



planning, monitoring & evaluation

Department:
Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Report on the Assessment of Government Evaluations

Evaluation Title:

Diagnostic Evaluation of the Pomfret Rehabilitation and Relocation Project

Evaluation Number:

606

Start Date:

Wednesday, 01 February 2017

Completion Date:

Monday, 31 July 2017

Period of Evaluation:

February 2017 to July 2017

Submitted:

Tuesday, 17 April 2018 by Angela Bester

Approved:

Tuesday, 17 April 2018 by Cara Hartley

Evaluation Details

Evaluation Title:	Diagnostic Evaluation of the Pomfret Rehabilitation and Relocation Project
Evaluation Number:	606
Evaluation Completion Date:	Monday, 31 July 2017
Created:	Monday, 20 November 2017 by Cara Hartley
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Initiated By Internal:	No
Service Providers:	Quest Research Services
Undertaken By Internal:	No

Assessors

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Assessment Documents

Document Name:	Document Type:	Added By:	Added On:
Quest 2017 Diagn Eval of Pomfret Rehab and Reloc project.pdf	Evaluation report	Cara Hartley	Monday, 20 November 2017
The Evaluation of the Diagnostic Assessment of the Relocation and Rehabi (17 Feb 2017).docx	An inception report	Angela Bester	Friday, 26 January 2018
Pomfret Evaluation (TOR) _ 16 10 24.pdf	Terms of Reference (ToR) for the evaluation	Angela Bester	Friday, 26 January 2018
The Evaluation of the Diagnostic Assessment of the Pomfret (28 02 17).pptx	Any other relevant documentation pertaining to the evaluation process	Angela Bester	Friday, 26 January 2018
The Evaluation of the Diagnostic Assessment of the Pomfret (02 05 17)2.pptx	Progress reports	Angela Bester	Friday, 26 January 2018
DPME Pomfret Project Implementation Plan (01 Mar 17).xlsx	Any other relevant documentation pertaining to the evaluation process	Angela Bester	Friday, 26 January 2018
Assessment Report at Moderation.pdf	Assessment Report at Moderation	Cara Hartley	Monday, 29 January 2018

Quality Assessment Summary

The overall score for the Quality Assessment of the Pomfret Rehabilitation and Relocation Diagnostic Evaluation is 3.46, and therefore meets the standard of an adequate evaluation. The evaluation demonstrated a number of strengths, most notably the project management in both the design and implementation phases of project. The evaluation was conducted with few problems, and this can be attributed to the partnership approach and the positive role played by the Steering Committee in guiding the evaluation process, without interfering in the evaluation process. Completing the evaluation broadly within the agreed time frame and within budget is a reflection of the constructive role played by the Steering Committee, and the commitment of the evaluation team to deliver a quality evaluation.

The evaluation report and related documents were drafted in clear accessible language, and was a polished product that had been subjected to thorough internal and external peer review processes. The findings of the evaluation were adequate in terms of their robustness, and as were the conclusions that flowed logically from the key findings.

Quality of the recommendations was a notable weakness in the evaluation. The recommendations were vague and read like the requirements for creating an environment for effective implementation of a project, rather than specific actions to be taken by specific persons or institutions.

Notwithstanding the limitations of the recommendations, the prospects for utilising the results of the evaluation are good. The Inter-Governmental Task Team has used the findings and the options identified in the report to draft a planning framework for implementing, and has secured commitment of key departments to participate in the project.

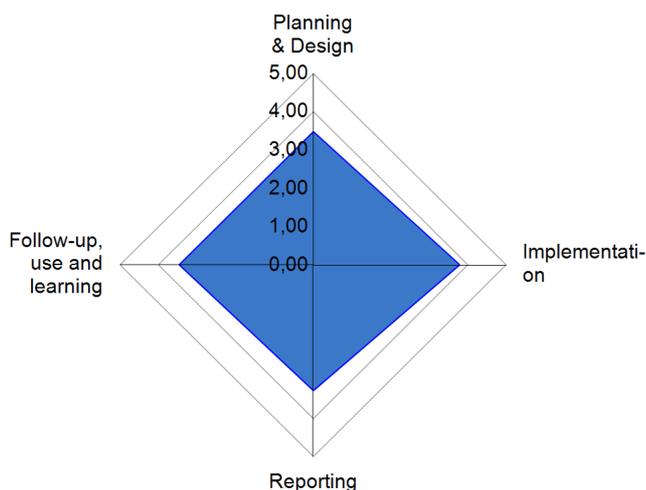
In conclusion, the diagnostic evaluation is a competent evaluation that provided the Government with critical insights into the complex issue of the rehabilitation of Pomfret and relocation of its residents, and clear options for how the Government could address the problems. Importantly, the diagnostic evaluation identified a major gap in the policy and legal framework for the dealing with the relocation of communities affected by environmental contamination.

Quality Assessment Scores

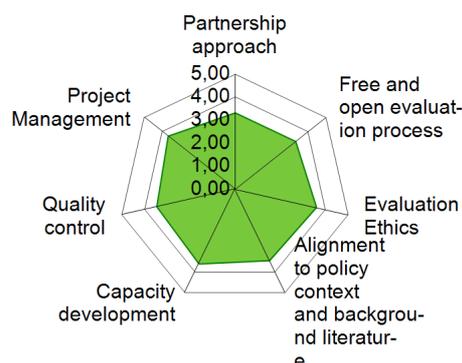
Phase of Evaluation	Score
Planning & Design	3,49
Implementation	3,80
Reporting	3,28
Follow-up, use and learning	3,47
Total	3,46

Overarching Consideration	Score
Partnership approach	3,32
Free and open evaluation process	3,33
Evaluation Ethics	3,60
Alignment to policy context and background literature	3,47
Capacity development	3,60
Quality control	3,45
Project Management	3,67
Total	3,46

Scores: Phases of Evaluation



Scores: Overarching Considerations



Phase of Evaluation	Area of Evaluation	Score
Planning & Design	Quality of the TOR	3,25
Planning & Design	Adequacy of resourcing	3,43
Planning & Design	Appropriateness of the evaluation design and methodology	3,73
Planning & Design	Project management (Planning phase)	4,00
Implementation	Evaluation ethics and independence	4,50
Implementation	Participation and M&E skills development	4,00
Implementation	Methodological integrity	3,42
Implementation	Project management (Implementation phase)	4,00
Reporting	Completeness of the evaluation report	3,50
Reporting	Accessibility of content	4,00
Reporting	Robustness of findings	3,50
Reporting	Strength of conclusions	2,67
Reporting	Suitability of recommendations	2,50
Reporting	Acknowledgement of ethical considerations	3,43
Follow-up, use and learning	Resource utilisation	3,00
Follow-up, use and learning	Evaluation use	3,58
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 TOR is drafted clearly. The methodology section, however is brief and only makes reference to use of mixed methods and process mapping. This may be intentional to provide the service provider with flexibility in designing the evaluation. The service provider indicated that the TOR were sufficient to give them an indication of what was expected, but they had to dig deeper to understand the full extent of what was required, and that the issues were more complex than suggested in the TOR.

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 evaluation was triggered by a complaint from the Pomfret school principal to the Presidency about the termination of electricity and impact on sanitation. Initial investigation by DPME found that the initial project to relocate the residents of Pomfret was partially completed as it was halted by a court interdict in 2008. The Government required an in-depth analysis of the underlying problems, so that it could design and implement a new or improved relocation programme. A diagnostic evaluation is suited for this purpose as it provides an in-depth exploration of a current intervention, the causes and consequences of actions taken to date, and opportunities to strengthen the intervention. As the Government wished to be informed about the needs of the Pomfret residents and how Government could respond to these, the participative approach that solicited the views of the residents, as stakeholders in national, provincial and local government was well-suited for this purpose.

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 TOR identified intended users in addition to the Presidency - other national departments, provincial government and the local municipality within which Pomfret is located, and the likely use of results (mainly for resource allocation decisions and improving coordination).

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: A technical working group of the Steering Committee developed the TOR and this was discussed and approved by the Steering Committee which included key stakeholders in government.

Rating: 3: Key stakeholders were 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 scope of the project was confined to two sites, namely, Pomfret and Mahikeng, with affected 300 households that were to be the main source for collecting primary data. The evaluation was planned for the period October 2016 to June 2017, a period of nine months, and this was sufficient for what the evaluation was expected to deliver. The evaluation was flexible in permitting a later starting date than was originally scheduled, but DPME and the service provider confirmed that the evaluation was completed within the time allotted. The budget was sufficient for the completion of the evaluation deliverables, The evaluation was completed within the budget provided, and the service provider did not report any budget over-run, even though they had increased the number of households for data collection.
Rating:	4: The evaluation was well resourced in terms of the time and budget allocated (i.e. there was some room for flexibility)

Standard:	The team conducting the evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of staffing and skills sets
Comment and Analysis:	The team was adequately resourced in terms of the size of the team. The team included mining expertise (as asbestos mining was a key issue in the project). There appears to be an over-emphasis on staff with research skills, slighter lesser emphasis on evaluation skills. A point made by one DPME official was that often they had to get the team to adopt an evaluative perspective on issues as opposed to a research perspective.
Rating:	3: The evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of staffing and skills sets

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:	The TOR only mentioned the ability to develop a theory of change as one of the selection criteria for the service provider, but did not identify theory of change as a deliverable in the TOR. The inception report identifies theory of change as part of its methodology, and proposed a TOC workshop to follow the options analysis.
Rating:	3: There was explicit reference to the intervention logic or the theory of change of the evaluand in the TOR or the Inception Report

Standard:	The planned methodology was appropriate to the questions being asked
Comment and Analysis:	The planned methodology was appropriate in most respects - literature and documentary review and case studies to serve as benchmarks; participatory workshops (devising seminars) with officials from three spheres of government, and interviews with affected households in Pomfret and Mahikeng. The problem tree analysis and options analysis were especially relevant for the complex problems that the project sought to analyse. The participatory nature of the workshops enriched the content and also developed capacity of participants. It would have been useful to include key informant interviews with senior government officials.
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:	The TOR did not make reference to sampling, but the inception briefing the service provider was advised that there were 300 households in Pomfret. The evaluation planned to interview 300 households as the sample of households that had not relocated. This sample was adequate as it covered all the known households that had not relocated, and understanding their needs (and motivations for remaining or relocating) was central to the evaluation. In addition to the 300 households, the inception report identified a sample of stakeholders for key informant interviews. In addition, a sample of 16 organisations were identified for key informant interviews. These organisations were mainly from the national sphere of government, but also included provincial departments and the local municipality. They would be an important source of information for the root problem analysis and the options analysis, and would be some of these departments, for example, human settlements and public works would be directly involved in the relocation project going forward. The SAPS and the South African Human Rights Commission were also identified in the sample, and this was very appropriate given the safety and security issues, and the human rights issues involved.
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:	Discussions between the steering committee and the service provider resulted in a detailed inception report that set out clearly the evaluation questions, the detailed methodology, the deliverables and the work plan for the evaluation. The inception report also provided the proposed analytical framework for the evaluation. Updates to the evaluation team members and their roles were included in the inception report.
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: The inception report and evaluation report outlined the actions taken by the service provide regarding informed consent and confidentiality. Community members were interviewed in the privacy of their homes, and interpreters were used where required. DPME played the role of meeting with the community to outline the interview process, and were not present in the community when the interviews were conducted, to ensure independence of the evaluation.

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: There was no evidence of interference with the work of the evaluation team - confirmed by interviews with the team and interviews with members of the steering committee. The issue of Pomfret relocation is a politically sensitive issue and the DPME Special Projects Unit that commissioned the evaluation was emphatic about the need for an independent evaluation on which Cabinet could base important decisions. An example of arm's length was that the DPME Special Projects Unit and members of the Steering Committee were careful not to be in Pomfret while the data collection was taking place as they wanted the evaluation team to be seen to be independent. The evaluation team was given access to documents that included minutes of meetings and legal documents pertaining to the previous relocation project, and information on previous studies. The evaluation team confirmed that they had very good access to documents from the departments that were involved in the relocation project.

Rating: 5: The evaluation team was able to work freely and independently without interference and significant efforts were documented to ensure unfettered access to all 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: There is an Intergovernmental Task Team of DGs/DDGs that have the responsibility for the Pomfret project. The IGTT established a smaller Steering Committee to manage the evaluation, though the evaluation team reported directly to the IGTT on major deliverables of the evaluation. According to interviewees from the Steering Committee, they met fortnightly when the evaluation was being planned, and then monthly in the implementation and reporting phases. Steering Committee members interviewed confirmed that they had participated in developing the TOR for the evaluation, and commenting on each of the key deliverables. One department (DSD) however, did not attend the meetings regularly.

Rating: 4: Key stakeholders were regularly, actively involved in the evaluation and contributed 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 inception report (section 2.1.3) discusses how capacity building would be incorporated into the evaluation process. The participatory workshops (devising seminars) had an element of capacity building as it introduced officials to concepts of theory of change and problem analysis. The inception report indicated that the evaluation team's capacity would be built through exposure to DPME evaluation concepts. This was confirmed in the interview with the evaluation team. DPW was especially positive about the extent to which they had learned from the evaluation process as their current evaluation capacity in the department is weak.
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:	The literature review was incorporated into the main report. The review covers asbestos mining, contamination and rehabilitation in other countries and South Africa, and includes a useful summary of best practices in managing asbestos contamination in countries, mainly USA, Canada and Australia. Members of the Steering Committee commented positively on the quality of the literature review in the interviews.
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:	The evaluation team followed the methods that were outlined in the inception report. The common view of Steering Committee members interviewed was that the evaluation team executed their task well, and were pleased that the team agreed to cover 328 households and not 300 as originally envisaged. The evaluation was completed within the six months stipulated in the inception report (note that start date shifted and so end date shifted, but will still done within a six month time frame).
Rating:	3: The methods employed in the process of the evaluation were consistent with those planned and implemented adequately

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:	The inception report indicated that data collection instruments would be pre-tested prior to deployment. However, no information regarding this pre-testing was reported in the full report or in the summary report. The inception report also indicated that the data collection instruments would be submitted to the Research Ethics body of UCT, but it is not clear from the reports if this was done. The evaluation team indicated in the interview that they had tested the data collection instruments internally (in their organisation) and also asked DPME to check. They made reference to testing on a small sample of households.
Rating:	3: A pilot of basic data collection instrumentation occurred prior to undertaking data collection and it was used to inform the research process

Standard:	Data was collected from key stakeholders (e.g. implementers, governance structures, indirectly affected stakeholders) as data sources
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation team collected data from most of the stakeholders identified in the inception report. These were officials from national departments (DPME, Public Works, Human Settlements & Housing Agency, Military Veterans, Water & Sanitation), the Office of the Premier (North West) and officials from the Kagisana-Molopo Local Municipality. Social Development, Environmental Affairs, and Mineral Resources are important stakeholders listed in the inception report but it seems that they were not part of the data collection.
Rating:	3: Data was collected from key stakeholders (e.g. Implementers, governance structures, indirectly affected stakeholders) as data sources
Standard:	The methodology included engaging beneficiaries appropriately as a key source of data and information
Comment and Analysis:	The Pomfret community as well as those who had relocated to Mahikeng were a key source of data for the evaluation. A total of 328 households were interviewed for information on their current social and economic circumstances and their preferences for relocation or alternatives. The evaluation team used interpreters (teachers from the community) for Portuguese-speaking households, and interviews were conducted in their homes for privacy. The findings of the community survey was fed back to the community at a validation workshop. Two members of the Steering Committee indicated that some households were not happy with the interviews - only one person per household was interviewed.
Rating:	4: The methodology included meaningfully engaging beneficiaries as a primary source of data and information (or if based on secondary data, includes data from beneficiaries and beneficiaries consulted on emerging findings)

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:	From the interviews with the Steering Committee, Presidency/DPME and the service provider, the working relationship was very constructive, underpinned by mutual respect. The service provider appreciated the clarity of direction provided by the Steering Committee. Members of the Steering Committee were very positive about the evaluation team and the quality of work they produced.
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 evaluation was supported by an efficient secretariat who were able to facilitate access to documents, set up meetings, prepare documents etc. The same secretariat supports the Inter-Governmental Task Team of senior government officials, so is probably experienced in providing secretariat services. The efficiency of the secretariat was also demonstrated in the setting up of meetings and provision of documents for the quality assessment.
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:	Members of the Steering Committee indicated that the deliverables (inception report, literature review and draft summary and full reports) were of a good quality, and only required minor amendments prior to finalisation of the reports. Presidency noted that reports had no typos (evidence of thorough checking). The service provider indicated that they subjected all their reports to thorough internal scrutiny before sharing with the Steering Committee.
Rating:	4: A first draft of the evaluation report was of a good quality and required only minor changes prior to finalisation

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 summary report covers all the main components, is drafted very clearly. However the length does not comply with the 1/5/25 format, as the "25" component is about 40 pages. The evaluation team indicated that it was difficult to produce a more concise report than what they had done. The full report does not contain conclusions and recommendations. It seems that the summary report is the one that has been used for discussions with the Inter-Governmental Task Force and is considered the final version of the evaluation report. There are no contradictions between the two reports, and for purposes of the quality assessment these have been treated as a single report.
Rating:	3: The final evaluation report is complete, follows a clear structure and addresses at minimum: executive summary; background/context of the 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 summary report and full report are well written, the language is plain and concepts are made understandable to officials who might not have the technical background for the subjects covered in the reports. The graphics used are legible and have a professional appearance. Referencing style is consistent and sources appropriately acknowledged.
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:	The reports makes good use of graphics to illustrate problem trees and options analysis, and theory of change, as well as time lines depicting the history of Pomfret relocation project. The use of a consistent format for the data presentation makes it easy to interpret the charts used 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:	The data analysis was well executed. The evaluation team used a variety of tools to analyse the data sets from The from different sources (workshops, interviews, document reviews). The data analysis tools included problem tree analysis and objective tree analysis to unpack the complex issues involved in the Pomfret relocation project; SPSS to analyse the survey data; and Multi-Criteria Analysis for assessing options. In addition to the comprehensiveness of the data analysis tools, the evaluation team was transparent about the analytical framework it used - the detailed framework is contained in the evaluation report appendix.
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:	The findings of the evaluation are based on evidence from multiple sources and this evidence was analysed thoroughly using various analytical tools. The evaluation did well in integrating the different sources of data, for example, the root problem analysis drew on the views of workshop participants, literature on asbestos mining, and administration and legal data from the document review.
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:	In analysing the findings, the evaluation considered alternative interpretations for the state of affairs in Pomfret - for example, poor planning and lack of coordination amongst the different departments involved, and insufficient resources allocated for the original relocation. The survey found that 98 percent of the residents wished to be relocated, but the report did not explore in any detail why 2 percent still wished to remain in Pomfret which was contaminated. The analysis could have benefited from exploring the socio-political context of the Pomfret community as "outsiders" who played a particular role pre-1994.
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 does not have any significant methodological and analytic flaws. The service provider subjected data collection tools, analytical frameworks, and the analysis of findings to internal review by senior staff in the organisation. This was not documented in the final report, but was confirmed in the quality assessment interview. As an additional measure, the evaluation report was reviewed by an independent evaluation expert attached to Wits University, who according to the evaluation team, provided valuable feedback to strengthen the report.
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 evaluation did not outline the limitations sufficiently. The summary report makes reference to the limitation of not being able to conduct a feasibility study to inform the costing of the options and how this limitation was addressed. The inception report and the full report do not identify any limitations of the evaluation.
Rating:	2: There is some acknowledgment of the limitations of the methodology and findings but these are not clear or exhaustive

Strength of conclusions

Standard:	Conclusions are derived from evidence
Comment and Analysis:	There is a logical flow of the conclusions from the discussion of the findings, and these conclusions are derived from thoroughly analysed evidence presented in the report. A main conclusion of the evaluation was that the relocation project failed due to poor planning, lack of coordination and insufficient resources, and inadequate community and stakeholder consultation. This conclusion omitted the important factor of the political commitment from all stakeholders and not only from the Cabinet. The conclusions of the evaluation could have been made more compelling had they made more evaluative judgements about the root causes of the state of affairs of Pomfret.
Rating:	3: Conclusions are derived from evidence

Standard:	Conclusions address the original evaluation purpose and questions
Comment and Analysis:	The original evaluation purpose was to understand the current social and economic conditions in Pomfret, the underlying or root causes of the problems experienced by the community, why relocation worked for some and not for others, and identify options for addressing the problems. The conclusions as set out in the summary report addresses the purpose and evaluation questions to some extent - not all aspects are covered in the section dealing with conclusions, but the preceding section "Discussion" does address the evaluation purpose and questions. Note that there are no conclusions and recommendations in the full report.
Rating:	3: Conclusions adequately address the original evaluation purpose and questions

Standard:	Conclusions are drawn with explicit reference to the intervention logic or theory of change
Comment and Analysis:	Reference to the theory of change in the conclusions was not explicit, but is used explicitly in the options analysis.
Rating:	2: Conclusions make implicit or indirect reference to 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:	Steering Committee members were active throughout this evaluation, and the evaluation team consulted with them in each critical phase of the evaluation, including the recommendations. They were generally satisfied with the recommendations, and are keen to move forward with an implementation plan.
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 recommendations are not sufficiently specific, and it is not possible to make an assessment of their feasibility and affordability. By way of example, the recommendation that " A decisive action is required on the court case, to deal with the interdict prior to any relocation" is vague about what action has to be taken and by whom. Other recommendations read like actions the necessary conditions for an effective rehabilitation and relocation project - for example - "All departments must commit resource and funding that is adequate for achieving the objectives of the relocation". From the perspective of the stakeholders interviewed, the value of the evaluation lies in the thoroughly analysed options that the Inter-Governmental Task Team can consider and recommend to the Cabinet.
Rating:	2: Recommendations are of limited use - they vary in the degree to which they are relevant, specific, feasible affordable and acceptable

Acknowledgement of ethical considerations

Standard:	The full report documents procedures intended to ensure confidentiality and to secure informed consent where necessary (in some cases this is not needed - e.g. evaluation synthesis - in which case N/A should be recorded)
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation fully accounted for the procedures it followed to ensure that the evaluation was conducted in compliance with standards of good evaluation ethics. This was especially important given the political sensitivity of the Pomfret matter. The evaluation report contains comprehensive documentation of measures taken, and included obtaining informed consent from community members after they were fully briefed about the purpose of the interview and evaluation; community members were given the opportunity to decline the interview, and were permitted to withdraw from the interview at any point; no personal information was collected during the interviews; and they were assured that their responses to the survey were anonymous. The manner in which the data from the surveys was reported preserved the anonymity of the respondents.
Rating:	4: The full report documents all procedures to ensure confidentiality and to secure informed consent and provides some examples in appendices

Standard:	There are no risks to participants or institutions in disseminating the evaluation report on a public website
Comment and Analysis:	There are different views on this matter from the Steering Committee members interviewed. One view is that the full report should be published on a public website as it is a good evaluation from which others can learn. An alternative view is that the evaluation is politically sensitive as the many of the residents of Pomfret were soldiers in the previous dispensation. Pomfret's geographic location is also considered a security issue. The summary version is almost as detailed as the full report, so cannot usefully serve as a brief document for public consumption. Given the political and security concerns, it would be advisable to not to put the report on the public website. [Subsequent information from DPME indicated that there has been discussion with Lawyers for Human Rights and litigation are to be withdrawn, so no risk to disseminating the report on a public website]
Rating:	3: There are no risks to participants or institutions in disseminating a summary version of the 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 DPME Special Projects Unit who commissioned the evaluation, advised that the evaluation was completed within the planned timeframes and budget. The service provider confirmed that this was the case.
Rating:	3: The evaluation was completed within the planned timeframes and budget

Evaluation use

Standard:	Results of the evaluation have been presented to relevant stakeholders
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation results were presented to the Steering Committee and to the Inter-Governmental Task Team that has been mandated to advise the Cabinet about the legal interdict and options for the future of the Pomfret residents. The results of the survey were presented to the Pomfret residents for validation, but the final results of the entire evaluation have not been presented to the residents, and to other stakeholders outside the Government.
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:	There is no evidence of a reflective process having taken place at the end of the project. It may well be that reflection was part of the ongoing interaction between the Steering Committee and the evaluation team. [Updated information suggest that there was a reflective process of project closure with the service provider. The Steering Committee also discussed the report and agreed to present it to the IGGT.
Rating:	3: A reflective process has been undertaken by the steering committee with the service provider to reflect on what could be done to strengthen future evaluations

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:	According to the stakeholders interviewed, the evaluation study raised the profile of relocation project, and helped to increase the level of interest of departments whose participation in the past had been marginal or non-existent. The evaluation study provided the evidence the IGTT needed to get the attention of the DGs and the Office of the Premier in North West province, to secure commitment and resources going forward. The DGs represented on the IGTT decided that there should be a project plan that commits all relevant departments to the relocation project, and the project framework should spell out the role and budget of each participating department. The IGTT has put this framework together, with the aim of ensuring that this time round the relocation of the community and the rehabilitation of the area will be done correctly.
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:	The evaluation study is highly valued by the stakeholders interviewed, as it provided them with concrete information that was lacking about the community, it provided analytical tools for understanding and dealing with the complexity of the problem and its underlying causes. The evaluation study provided an evidence base for the government departments to plan their contribution to the project going forward. Several mentioned the important contribution of the evaluation in highlighting serious gaps in policy and legislation with regard to the relocation of communities affected by adverse environmental and health conditions such as those faced by the Pomfret community.
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

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Quest Research Services. (2017). Diagnostic Evaluation of the Implementation of the Pomfret and Rehabilitation and Relocation Project Inception Report, 17 February 2017. Gauteng.

List of Interviewees

MacCarthy Honu-Siabi, M&E Specialist/Principal Evaluator, Quest Research Services, Face-to-face interview, 17 January 2018

Petula Maketha, Chief Director: Intergovernmental Coordination, National Department of Public Works, Face-to-face interview, 17 January 2018

Thabo Makhosane, Director Special Projects, DPME, Face-to-face interview, 17 January 2018

Samuel Chauke, Chief: Town & Regional Planning, National Department of Human Settlements, Face-to-face interview, 17 January 2018

Ntando Buthelezi, Evaluation Officer, DPME, Face-to-face interview, 17 January 2018

Boitshoko Shoke, Senior Researcher, Quest Research Services, Face-to-face interview, 17 January 2018

Mthandazo Dube, Principal Researcher, Quest Research Services, Face-to-face interview, 17 January 2018