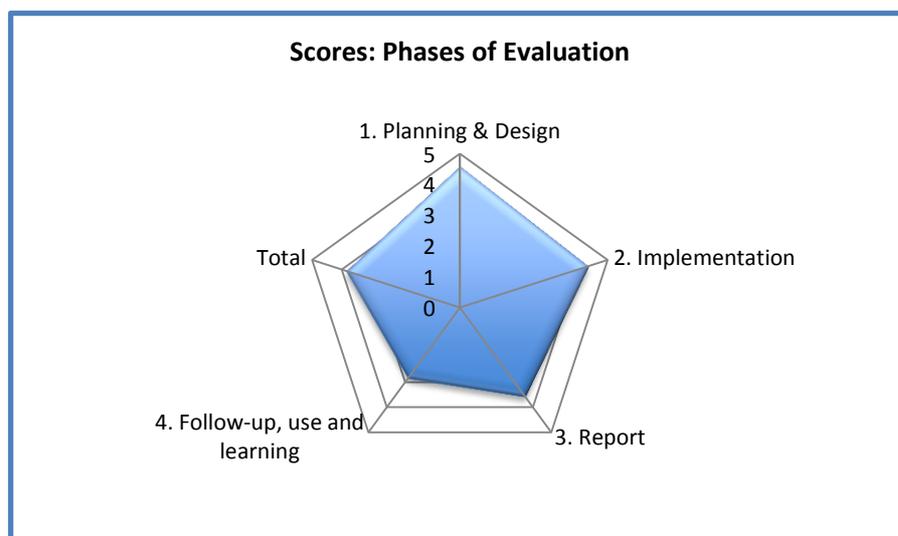
Evaluation Assessment Details

Title of evaluation report	Report on the Evaluation of the Impact of the Rural Housing Programme 2009/10
Completion Date of Evaluation	Published: August 2010
Name of Assessor	Katie Gull
Evaluation Number	53
Completion Date of Assessment	12 March 2013
Initiated by	Department of Human Settlements
Evaluation undertaken by	Ntona Consulting
Evaluation area / sector	Housing and infrastructure
	<i>Additional</i>
National Outcome	Outcome 8
	<i>Additional</i>
Type of Evaluation	Impact
	<i>Additional</i>
What is being evaluated	Programme
	<i>Additional</i>
Geographic Scope	National
Period of Evaluation	August 2009 - May 2010
Known Cost of Evaluation	R1.3million

Quality Assessment Scores

Phase of Evaluation	Score
Planning & Design	4.57
Implementation	4.33
Report	3.55
Follow-up, use and learning	2.82
Total	3.81

Overarching Consideration	Score
Partnership approach	3.00
Free and open evaluation process	4.00
Evaluation Ethics	5.00
Coordination and alignment	4.42
Capacity Development	2.00
Quality control	3.70



1. Planning & Design

1.1. Clarity of Purpose and Scope in TOR

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

Comment and Analysis

The evaluation was guided by the TOR, following the purpose, scope and objectives. The methodology was derived from the TOR in addition to the time and resources allocated.

Rating 5

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

Comment and Analysis

The purpose of the evaluation was clear and explicit in the TOR.

Rating 4

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

Comment and Analysis

The evaluation questions were not stated in the TOR, however details on the specific focus areas were provided, which unpacked the overarching objectives.

Rating 4

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

Comment and Analysis

The approach was not specified and neither was the type of evaluation.

Rating **1**

STANDARD: Intended users and their information needs were identified in the TOR

Comment and Analysis

The intended users, being the National Department of Housing was identified.

Rating **4**

STANDARD: Key stakeholders were involved in the scoping of the TOR and determining the purpose of the evaluation

Comment and Analysis

The project steering committee consisted of officials from the National Department of Housing. There is no indication that stakeholders were involved in the scoping of the TOR.

Rating **2**

1.2. Evaluation was adequately resourced

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

Comment and Analysis

This is not applicable for this assessment.

Rating N/A

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

Comment and Analysis

This is not applicable for this assessment.

Rating N/A

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

Comment and Analysis

This is not applicable for this assessment.

Rating N/A

STANDARD: Where appropriate, the evaluation planned to incorporate an element of capacity building of partners/staff responsible for the evaluand

Comment and Analysis

This is not applicable for this assessment.

Rating N/A

1.3. Alignment to Policy Context and Background Literature

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

Comment and Analysis

There is an in-depth review of the relevant policy and programme environments. It is inferred that the was used in the planning of the evaluation by the evaluators.

Rating 5

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

Comment and Analysis

An appropriate literature review was conducted and case studies of similar projects were included. It is inferred that the was used in the planning of the evaluation by the evaluators.

Rating 5

1.4. The evaluation methods planned were appropriate to the project

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

Comment and Analysis

This is not applicable for this assessment.

Rating N/A

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

Comment and Analysis

This is not applicable for this assessment.

Rating N/A

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

Comment and Analysis

The planned methodology was appropriate. The methodology includes qualitative and quantitative questionnaires.

Rating 5

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

Comment and Analysis

The sampling was appropriate and adequate and met the study's requirements. The sample size represented 20% of the Rural Housing Programme's completed units; distributed across all provinces which was adequate given the purpose of the evaluation.

Rating 5

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

Comment and Analysis

There is no evidence of using the findings prior to undertaking the evaluation. However, the TOR explained how the evaluators were to make a formal presentation of the findings to the Directorate.

Rating 2

1.5. Inception phase

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

Comment and Analysis

This is not applicable for this assessment.

Rating N/A

2. Implementation

2.1. Ethical Review and Considerations

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

Comment and Analysis

Informed consent was obtained from all of the subjects prior to data collection and a consent form was attached on all questionnaires. Matters pertaining to confidentiality were also properly explained.

Rating 5

2.2. Evaluator independence

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

Comment and Analysis

This is not applicable for this assessment.

Rating N/A

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

Comment and Analysis

Controls were put in place to ensure the quality of data collection and to ensure ethical principles were adhered to.

Rating 5

2.3. Key stakeholder involvement

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

Comment and Analysis

Stakeholders were consulted through the formalised mechanism of questionnaires and interviews. The National Department issued a communique to inform the relevant departments, municipalities and stakeholders of the process and to solicit support.

Rating 5

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

Comment and Analysis

There was no element of capacity building incorporated into the evaluation process.

Rating 2

2.4. Methodology

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

Comment and Analysis

This is not applicable for this assessment.

Rating N/A

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

Comment and Analysis

There is no evidence that data collection was compromised by any fieldwork-level problems or unplanned diversions. There were challenges regarding the reported and recorded number of completed units and the actual number of completed units.

Rating 4

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

Comment and Analysis

The forms of data gathering were appropriate considering the scope of the evaluation.

Rating 5

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

Comment and Analysis

The data analysis approach included a descriptive analysis of the quantitative data and thematic and content analysis for the qualitative data. Although SPSS software was used, there was no statistical analysis.

Rating 4

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

Comment and Analysis

Key stakeholders were engaged as part of the methodology; however 9.2% of the beneficiaries did not participate in the study.

Rating 4

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

Comment and Analysis

The methodology was included the engagement of beneficiaries as a key source of data and information.

Rating 5

2.5. Project management

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

Comment and Analysis

This is not applicable for this assessment.

Rating N/A

3. Report

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

STANDARD: Executive summary captured key components of the report appropriately

Comment and Analysis

The executive summary captured key components of the report. The summary is fully developed and provides a good overview of the report.

Rating 4

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

Comment and Analysis

The context of the intervention, in this case, the Rural Housing Programme, was explicit.

Rating 4

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

Although these sample questionnaires were not attached at the end of the report (as referenced in the evaluation), access to these questions has been obtained. A review of these questions shows that there was clear rationale for the evaluation questions.

Rating 4

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

This is not applicable for this assessment.

Rating N/A

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

A detailed, but concise methodology was provided in the report covering the key aspects.

Rating 4

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

Comment and Analysis

The key findings were presented methodically and clearly, however they lacked context and analysis. The data analysis lacked interpretation, whereas the qualitative analysis lacked substance. Although anecdotal information was used to convey the message, an understanding of the scale of analysis was needed.

Rating **3**

STANDARD: Conclusions and recommendations were clear and succinctly articulated

Comment and Analysis

The conclusions and recommendations were clear and articulate.

Rating **4**

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

Comment and Analysis

Limitations of the study were adequately articulated.

Rating **3**

3.2. Writing and presentation

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

Comment and Analysis

The quality of the writing was adequate for publication.

Rating 4

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

Comment and Analysis

Appropriate conventions such as histograms and tables were used to present the data.

Rating 4

3.3. Presentation of findings

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

Comment and Analysis

The graphs and tables supported the communication of results, however it is suggested that a more interesting way was adopted to convey the results in order to keep the readers' attention. Most of the results are described in text, with only one corresponding graph, which becomes monotonous.

Rating 3

STANDARD: Data analysis appeared to have been well executed

Comment and Analysis

The evaluation involved an extensive data collection component and yet the purpose for the data analysis is not clear. The data analysis does not link sufficiently to the objectives of the study and the text does not explain or put the data into context.

Rating 2

STANDARD: Findings were supported by available evidence

Comment and Analysis

The findings in the impact evaluation are not adequately supported. Although the component is predominantly qualitative in nature, it does not pull in enough data where and when possible. Anecdotal phrases do not provide enough evidence.

Rating 3

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

Comment and Analysis

The evidence gathered was gathered sufficiently, however the presentation of the results and the degree of analysis to support the argument was somewhat thin. There was a chapter that presented the data results and a separate chapter that looked at the qualitative results. These should have been combined.

Rating 2

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

Comment and Analysis

The recognition of alternative interpretations was not appropriately recognised, however the recognition that the results are based on respondents' self declarations is incorporated.

Rating 2

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

Comment and Analysis

The report appears free from significant methodological and analytical flaws.

Rating 3

3.4. Conclusions

STANDARD: Conclusions were derived from evidence

Comment and Analysis

The conclusions were derived from the evidence presented.

Rating 4

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

Comment and Analysis

The conclusions did not take into account empirical work from related research studies, however this was included in the analysis.

Rating 4

STANDARD: Conclusions addressed the original evaluation purpose and questions

Comment and Analysis

The conclusions addressed the original objectives, however the link could have been made clearer.

Rating 3

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

This is not applicable for this assessment.

Rating N/A

3.5. Recommendations***STANDARD: Recommendations were made in consultation with appropriate sectoral partners or experts*****Comment and Analysis**

There is no evidence to show that recommendations were made in consultation with appropriate sectoral partners or experts.

Rating 2

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

The recommendations were shaped following inputs received during the stakeholder interviews which consisted of relevant government officials amongst others.

Rating 4

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

The recommendations were relevant to the policy context.

Rating 4

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

The recommendations targetted a specific audience and made practical and affordable recommendations insofar as possible.

Rating 4

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

The relevant limitations were noted in the research methodology.

Rating 4

3.7 Protection of participants and risk considerations

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

Comment and Analysis

The report documented procedures to ensure confidentiality and secure informed consent.

Rating 5

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

Comment and Analysis

There were no risks to participants in disseminating the original report.

Rating 5

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

Comment and Analysis

There were no unfair risks to institutions in disseminating the original report.

Rating 5

4. Follow-up, use and learning

4.1. Presentation to stakeholders

STANDARD: Results were presented to all relevant stakeholders

Comment and Analysis

At the end of the evaluation, the report was submitted to management and then shared with the implementing agents at Provincial level. However, not all stakeholders were directly provided with the results.

Rating 2

4.2. Resource utilisation

STANDARD: The evaluation was completed within the planned timeframes

Comment and Analysis

The evaluation was completed within the planned timeframes.

Rating 5

STANDARD: The evaluation was completed within the agreed budget

Comment and Analysis

The evaluation was completed within the agreed budget.

Rating 5

4.3. Transparency

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

Comment and Analysis

The report was made publicly available.

Rating 4

4.4. Lessons learnt

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

Comment and Analysis

A reflective process was not undertaken after the completion of the evaluation.

Rating 5

4.5. Symbolic and conceptual value

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

Comment and Analysis

The impact of the study on the interviewed stakeholders is unknown, since there was no follow-up with the stakeholders.

Rating 2

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

Comment and Analysis

The evaluation study was of conceptual value in understanding the impact of the Rural Housing Programme.

Rating 3

4.6. Utilisation of findings and recommendations

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

Comment and Analysis

There is evidence that recommendations that could be implemented at the national level were adopted (such as the database and the monitoring and evaluation suggestion). However, at Provincial level, there is no evidence of instrumental use.

Rating 3

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

Comment and Analysis

There is evidence that the evaluation has had a positive influence on the department, specifically at the national level.

Rating 3

References

Department of Human Settlements. Evaluation of the Impact of Rural Housing Programme: Beneficiary Questionnaire.

Department of Human Settlements. Terms of Reference for Evaluating the Impact of Rural Housing Programme.

Department of Human Settlements. Evaluation of the Impact of Rural Housing Programme: Key informant interview questionnaire.

Department of Human Settlements. 2010. Report on the evaluation of the impact of the Rural Housing Programme 2009/10. Department of Human Settlements, Pretoria.

List of Interviewees

Ms Mulalo Muthige. Monitoring and Evaluation Chief Directorate, Director: Impact Evaluation, Department of Human Settlements, Telephonic Interview, 21/2/2013.