



# **DFID's reflections on it's future evaluation portfolio – four strategic shifts**

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## **A little bit of context...**

- Pre 2011 - DFID had a centralised evaluation model.
- In 2011, the Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI) was established, to provide a mechanism to provide more scrutiny of the ring-fenced ODA spend by the UK government. Leading central thematic/strategic reviews.
- Consequently, in 2011, a fully decentralised evaluation system was introduced

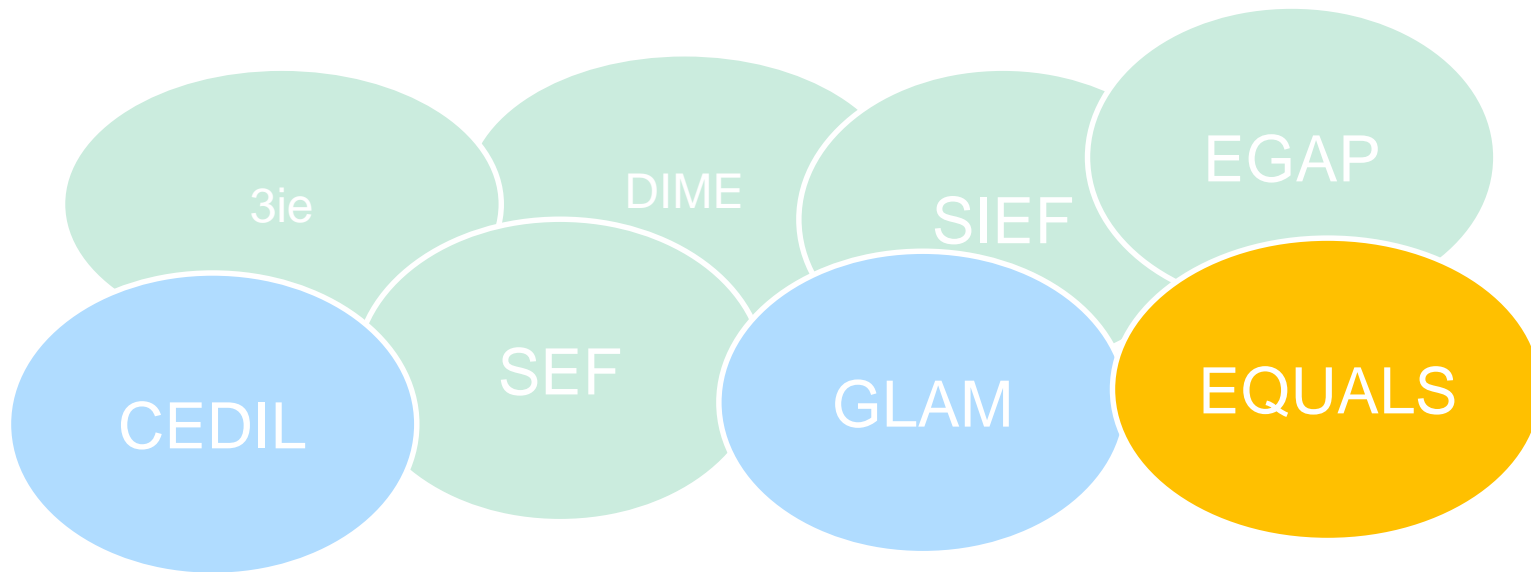


## **DFID has a decentralised model of evaluation...**



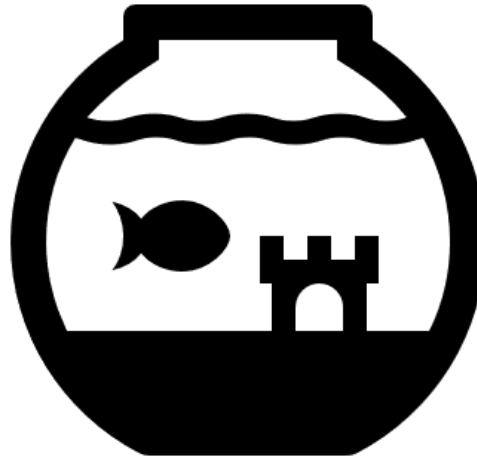


## The central evaluation unit focussed on methods (and public goods)...





## Evaluations became too siloed...





## **New approach needed...mixed centralised and decentralised...**

- Shift 1. Strengthened real time monitoring
- Shift 2. Greater support to adaptive programming
- Shift 3. Fewer, but higher priority evaluations
- Shift 4. Better use of evidence



## **Shift 1. Strengthened real time monitoring**

- Geo-coded and real time data – quick decisions and learning
- Beneficiary feedback – better decisions and learning
- Identify latest thinking – keep DFID at the cutting edge



## **Shift 2. Greater support to adaptive programming**

- Complex settings are the new normal
- Poor evidence base, but a commitment to intervene
- Closing the excuses for poor design



## **Shift 3. Fewer, but higher priority evaluations**

- Identify opportunities to obtain strategically important, rigorous evidence on the impact of a limited number of promising interventions
- These evaluations would aim to not only assess impact, but also generate better evidence on how to deliver effective interventions, and their costs and return on investment.
- Centralised or regionalised evaluations...competitions to select areas...



# Approaches of other countries...

Country	Overview of Evaluation Bodies	Decentralised evaluations	Centralised thematic / strategic evaluations	Centralised unit conducts some evaluations internally
Norway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NORAD centralised evaluation unit conduct 10-15 thematic evaluations per year</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓
Sweden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Semi-independent centralised unit in Sida.</li> <li>Independent scrutiny body, EBA.</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓
Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DEval conduct independent, strategic evaluations.</li> <li>Evaluation Division in BMZ guide overall evaluation system.</li> <li>GIZ conduct strategic evaluations.</li> <li>Evaluation Department of KfW Development Bank conduct programme and thematic evaluations.</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓
The Netherlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Independent unit, IOB conduct 10-15 central evaluations per year.</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓
France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluation unit at MAEDI conduct 4-5 centralised evaluations per year.</li> <li>Evaluation unit at DG Treasury conduct evaluations of projects undertaken by Ministry of Economy and Finance.</li> <li>Evaluation Unit at AFD carry out thematic and strategic evaluations.</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✖
Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Independent unit, ODE conduct strategic evaluations.</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓
New Zealand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Centralised evaluation unit conduct 9-10 strategic thematic evaluations at any one point.</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓
Denmark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fully Centralised Model with centralised unit conducting 8-10 major evaluations per year.</li> </ul>		✓	
UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fully decentralised model with no evaluations commissioned centrally.</li> <li>Independent scrutiny body, ICAI.</li> </ul>	✓	✖	✖

## **Shift 4. Better use of evidence**

- Where there is a strong evidence base on what works, less need for evaluations. Instead – strong monitoring
- Where there is limited evidence, but promising interventions, there are potentially important opportunities for DFID to evaluate its own programmes to contribute to the global evidence base, and assess the impact of interventions delivered at scale.
- Better connect evidence gap maps, evidence syntheses, to inform the implications for future evaluation priorities and programmes within DFID.



# Questions? Thoughts?

