

# **Cross-section evaluation**

of independent evaluations in 2007

in the thematic priority area

## **Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency**

Executive Summary

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## **Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency**

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## Cross-section evaluation: Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency

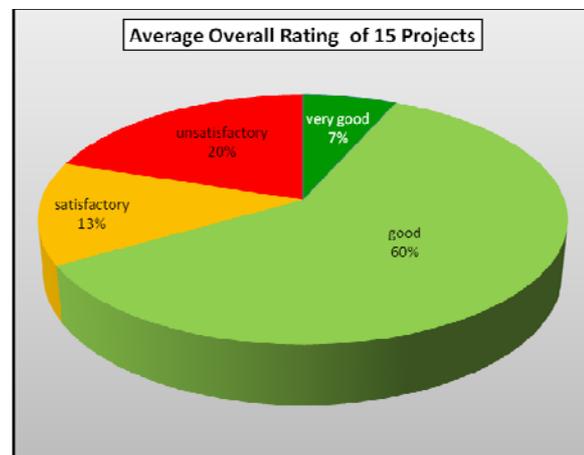
### Summary

*In energy-related projects, the main aim is that technical cooperation should address the right themes (relevance). The question of whether the objectives formulated are actually reached (effectiveness) is less important than the development-policy results (impact) that are achieved. The relationship between the effort involved and the results (efficiency) is of secondary importance. However, if the results are not lasting, all the efforts made will have been wasted (sustainability).*

Considering these aspects, it is possible to summarise the results of this thematic cross-section evaluation in relation to the weighting of the DAC criteria.

This cross-section evaluation covers 15 independent evaluations from the year 2007 in the thematic priority area 'Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency', including six interim evaluations (Nepal, Pakistan, SADC, Senegal, Uganda and Ethiopia), three final evaluations (two in China and one in the Dominican Republic), and six ex-post evaluations (in Sahel, Argentina, Brazil, Thailand, Turkey and Chile). Some of the evaluated projects and programmes differed considerably in terms of their objectives and activity areas. One third of the projects have objectives on the level of the requirements or general conditions needed for using renewable forms of energy, or improved energy efficiency. The majority of projects were intended to bring about direct results at intermediary level, i.e. specific measures were to be implemented for using sustainable energy systems. All the energy-efficiency projects and programmes had objectives in this field. Only one programme (China) had objectives at target-group level.

The projects and programmes reviewed were given an average **overall rating of 2.5**, which is between 'good' (2) and 'satisfactory' (3). A large proportion of the projects/programmes (80%) were rated as 'successful' (points 1 - 3); only three projects were rated as 'unsuccessful' (Sahel, Turkey and Thailand).



The '**relevance**' of these projects was rated as especially good (1.6). By contrast, there was a large discrepancy between weighting and rating for the criteria of '**sustainability**' and '**impact**'. Despite a high-scoring weighting there were not any entirely good results (sustainability: 2.5; impact: 2.7). The discrepancy for '**effectiveness**' was even more marked (rating 2.5). '**Efficiency**' is regarded as less important and obtained a mid-range rating of 2.3.

It is noticeable that the timing of the evaluation greatly affected the rating of the projects and programmes. For example, all the interim evaluations received a rating of at least 'good', while the Ugandan project was in fact rated 'very good' (average: 1.8).

Ratings in the final evaluations were much worse, averaging 2.7; the ex-post evaluations received an even lower rating of 3.0.

All of the unsuccessful projects and programmes fall within this last group. No significant differences were found in the assessments of the various regions (Asia, Africa and Latin America) or the method of implementation (e.g. implemented by GTZ, consulting projects/programmes, etc.). Neither does the scope of the measures (funding volume) allow any definite conclusions to be drawn.

The evaluated projects and programmes are not clearly geared to **poverty reduction**, as has been required since 2007 in the new BMZ sector strategy. In most cases, this is not due to incorrect project or programme design and does not mean that no poverty reduction occurred in these projects. However, little is known about specific impacts. The same applies to the theme of **gender**. Despite its importance in development cooperation, the energy-related projects and programmes evaluated have difficulty in integrating this theme into their planning and implementation. This relates to the classification of the projects/programmes, and also to the lack of gender analyses and corresponding indicators. Notwithstanding the obvious importance of the theme, evidence of the direct effects that energy projects have on women remains anecdotal and speculative, and the measures implemented by the projects tend to remain sporadic and unfocussed.

In the evaluated projects and programmes, **capacity development** took place on many levels and turned out to be a decisive factor determining their success. The reports reveal that the greatest results can be achieved at the institutional and system levels, yet most of the projects are still designed to work principally at the level of individual persons.

Furthermore, it is important (above all for complex projects and programmes) to take into consideration GTZ's concept of sustainable devel-

opment, but not all the projects actually consider it to the same extent.

The **methodological approach** taken by the projects/programmes received an overall positive rating. With the exception of four projects/programmes, all of them were active on all three levels (multilevel approach); the assessment of complex projects/programmes also revealed this approach to be more useful. In most cases, the meso level is regarded as the focus, in association with interventions at framework level, and demonstration measures at target-group level. However, the methodological approach has to be put into effect within a suitable implementation structure. Problems occur if the target level is not firmly anchored within the institution. Most projects and programmes work with the ministry responsible for energy as the most important implementation partner.

The evaluated projects and programmes have generated a number of technical and organisational innovations, in particular concepts for operating and financing sustainable energy systems. The reports also contain statements concerning subsidy models, investment and other sector-related issues. However, the reports do not go into much depth on these subjects.

In most cases, the evaluators regarded the **modes of delivery** as appropriate. Cooperation with other donors is also well coordinated by almost all the projects and programmes. The weakness, though, is results-based monitoring, which only exists at six projects/programmes (40%). Contributions to indirect results were recorded by the monitoring system in only two projects. Greater emphasis must be placed on this aspect during future project/programme implementation.

The **major recommendations** of this cross-section evaluation relate to the management of both current and future energy projects. The following points are recommended:

- a more critical evaluation of current projects/programmes, e.g. by recording milestones
  - greater project orientation towards impact and sustainability by introducing indicators for poverty, gender and indirect results, and providing “best practices” on these topics
  - a more systematic approach to capacity development, especially on the level of organisational, network and system development
  - improved knowledge management, including the systematic implementation of ex-post evaluations and a networked cross-sectoral M&E system.
- Furthermore, recommendations are made for the strategic orientation of the energy portfolio:
- greater focusing/profiling in Africa, where GTZ can raise its profile with some successful projects and its leading position in the field of domestic energy
  - avoiding new projects/programmes in countries that are no longer to receive promotion, in order to avoid the sudden termination of failed projects/programmes; expedient design of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment (BMU) climate protection fund (where projects without any direct relation to poverty are also possible)
  - clear project/programme orientation to the objective of access to energy or climate protection, whereby individual technologies only represent a means to an end
  - medium-term tripartite cooperation with anchor countries so that important experience gained in these countries can be passed on to others

**Table: Overall evaluation of independent evaluations 2007 in the sector ‘Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency’**

Country/region	Project/programme, overall rating (as the average of all DAC criteria)	
Africa, supra-regional	Household Energy Programme (HEP) Sahel	4
Argentina	Project for increasing productive and energy efficiency in Argentine SMEs	2
Brazil	Energy efficiency for improving the competitiveness of SMEs in the state of Rio de Janeiro	2
China	Renewable Energies in Rural Areas	3
PR China (Tibet)	Rural Infrastructure and Vocational Training in Tibet (Rehabilitation of small hydropower plants continuing as component 3)	2
Dom. Rep.	Promoting Renewable Energy in the Dominican Republic	3
Nepal	Small Hydropower Promotion (SHPP)	2
Pakistan	Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency Promotion	2
SADC	Programme for Biomass and Energy Conservation in Southern Africa – ProBEC	2
Senegal	Rural Electrification and a Sustainable Supply of Domestic Fuel	2
Thailand	Advisory Services Promoting the Rational Use of Energy (Department of Energy Development and Promotion, DEDP)	4
Turkey	Promotion of Energy Efficiency in Buildings, Erzurum	4
Uganda	Energy Advisory Project	1
World, supra-regional	Resource-conserving Irrigation with Photovoltaic Pumping Systems	2
World, supra-regional	TERNA wind energy programme	2