



Draft report of the First Award Competition

Prepared by the Award Secretariat – 22 November 2019

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Introduction

The *Evaluating Development Interventions for Transformational Change Award* – also known as *Evaluation for Transformational Change Award* – is a joint initiative of the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE), the Independent Evaluation Group (IEG) of the World Bank Group, and the International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS). This biennial award recognizes outstanding evaluations of development interventions that promote or result in transformational change and are linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Award Competition was set up in early 2019 and is expected to run for 10 years, leading to Award Ceremonies every two years at the Global Assembly organised by IDEAS.

The award is in recognition of the growing international understanding that *transformational change* is needed for our societies, economies and our relationship with the environment to become sustainable. On many fronts the world needs transformational change to reach the aspirations expressed in the SDGs and the Paris Agreement: a world free of poverty; leaving no one behind; and ensuring a prosperous and equitable future in diverse and inclusive societies, with economies that increase wealth but not while undermining our food, clean air and living circumstances, with a climate and biodiversity that safeguards the future of humankind.

A transformational change is one that reshapes models, policies, structures, practices, culture and management. Evaluations can contribute to transformational change in many ways:

- Providing evaluative evidence on whether changes are truly transformational, leading to systems changes in our societies, economies and the way these interact with our environment.
- Focusing its design on key aspects of change that need to be understood for progress.
- Uncovering new areas of evidence and insight.
- Influential evaluations may provide inspiration for overcoming barriers to change, actively engage with stakeholders and shift societal and institutional debates in new directions to promote change.

The Award aims to recognize the most outstanding evaluations from a perspective of *credibility*, *innovation* and *influence*. Total prize money per award competition would be US\$15,000.

Organisational arrangements

A Steering Committee is in charge of the Award Competition. IFAD's IOE, the World Bank's IEG and IDEAS are represented in the Steering Committee through a member and an alternate. The Steering Committee met six times in 2019 to provide guidance to the Secretariat and organise the nomination and judgment process, as well as communication and outreach for the Award Competition. The Secretariat is provided by IDEAS. The Steering Committee was composed of the following members in 2019:

IOE IFAD

Member: Oscar Garcia

Alternate: Fabrizio Felloni

IEG World Bank Group

Member: Jos Vaessen

Alternate: Jason Mayfield

IDEAS

Member: Rob D. van den Berg

Alternate: Josephine Watera

The webpage on the Award Competition in the Global Assembly website was developed by communication and outreach experts in IFAD and the World Bank together with the Secretary-General of IDEAS and the webmaster for the IDEAS websites. Logos for the Award and a communication style guide was developed by IFAD's Independent Office of Evaluation.

The Steering Committee invited independent evaluation and policy experts to form a Judging Panel to review the nominations and identify winners and runners up for the first Award Competition. The Judging Panel consisted of:

- Kerry Bruce, CEO of Clear Outcomes (USA)
- Ian Goldman, Professor and CLEAR Southern Africa Advisor, former Head of Evaluation and Research, Government of South Africa (South Africa)
- Yolanda Kakabadse, former President of IUCN and WWF-International (Ecuador)
- Claudia Maldonado, Professor at CIDE and former Director of CLEAR Latin America (Mexico)
- Elliot Stern, Editor, journal Evaluation; Emeritus Professor of Evaluation Research, Lancaster University, Fellow of UK Academy of Social Sciences (UK)

Due to other obligations Yolanda Kakabadse had to resign from the Judging Panel in August.

The first award competition in 2019

Eligibility for nomination

Nominations were submitted by evaluators or evaluation teams from or commissioned by multilateral and bilateral organizations, not-for-profit organizations (e.g., NGOs, foundations), academic institutions, private sector, or public sector organizations. Evaluations could not be nominated by commissioners or by the institutions that mandated these evaluations. Furthermore, staff of IOE IFAD, IEG World Bank Group and the Board of IDEAS could not participate in this Award Competition due to conflict of interest.

All nominated evaluations should be published and publicly available. They should be in English, as no language facilities could be organised for the first award competition. Given that they needed to focus on transformational change for the Sustainable Development Goals (who were adopted in 2015) they needed to be published in 2015 or later.

The nomination deadline was set at 15 July 2019 and extended to 31 July 2019. A total of 23 nominations were received, of which 9 were not eligible for a variety of reasons (evaluation not published, not evaluation but research, evaluation not yet completed, evaluation not in English, nomination of a website).

The Judging Panel was invited to set up their own assessment and review method and in a series of meetings the Panel managed to come to a joint understanding of how the review should be done. The final judgment of the Panel was made unanimously. The Steering Committee accepted the judgment of the Panel and announced the prize winners on 26 September, just a few days before the IDEAS Global Assembly started in Prague on 30 September 2019. The announcement was published on the website of the Global Assembly.

Award categories and winners in 2019

The Award recognizes winners in three categories: credibility, innovation and influence. The first prize was US\$5,000 per evaluation team. The Judging Panel gave the following considerations concerning winners and runners-up.

First prizes

Credibility: Credibility is grounded on independence, impartiality and a rigorous methodology. Key elements of credibility include transparent evaluation processes, strength of the evidence base, inclusive approaches involving relevant stakeholders and robust quality assurance;



First Prize: Evaluation of the CARD and UNICEF Cash Transfer Pilot Project for Pregnant Women and Children in Cambodia

Team leader: Ashish Mukherjee

This evaluation had great strengths in the main elements of credibility – a rigorous methodology combined with impartiality and independence. The methodology was well-documented, matched the characteristics of the programme whilst also taking into account of what had been learned from other related programmes. The Theory of Change, evaluation questions and sampling strategy were convincing and appropriate. Data was collected from a full range of stakeholders including beneficiaries, counterparts and donors; and the resulting evidence was carefully and transparently weighed up. At the same time the evaluators maintained appropriate close-working relationships with the evaluation Commissioners UNICEF; and governance arrangements gave confidence that the overall exercise continued to be independent. The management response and follow-up actions confirmed that the evaluation was taken seriously by Commissioners.

Innovation: The novelty and originality of the scope and/or conceptual/methodological approach of the evaluation;

First Prize: Mid Term Evaluation of the Global Climate Partnership Foundation

Team leader: Antonia Dickman

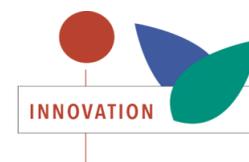
This evaluation was innovative in a number of ways. The evaluation recognised the scope and scale of the transformation challenge of climate change and CO2 reduction – something that cannot always be taken for granted. The evaluation also acknowledged that timing is critical in evaluations of transformational policies e.g. that for sustainability, we cannot rely on a one-off ‘snapshot’ judgement but also need to invest in ongoing monitoring. A number of established and ‘frontier’ evaluation methods were deployed that as far as the judges are aware have not been used before in a transformational context. Whilst approaches such as Theory Based evaluation, Contribution Analysis and QCA are beginning to feature in mainstream evaluations, how these approaches have been combined in this global policy evaluation is new. Efforts to clarify causal assumptions and links between micro and meso actions and macro-policy goals are also consistent with state-of-the-art evaluation practice.

Influence: The (potential) contribution of the evaluation to transformational change towards the SDGs.

First prize: Evaluation of Transformational Change in the Climate Investment Funds

Team leader: Sam McPherson

This evaluation is an authoritative and high quality evaluation, using an interesting theory-based evaluation methodology testing hypotheses with a mixed-method theory-based approach using contribution analysis and comparison across cases, exploring the mechanisms how and under what circumstances transformational change takes place and identifying the role that CIF has played in these changes. It was undertaken in parallel with an evidence synthesis on transformational change in CIF. The evaluation was of a very large-scale programme (\$8 billion) and found the CIF had positively contributed to transformational change in the climate sector over the last 10 years. The launch of the evaluation was in itself very significant with a very impressive panel during the CIF conference in Ouarzazate, Morocco in January 2019, including ministers from Morocco, Niger and Zambia, and high-level representatives from the World Bank and the UK government, and the evaluation appears to have played a significant role in safeguarding the future of the Fund.



Runners-up

Runners-up to the prize winners were identified as well, but the Judging Panel did not find sufficient grounds to identify in which category they should be placed as runners-up, and felt that while second and third placed nominations were expected to appear in the three categories, they felt that five nominations should be recognized as “runner-up” for the first prize, without specifying in what place or for what category. The Judging Panel will reflect on this further and interact with the Steering Committee on the implications this may have for the next Award Competition that will take place in 2021. The runners-up were in alphabetical order:

1. Evaluation of the early impacts of the better cotton initiative on smallholder cotton producers in Kurnool District, India

Team leader: Ravinder Kumar

This evaluation stood out for aptly combining a rigorous and sophisticated use of mixed methods with a proactive orientation towards learning, usability and effective communication of findings. The result was a rigorous, credible and pertinent report.

2. Evaluation of the Ma’An (Together) towards a Safe School Environment Programme 2009-2016 in Jordan

Team leader: Nadeem Haider

This evaluation was thoroughly researched and is regarded as very influential by stakeholders. It included participatory work with children and specific work on using quantitative data. It was culturally sensitive and balanced by giving special consideration to negative feedback. The result is a well-grounded report that offers pertinent and actionable recommendations following best/good practice.

3. Learning from evidence. Lessons and pathways to an inclusive agricultural market for smallholder farmers in Mexico

Team leader: Gabriela Pérez-Yarahuán

This was an interesting evaluation, going beyond the usual evaluation tools to do a proper root cause analysis, undertaking a wider diagnostic of the causes of the problem the programme intended to address, comparing what the programme was doing against that, and then looking at international experience that could be relevant to address the gaps. It took a systemic approach, including how the system could consider climate change and gender. It mostly engaged with the client (Walmart) rather than wider policymakers.

4. A multi-dimensional outcome harvest. EU-SRSP’s programme for economic advancement and community empowerment (EU-PEACE) evaluation in Pakistan

Team leader: Jeph Mathias

This evaluation was interesting for its innovative use of outcome harvesting on a multidimensional intervention aimed at systemic change, and for the way remote work and local team was handled, bearing in mind the security challenges. It is an eloquent example of the use of adaptive evaluation processes and tools with an inclusive and transformative ethos.

5. Outcome evaluation of the education capacity development partnership fund (CDPF) in Cambodia

Team leader: Frans van Gerwen

This outcome evaluation undertaken by Lattanzio Advisory SpA. and commissioned by UNICEF showed many examples of good evaluation practice. It deployed local field workers; relied on

national structures; engaged widely with stakeholders and paid attention to scaling-up and Cambodian government policy. The Theory of Change was credible as were the evaluation questions posed. Data collection was well-planned and well-documented.

The Award Ceremony

The Award Ceremony took place in the residence of the Mayor of Prague on Wednesday 3 October in the evening, incorporated in the welcome reception that the Mayor offered to all participants of the conference. The welcome reception started at 19:30. At 20:00 the Award Ceremony was introduced by Oscar Garcia on behalf of the Steering Committee. He welcomed all participants and spoke a few words of introduction, recalling the great interest of the three parties to support evaluations for transformational change through establishing a prize. Oscar then introduced Alison Evans, Director-General Evaluation of the World Bank Group, to speak on the World Bank's perspective on transformational change and how evaluation can help and support this. Daniel Svoboda on behalf of the Secretariat of the Award then announced each prize winner and invited the team leaders (and any present members of their team) to come forward to receive their commemorative plaque. The annex contains photos of the event.

Further work in 2019 and 2020

The Secretariat of the Award Competition will continue to function in 2019 and 2020. The work will focus on the following priorities:

- Establishing an electronic library of the Award winning evaluations and the runners-up for the award and making this library available to the global evaluation community.
- Further development of an independent award website that includes more details and background on the Award Competition.
- Continued outreach to ask attention for the Award competition.
- Preparation of the second Award competition to take place in 2021.
- Supporting the Judging Panel in its feedback to the Steering Committee, with the aim to improve the nomination and reviewing process in 2021.
- Supporting the Steering Committee where necessary.

Annex – Photos of the Award Ceremony



Left: Oscar Garcia introducing the Award Ceremony. In the background Alison, Rob and Daniel Svoboda

Right: Alison Evans on the World Bank’s perspective on transformational change

Below: Ashish Mukherjee presented with the credibility award – from left to right Oscar, Alison, Ashish, Rob and Daniel





Left: Antonia Dickman for innovation!

Above: the influential ITAD team with the CIF E&L team.
From left to right: Rob, Joe Dickman, Sam McPherson, Anna Williams, Jessica Kyle & Matthew Savage



Left: Elliot Stern providing some considerations on behalf of the Judging Panel

Right: the audience in rapturous attention