

Evaluation, review & appraisal

May 2016

David Irwin has experience in evaluation in both the UK and internationally. Here are some selected assignments.

ILO (Africa & Asia)

Undertook evaluation of programme of support for Employers' Organisations in 11 countries including field missions to Cambodia, Vietnam and Zambia (2016)

Tanzania: Advocacy Challenge Fund

Annual review and project completion evaluation of BEST-AC, a fund established by DANIDA, DFID, RNE and SIDA to support business associations to engage more effectively in dialogue and advocacy with the intention of influencing public policy in order to improve the business enabling environment (2013)

Tanzania: Advocacy Challenge Fund

Annual review of BEST-AC, a fund established by DANIDA, DFID, RNE and SIDA to support business associations to engage more effectively in dialogue and advocacy with the intention of influencing public policy in order to improve the business enabling environment (2012)

Tanzania: DFID: Review of proposal for grant support

Undertook review, in partnership with Springfield, of proposal seeking support from DFID in excess of £12m and then wrote the business case for DFID to justify the support (2012)

Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy

Assessor: reviewing applications from UK commercial applicants, reviewing travel award applicants, reviewing international applicants (including undertaking detailed assessments of short listed applicants) and making recommendations to panels of judges. Applications are all concerned with aspects of sustainable energy including inter alia wind, solar and hydro in the UK and cook stoves and solar lighting internationally. (2007-2015)

International: Innovations Against Poverty

Member of assessment team, reviewing applications, and preparing funding recommendations (SIDA)

International: Business Innovation Facility

Member of advisory committee receiving recommendations from team, reviewing applications and appraisals, offering advice and making recommendations on which projects to support (DFID)

International: Oxfam Enterprise Development Programme

Member of investment advisory committee receiving recommendations from Oxfam staff team, reviewing proposals, offering advice and making recommendations on which projects to support

UK: Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust

Due diligence review of social enterprise seeking mission related investment of £850,000 (JRCT, 2011)



UK: Esmee Fairbairn Foundation

Appraisal of social enterprise seeking investment of £150,000 (EFF, 2011)

Tanzania: Advocacy Challenge Fund: Longitudinal Impact Assessment

Longitudinal assessment of Business Environment Strengthening in Tanzania (BEST) – Advocacy Component (AC), a programme intended to support private sector organisations to undertake advocacy and dialogue; objective of LIA is to determine the impact arising from advocacy projects undertaken by private sector organisations (DFID, 2010-2014)

East Africa: TradeMark East Africa

TradeMark East Africa has been established by DFID and other donors to support regional integration within the East Africa Community. I reviewed the need to involve the private sector and civil society in the process and designed one of the five components – to encourage private sector organisations and civil society organisations to become actively engaged in regional integration including participation in public private dialogue and pursuing private sector advocacy (DFID, 2009/10)

East Africa: Maendeleo Agricultural Technology Fund

Undertook programme evaluation of the Maendeleo Agricultural Technology Fund managed by FARM Africa and operating in Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya (Kilimo Trust, 2008)

Tanzania: Advocacy Challenge Fund

End of programme review of BEST-AC. Evaluation was generally positive and programme was extended for a further five years. Undertaken in partnership with Annabel Jackson (DANIDA, 2008)

Tanzania: SME Competitiveness Facility

Preparation of monitoring and evaluation framework for phase II of the SME Competitiveness Facility, a programme designed to support clusters of small and micro-businesses working in food, food processing and food marketing build market linkages. (DANIDA, 2008)

UK: enterprise agency loan funds

Reviewed the performance of micro-loan funds operated by English enterprise agencies; published annual reports; a final report was prepared as a paper presented at an ISBE conference (2006-2008)

Nigeria: Public private dialogue

Review in four states of advocacy activities by and effectiveness of business membership organisations in changing attitudes and in changing public policy (World Bank, 2007)

Tanzania: Advocacy Challenge Fund

Preparation of monitoring and evaluation framework to enable BEST-AC to gather relevant and appropriate monitoring information and to record it in such a way that evaluation could be relatively straightforward. Undertaken in partnership with Annabel Jackson. (DANIDA, 2007)

Montenegro & Latvia: Business Advisory Service

Member of team evaluating performance and impact of EBRD's Business Advisory Service consultancy programme (which operated in 14 countries across central Europe and Asia) (EBRD, 2006)

Tanzania: Advocacy Challenge Fund

Mid term review of BEST (Business Environment Strengthening in Tanzania) Advocacy Component. Objective was not only to assess effectiveness and impact of fund to date but also to make recommendations for future development (DANIDA, 2006)

Africa: Gatsby Trusts

Strategic review of each of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Cameroon Gatsby Trusts. These are all business support initiatives and the intention was to revisit vision, mission and strategic priorities. (Gatsby Charitable Foundation, 2006)

Ghana: Advocacy Challenge Fund

Review of BUSAC (Business Advocacy Challenge) Fund and preparation of monitoring and evaluation framework (DFID, 2006)

UK: Performance Hub

Review of way that charities and NGOs in England engage in strategic thinking and strategic planning, in partnership with Annabel Jackson Associates. (NCVO, 2006)

Central Europe: Business Advisory Service: Evaluation

Part of team (with Capital Representative) appointed by European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to evaluate the Business Advisory Service which operates in 18 transition countries in central and eastern Europe and Asia. (EBRD, 2006)

Africa and Asia: Financial Deepening Challenge Fund: output to purpose review

Appointed by DFID to undertake the evaluation of the Financial Deepening Challenge Fund, a £15m fund established to support private sector led projects intended to provide new or better financial services to poor people in any of the countries in which DFID operates. (DFID, 2005)

Kenya: Umbrella Project for Enabling Environment

Undertook the end of programme output to purpose review for the DFID funded 'umbrella project' contributing to efforts to simplify the enabling environment. The outcome was a detailed report assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the programme, together with recommendations of which the two key ones were to extend the programme for six months (possible within the original budget) and to design a new programme (which is underway currently). (DFID, 2004)

Kenya: Kenya Private Sector Alliance

Undertook an institutional review for KEPSA (the successor organisation to the Private Sector Forum), with a view to putting in place an appropriate strategy for private sector influencing of the government, together with an organisational structure, covering both staff and volunteers, able to implement the strategy. Outcome was that DFID agreed to continue providing financial support (DFID, 2004)

UK: ONE NorthEast

International benchmarking of small firms policy implementation, performance measurement (based on outcomes rather than outputs or inputs) and needs assessment. (2002)

UK: ONE NorthEast

Member of Financial Support Steering Group, one of five groups established to review policy in relation to small firms' support (2002)

UK: Birmingham City Council

Undertook review of Birmingham City Council's small business support activities including their relationship with stakeholders and made recommendations for a revised strategy focusing on the City taking a leadership role rather than a delivery role. (In partnership with Annabel Jackson Associates, 2002)

Mexico

Review of business support services in Mexico and exploration of the scope for collaboration between British and Mexican governments (2002)

USA

Review of small business support services to identify activities and approaches that could be transferable to the UK. (2000, 2001)

South Africa

Review of business support services in South Africa and exploration of the scope for collaboration between British and Mexican governments (2001)