

Evaluation Report Title: Enhanced Data Dissemination Initiative (EDDI)
Mid-term Evaluation

Response to Evaluation Report (overarching narrative)

The Enhanced Data Dissemination Initiative (EDDI) is a five-year project (April 2010 to March 2015) implemented by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to improve macroeconomic statistics in 25 African countries. The mid-term evaluation was conducted internally by the IMF in consultation with the UK Department for International Development (DFID) during September and October 2012. To facilitate this process, questionnaires were developed to obtain feedback from three groups:

1. Counterparts in participating countries,
2. IMF module managers and experts, and
3. DFID country and regional advisors.

The evaluation focussed on the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the project.

In conclusion, the positive overall results of the mid-term evaluation of EDDI and feedback from major stakeholders are consistent with the performance of EDDI with respect to annual project milestones. The significant number of concrete impacts and results already achieved and noted by many countries testifies to the project's value to the recipient countries. Although no major adjustments or changes need to be made, a number of expressed concerns will be followed up and adjustments will continue to be made as needed in specific cases. Both the IMF and DFID project managers will continue to push to maintain the positive momentum created in the first half of the project.

Recommendations made by the stakeholders, and that can be accommodated by the project budget, will be followed up in the second half of the project. These are listed below.

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Recommendations	Accepted or Rejected	If “Accepted”, Action plan for Implementation or if “Rejected”, Reason for Rejection
More frequent missions to countries especially in need	Accepted	The first three recommendations are related and were requested by very poor and under-resourced countries. For this recommendation, The Gambia and Liberia will receive more frequent missions. Progress against all recommendations will be recorded in the 6-monthly reports produced by the IMF in May and November.
More lengthy missions (e.g., 3–4 weeks instead of 2) to countries especially in need	Accepted	The first three recommendations are related and were requested by very poor and under-resourced countries. For this recommendation, The Gambia and Liberia will receive more lengthy missions. Progress against all recommendations will be recorded in the 6-monthly reports produced by the IMF in May and November.
More workshops or training courses to increase capacity to absorb technical assistance (National Accounts and Government Finance Statistics)	Accepted	The first three recommendations are related and were requested by very poor and under-resourced countries. For this recommendation, The Gambia, Liberia and Sierra Leone will receive more workshops/training courses. Progress against all recommendations will be recorded in the 6-monthly reports produced by the IMF in May and November.
Timing missions when new data are ready	Accepted	<p>This recommendation is already embedded into the IMF procedures, as a precondition of the next mission is that new data has been produced. It is worth noting that there can sometimes be a tension between this recommendation and the one that recommends more frequent missions. The only country that made this recommendation was The Gambia.</p> <p>Progress against this recommendation will be recorded in the 6-monthly reports produced by the IMF in May and November.</p>
Extend EDDI’s technical assistance and training beyond the main government agencies to	Accepted	This recommendation has, in the past, been addressed through the project. The situation will continue to be monitored on an on-going basis.

include data reporting institutions.		<p>The only country that made this recommendation was Botswana.</p> <p>Progress against this recommendation will be recorded in the 6-monthly reports produced by the IMF in May and November.</p>
Sensitize high-level management of the main statistical agencies (statistical offices, central banks, and finance ministries) of the importance of continued funding for implementation of the project. This can be done by IMF African Department missions to countries, high-level meetings in Washington at the annual and spring meetings, and communications by senior IMF Statistics Department staff as needed with particular countries.	Accepted	Implementation of this recommendation will be managed by the IMF and DFID Project Managers over the second half of the project. Progress will be recorded in the 6-monthly reports produced by the IMF in May and November.
More IMF experts will meet with DFID country advisors while on missions, and with other donors that are known to be engaged in work closely related to EDDI. DFID advisors will, where possible, assist in organizing meetings with significant other donors/stakeholders.	Accepted	Implementation of this recommendation will be managed by the IMF and DFID Project Managers over the second half of the project. Progress will be recorded in the 6-monthly reports produced by the IMF in May and November.
Two countries requested IMF experts to be deployed in country on a long-term basis in order to provide full-time technical assistance.	Rejected	The program budget is unable to accommodate this request.