Assessing aid impact: a review of Norwegian evaluation practice

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Published in: Journal of Development Effectiveness, Volume 1, Issue 2

June 2009 , pages 171 â?? 194

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Abstract

This article reviews recent Norwegian aid evaluations with a mandate to study impact, and assesses how the evaluators establish causal effects. The analytical challenges encountered in the seven studies reviewed are: (1) the Terms of Reference ask for evidence of impact where this is not possible to identify, (2) the distinction between impacts of the aid element versus other components is often blurred, and (3) the methodological approaches to identify impact are either poorly developed or applied superficially. A main conclusion is that most of the evaluators did not have the necessary time or budget to conduct a proper impact evaluation given the large number of questions raised in the commissioning agency.

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Tags

1. bilateral agencies
2. impact assessment

Date
30/10/2026
Date Created
25/06/2009
Author
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