



International
Labour
Organization

Evaluation
Office

► **The ILO Evaluation
Trust Fund
for enhanced
organizational learning**

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Purpose and objective

Effective evaluation is particularly important for strengthening organizational learning and improving the effectiveness of future programming. By conducting impact evaluations and ex-post evaluations of development cooperation projects/programmes, the ILO can learn from its past experiences and apply these insights to future programming. Moreover, these evaluations can provide evidence of the impact of a programme or project on beneficiaries, which can be used to justify further investment in similar programmes or projects. This can be particularly important for demonstrating to development partners, ILO constituents, and stakeholders that resources entrusted to the ILO were used effectively and for improving the effectiveness and sustainability of development interventions.

The ILO evaluation policy currently requires that on average 2% of development cooperation budgets be dedicated to evaluation purposes. This policy is essential as it has allowed the ILO to ensure proper evaluation coverage, leading to organizational accountability and learning. While this principle will remain untouched, the limitation is that these resources are tied to the project budgets and typically expire once the project concludes, unless alternative arrangements have been agreed upon by the funding partners. This limits the ability of the ILO to conduct impact-focused ex-post evaluations of these development cooperation activities, which often require some time before impact can materialize and become measurable. As a result, there is a need for an additional flexible funding modality as laid out in the **2017 Evaluation Policy** and **Results-based evaluation strategy 2023 - 2025** that can support , ex-post, and impact evaluations of development cooperation activities that cannot be accommodated within project timelines.

Additionally, as stated in the ILO's evaluation policy, the organization has adopted the clustering of evaluations as the most effective and efficient manner to conduct evaluations (ILO evaluation policy, 2017). The policy requires "the clustering of evaluations of project and programme activities under identical or similar themes, programme frameworks and locations, provided that funding agreements, timing, specific focus and the nature of activities allow it." The voluntary pooling of extra- budgetary evaluation funds can facilitate this process.

To promote organizational learning and fine-tuning project/programmes interventions for greater impact, the ILO has established an ILO Evaluation Trust Fund (IETF), dedicated to supporting evaluation of extra-budgetary development cooperation activities that require a longer-term timeframe.



IETF Governance structure

The IETF will be effectively managed by the ILO Evaluation Office (EVAL). As part of its Annual Evaluation Report (AER), EVAL will provide the GB (Governing Body) with an overview of the fund's results-based work plan, progress, and financial statement.

To ensure the relevant and effective utilization of the IETF, and as part of the criteria-based integrated evaluation planning system implemented by the Evaluation Office, EVAL will engage in consultations with managers, including in the context of the implementation of the Programme and Budget. This will include seeking input from the Evaluation Advisory Committee (EAC) and members of the Governing Body on possible topics. Through these consultations, EVAL aims to identify knowledge gaps and learning needs that can be addressed through activities funded by the IETF in a coordinated manner with other evaluation resources available under RB and RBSA.

IETF Financing mechanism

The IETF's budget will be resourced through dedicated voluntary contributions from development partners, including governments, international organizations, private organizations, or individuals. The fund will not affect the 2% policy requirement of projects for evaluation requirements. However, at the time of funding or closure of a project, subject to donor confirmation, the remaining amounts of this evaluation budget line could be moved to the fund.

In their contribution to ILO programmes or projects, development partners may therefore elect to:

- a. allocate dedicated extra-budgetary resources for evaluation activities to IETF and/or
- b. designate portions of project evaluation budgets to the IETF for defined evaluation tasks

Once established, the IETF will provide a platform for ILO's development partners to contribute to complementary evaluation work of the ILO. Funds received in the IETF will remain in the Fund until fully used in accordance with the objectives of the IETF and in accordance with applicable ILO regulations, rules, directives, and procedures.

Resources allocated to the IETF will be recorded as income and will remain available for use by the Evaluation Office to deliver the evaluation reports or studies as specified in the AER submitted to/ and approved by the ILO Governing Body. Donors may opt to allocate their contribution under a separate outcome in the fund to ensure they will only be used for evaluations related or relevant to their activities.

The IETF will be managed by the ILO in accordance with its terms of reference and in accordance with agreements between ILO and individual contributing development partners governing the contribution. ILO's Evaluation Office is responsible for ensuring that trust funds are used for the purposes agreed with the donor and that the funds are managed and accounted for in compliance with the ILO's Financial Rules and Regulations, directives, and procedures.



IETF's evaluation guidelines and criteria

ILO's Evaluation Office will develop and regularly review criteria for selecting evaluation topics and methodologies, data collection, and analysis methods funded through the IETF. These will outline the scope of the evaluation, the responsibilities of the evaluators and evaluand, the timelines for delivery, and the budget for the evaluations to be financed.

IETF's evaluation reports and dissemination

ILO's Evaluation Office will ensure that evaluation reports are of high quality, transparent, and accessible to all stakeholders. They will be disseminated widely to the ILO, development partners, partner organizations, and the wider development community. IETF-funded reports will also be accessible through i-eval Discovery.

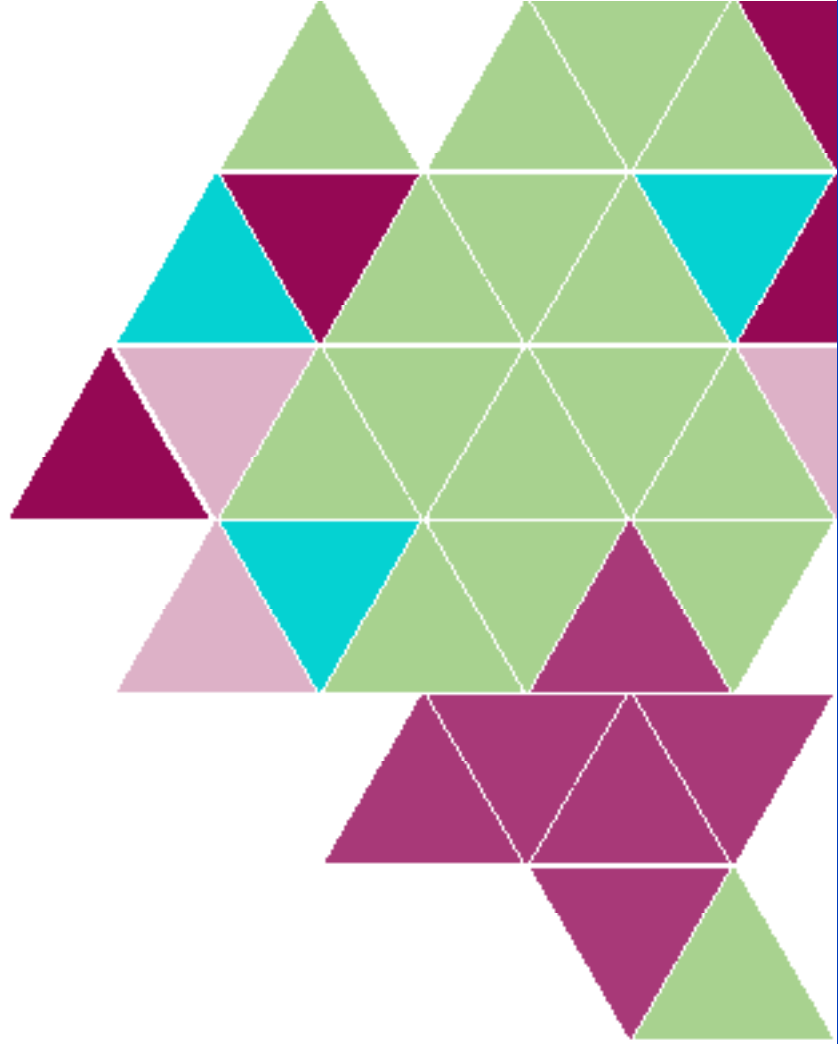
Management of IETF funded evaluations or reviews

Once topics and methodologies are identified, IETF-funded evaluations will be managed per ILO evaluation policy and through a designated evaluation manager either in EVAL, the regions or jointly managed with EVAL and the relevant department. Each evaluative exercise will develop a TOR (Terms of Reference) and a management structure that is customized to the specific evaluation with overall oversight by EVAL. IETF-funded evaluations will be based on the principles of participatory methodologies and considering the ILO's mandate and tripartite nature. IETF-funded evaluations will go through the same rigorous quality control mechanisms as decentralized and centralized evaluations in the ILO and the reports will be accessible in line with ILO's disclosure policy and accountability policy.

Monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the IETF

The IETF's performance and impact will be regularly monitored and evaluated as part of the annual evaluation reporting to the ILO Governing Body to ensure that it is achieving its objectives and contributing to improved organizational learning.





Learn more

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