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Project evaluation – Summary report

Worldwide: Sector Project on Population Dynamics, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

Title according to commission:	Sector Project on Population Dynamics, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
Project number:	2012.2110.0
Country/region:	Worldwide
CRS sector:	Population policy and statistics, promoting reproductive health, family planning
Overall objective:	German development cooperation's strategic direction, implementing capacities and influence on international discussion processes in the fields of SRHR and population development are strengthened, taking into account health sector-specific and cross sectoral contexts.
Overall term:	July 2012 to June 2015
Overall costs:	EUR 8,710,000
Commissioned by:	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Lead executing agency:	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Implementing organisations (in the partner country):	Not applicable; this is a worldwide programme
Other involved development organisations:	None
Target groups according to offer:	Young people, boys and girls, young men and women, and couples in partner countries who require special attention, empowerment and protection with regard to their sexual and reproductive health and asserting their related rights.

Project description

The Sector Initiative on Population Dynamics, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights is an advisory project for BMZ Division 306 (Health; Population Policy). Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) – one aspect of the universal right to health – and population dynamics have been recognised as important factors in sustainable development since the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo. The world is home to more than 7 billion people,

and this number is rising by nearly 80 million people a year, almost exclusively in the world's poorest countries. It is estimated that by the year 2050 the global population will come close to 9.6 billion people.

The realisation of SRHR in poor countries is set against a number of challenges and obstacles. With adopting the Development Goals (MDG) in 2000 overcoming these obstacles was placed on the international agenda. Improving child and maternal health was one of the central issues (MDGs 4 and 5). However, to date least progress has been made towards achieving these goals in particular. According to the United Nations, just half of women living in poor countries receive the health care that they need in adequate quality. Unmet need for modern family planning methods are also contributing to the lack of progress. 225 million women and girls still do not have access to these methods, which leads to a large number of unwanted pregnancies. About one third of these pregnancies are terminated worldwide - often in unsafe conditions.

The Sector Initiative is providing advisory services on the 'sustainable design of demographic change' and 'sexual and reproductive health and rights'. The 'right to health' is integrated into these two fields of activity as a cross-cutting issue and is also addressed as a separate field of activity. The project works in the following modes of delivery: (1) advising division 306; (2) advising bilateral projects and programmes of German development cooperation (DC); (3) network building and knowledge management (including support for the international dialogue on population and sustainable development, participating in international conferences such as the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) to position German approaches strategically), and (4) making financial contributions to multilateral organisations and non-governmental organisations (including the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) and the WHO Gender, Equity and Rights Unit) and financing third-party publications and events.

Overall rating according to OECD/DAC criteria:	Individual rating of OECD/DAC criteria:
14 – 16 points: very successful 12 – 13 points: successful 10 – 11 points: rather successful 8 – 9 points rather unsatisfactory 6 – 7 points unsatisfactory 4 – 5 points: very unsuccessful	Relevance: very successful (16 points) Effectiveness: successful (13 points) Impact: rather successful (11 points) Efficiency: successful (12 points) Sustainability: rather successful (10 points)
The project's overall rating is successful (average of the individual ratings: 12.4 points).	

Relevance

During the project period, population dynamics and SRHR were very high on the development agenda in Germany, in international discourse and in German DC's partner countries. The promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as population dynamics, have been recognised as important factors in sustainable development since the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo. Reducing maternal and child mortality is also part of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs 4 and 5), which were adopted in 2000. In May 2011, BMZ publicly presented its Initiative on Rights-based Family Planning and Maternal Health to expand its measures in this area. This initiative focuses on promoting rights-based family planning and strengthening health care systems in partner countries. The realisation of sexual and reproductive health and rights as well as gender equality is a prerequisite and a means for achieving a number of Millennium Development Goals. This work also influences transformations in society and facilitates sustainable development processes.

The Sector Initiative is consistent with BMZ's basic development policy orientation and is geared towards German DC's existing health and population policy concepts and positions. It addresses gender-specific discrimination and problems related to sexual and reproductive health. In this manner, measures that the Sector Initiative supports as part of bilateral cooperation help, amongst others, to promote maternal and child health in partner countries. The Sector Initiative also advises on realising the human right to health and on taking population dynamics into account as a cross-sectoral factor influencing development programmes.

The relevance of strengthening German DC's strategic direction, implementing capacities and influence on international discussion processes in the fields of SRHR and population development is rated as **very successful (16 points)**. There is a direct link to both international and German objectives and priorities.

Effectiveness

Objective indicator ¹	Target according to the offer	Actual situation identified in the project evaluation
1. Measures tackling and addressing health sector-specific and cross-sectoral contexts for SRH and HIV, the right to health and the sustainable design of demographic change are started in at least four partner countries.	Baseline value in 2012: 0 Target value in 2015: ≥ 4	Actual value in 2014: 9 Situation in December 2014: PD-3, SRHR-5, RtH-1 <u>Population dynamics (PD)</u> : Advising DC programmes in Egypt, Togo and Burundi on PD's cross-sector embedding. <u>SRHR</u> : Providing SRHR advice to four health programmes in Malawi, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Central Asia that were commissioned between 2012 and 2015. <u>Right to health (RtH)</u> : Advising a health programme in Guinea on taking account of problems associated with female genital mutilation and child marriage in the programme orientation. Even though the indicator can be considered to have been met based on the number of measures, only about 85% of the measures meet the requirement of working on a cross-sectoral basis.
2. German DC has a policy paper on the cross-sectoral sustainable design of demographic change	Baseline value in 2012: 0 Target value in 2015: 1	Actual value in 2014: One policy paper was published.
3. German DC has an updated SRHR policy that takes account of the life-cycle approach and developments within the context of the post-MDG debate.	Baseline value in 2012: 0 Target value in 2015: 1	Actual value in 2014: 0 Project progress report in 2014: <i>In light of ongoing discussions and negotiations about the post-2015 development agenda, it is BMZ's wish that the 2008 policy paper, BMZ Special 148, which still applies, should not be rewritten. Instead, BMZ's updated position should be expressed in statements and discussion papers.</i>

¹ Target indicators sometimes do not meet SMART criteria. In other words, they are sometimes not specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound, which may limit the informational value of the results.

4. The BMZ division states that it has used concepts and strategies developed together with the sector project as a basis for decisions or discussions for at least six different international events or processes, and rates advisory services from the sector project on the requested topics as timely and meeting needs.	Baseline value in 2012: 0 Target value in 2015: 6	Actual value in 2014: 12 processes/ events. Examples of key processes include participation and involvement in the Donor and Foundations Constituency within the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH/WHO) and the partner forum of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, participation in the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) and the World Health Assembly (WHA). Advice from the sector project on the requested topics is rated as technically proficient and timely. There is potential for improving how well advice is tailored to the BMZ division. Accordingly, the indicator is met in quantitative terms, but is only satisfied 90% in terms of quality.
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Overall rating of effectiveness: **successful** (13 points).

Overarching development policy results

At the level of overarching development policy results, the Sector Initiative together with measures in other areas, such as food security, governance, infrastructure, social security and education, helps to reduce infant mortality and improve maternal health. In addition, the project is to promote gender equality and the human right to health and positively influence conditions for the sustainable design of a demographic transition in the long-term. This requires effective cross-sectoral coordination between projects and organisations within German DC and with bilateral and international partners. By means of advising the BMZ Health and Population Policy division, field structure programmes and assisting the implementation of German DC strategies in partnership with civil society and multilateral organisations, the Sector Initiative contributes to a certain extent to overarching development policy results. The issues of population dynamics, SRHR and the right to health attract more attention in national and bilateral strategies and processes thanks to this advice. Partners view the greater commitment to population dynamics within the context of German DC, as outlined in the policy paper 'Population Dynamics in German Development Cooperation', as pioneering in the EU. Integrating issues into bilateral projects encourages national development planning and health care systems to take greater account of people's needs and rights. By virtue of the services it provides, the project also contributes to realising the Millennium Development Goals to reduce child and maternal mortality (MDGs 4 and 5). However, owing to the structural context the Sector Initiative operates in, its opportunities for establishing cross-sectoral approaches and topics in German DC with large scale impact are limited.

The contribution to overarching development policy results (impact) is assessed as **rather successful** (11 points).

Efficiency

The sector project mainly works by deploying human resources, experts and financial contributions in other organisations. Even though positions within the project were not filled for a relatively long time and staff was rotated, the sector project was able to complete BMZ work assignments on time. Colleagues within GIZ also describe co-operation with the Sector Initiative as productive and efficient. In addition, the Sector Initiative enjoys effective finance and cash flow management. Nonetheless, there is potential for embedding measures made possible by financial contributions in the Sector Initiative's targets and strategic orientation in a more results-driven manner. The lessons learned and results achieved within the context of this financing should be processed more intensively (improving knowledge management) and used in the Sector Initiative's advisory services. Promising approaches can then be used more and target attainment can be optimised as a result. Good approaches to coordination and managing interfaces with other sectors and stakeholders exist. These approaches should be expanded and formalised in the future.

The efficiency of the project is rated as **successful** (12 points).

Sustainability

The primary task of the Sector Initiative is to advise BMZ division 306 (Health; Population Policy) on SRHR and population dynamics. This often requires processing short-term enquiries and is heavily dependent on sector trends and developments. The project has no direct influence on BMZ division 306's need for advice and use of the work performed. This

challenge also exists with regard to the demand for advice from programmes and projects in German DC's partner countries. The Sector Initiative advises on mainstreaming these issues in BMZ concepts and strategies, helping to raise the profile of these issues in the development policy discourse. The Sector Initiative enables the implementation of new approaches to addressing issues by supporting pilot measures in partner countries.

Capacity development measures make an important contribution to sustainability. While the Sector Initiative does not have a documented CD strategy, activities are conducted at individual and organisational levels. Organising events and training (e.g. continued education for economic cooperation officers, university and other seminar events) contributes to development policy and other stakeholders involving these topics more in their work and understanding their importance. Supporting midwives' associations and connecting practitioners and researchers through university and clinic partnerships also helps to improve women's health and the quality of pregnancy and obstetric care. Developing formats, such as country analyses and sectoral guidelines, has helped to ensure information sharing. Nonetheless, there is potential for intensifying knowledge management and preparing and documenting lessons learned. The conditions for systematic learning and innovation can thus be fostered in order to enhance sustainability.

The sustainability of the Sector Initiative is rated as **rather successful** (10 points).

Publishing credits

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