

# Do we need a Minimum Level of Failure (MLF)?

## Description

[Tweet](#)

This is the title of a [new posting](#) on the *Rick on the Road blog*, the editorial arm of Monitoring and Evaluation NEWS. It argues that improving aid effectiveness by identifying and culling out the worst performers is a different and possibly more appropriate strategy than identifying and replicating the best performers. This argument ties directly into the debate about RCTs, which are considered by some as the best means for improving aid effectiveness.

**PS 22 October:** Kirstin Hinds of the DFID Evaluation Department has pointed out (in a reply to my original blog posting) that DFID has published a more recent [independent review](#) of project completion reports (covering 2005-2008) which may be of interest.

Other recent postings on the *Rick on the Road blog* include:

- [Meta-narratives, evaluation and complexity](#)
- [Cynefin Framework versus Stacey Matrix versus network perspectives](#)

A full list of all editorial posts is [available here](#).

## Category

1. Uncategorized

## Tags

1. evolution
2. failure
3. RCT

## Date

03/05/2026

## Date Created

06/10/2010

## Author

admin