

# SHARING EXPERIENCES OF APPLYING RAPID EVALUATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA

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planning, monitoring  
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Department:  
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# PRESENTATION OUTLINE



**TIMELINESS AND QUALITY OF RAPID EVALUATION**



**COST EFFECTIVENESS PREPARATION**



**RAPID EVALUATION MODELS**



**TRADITIONAL / RAPID EVALUATIONS**



**USE OF RESULTS**



**RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADAPT GUIDELINE**

# TIMELINESS AND QUALITY OF RAPID EVALUATION



- There is a trade-off – more time = more data points, interviews, literature, and more time in ensuring that the process is good quality, involves stakeholders
- Quality can be compromised if internal capacity for analysis, report-writing is weak.

# COST EFFECTIVENESS

- Two of the three evaluations were fully internal and one outsourced
- No cost involved in internal and the outsourced was fairly reasonable
- Full internal – R100k for travel and subsistence costs and stakeholder workshops (all online)
- Facilitated – around R400-500 000 this is deemed high considering the 12 weeks timeline and internal capacity
- Outsourced – R1-1.2 million this is deemed high considering the 12 weeks timeline, financial constraints and average cost of full evaluations ranges around R1.4-R1.8 million

# PRE RAPID EVALUATION PREPS

## Preparation

- If internal or facilitated set up project team with dedicated time for the evaluation
- Setting up steering Committee and Technical Working Group
- Consultation process – buy-in
- Collation of existing data and key documents
- Limiting scope – few evaluation questions and limiting geographical scope for data collection
- Detailed evaluation matrix
- Regular meetings with end users- steering committees, technical working groups / project teams from developing TORs

# FAVOURED RAPID EVALUATION MODEL: INTERNAL, FACILITATED OR OUTSOURCED?

- Criticism NES failed to build state capacity to undertake evaluations
- To build skills for internal evaluations - financial constraints
- Ensure that evaluation team comprises of right skills mix upfront

Internal



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- for urgent evaluations would use hybrid -facilitated to supplement the skills that are not available internally
- Resources (Human and financial)

Facilitated



- Budget availability
- For interventions that require specialised skills
- Interventions where there is high interest on the evaluation findings.

Outsourced



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# TRADITIONAL VERSUS RAPID EVALUATIONS

## TRADITIONAL

- programme or policy is very large
- implications of the policy/ programme are critical and will affect people's lives and communities
- There is a lot of contention about a programme or policy – results challenged
- NEP evaluations

## RAPID

- Quick feedback is needed
- Primary purpose is formative to feed-in to ongoing intervention and planning processes
- Organisational learning and problem solving
- Evaluation budget is very limited / non existent
- Focus is on narrower topic and/or specific geographical areas

# USE OF RAPID EVALUATION RESULTS

- Results of RE are likely to be used – not planned for but due to urgent need.
- Co-production and involvement of relevant stakeholders in the technical working group and steering committee for the evaluation to promote ownership. Guard against issues of objectivity and independence at times.
- Stakeholder workshops to develop the theory of change and validate the results.
- Timely production of evaluation reports to enable evidence informed decision making as per initial need.
- Dissemination of the evaluation report to members of the Executive Committee that commissioned the evaluation.
- Use of management responses and improvement plans to formalise action needed for recommendations.

# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RAPID EVALUATION GUIDELINE

- Increase the time to undertake RE except when using existing programme data to make a quick assessment
- Reduce the cost of RE for the different models
- Propose fourth option - Full internal joint / co-production – roles and responsibilities of the custodian department and DPME (partner) should be clear and aligned to the evaluation process.
- The guideline should spell out the skills (team needed) required to undertake RE, e.g. qualitative and quantitative data analysis

A photograph of the National Parliament Building in South Africa, featuring two large domes and a central flagpole, with the text "THANK YOU" overlaid in white.

**THANK YOU**