

# BETTER CRITERIA FOR BETTER EVALUATION OF FOOD SECURITY, AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Eval Forward and the OECD/DAC Network on Development Evaluation



# Process for adapting the criteria



Global consultation March-October 2018



Interviews with key stakeholders



Consultation workshop (March 2018)



Discussions at international meetings/seminars in Asia, Africa and Europe



Discussions within United Nations and Multilateral Evaluation Groups



OECD DAC Network member survey



Public survey (691 responses)

# Findings from consultation



Broad agreement on the strengths of the criteria (simplicity, clarity & broad applicability)



But - room for improvement and clarification



Majority plea for 'Revision not reform'



Many perceived challenges = more to do with how the criteria are applied than with the criteria themselves

Adapted criteria:  
Improving  
clarity and  
supporting  
use



New and improved definitions



Retaining core conceptual clarity and keeping the definitions as simple as possible



Better responding to equity, gender equality and the leave no one behind imperative



One major new criterion: Coherence – to better capture synergies, linkages, partnership dynamics, and complexity.

## SOME POINTS ON LANGUAGE & SCOPE

**Intervention** used to refer to the subject of the evaluation. Encompasses all the different types of efforts: project, programme, policy, strategy, thematic area, an institution, financing mechanism, etc.

The criteria can be used to evaluate international co-operation activities, as well as private sector, non-government actors, and national or local governments in domestic policy contexts.

**Beneficiaries** has specific meaning here. Defined as, “the individuals, groups, or organisations, whether targeted or not, that benefit directly or indirectly, from the development intervention.” Other terms, such as rights holders or affected people, also used.

**Notes** are part of the definition, further detail in document: [oe.cd/criteria](https://www.oecd.org/criteria)

# Key principles for use

## PRINCIPLE ONE: THINK FIRST

The criteria should be applied **thoughtfully** to support high quality, useful evaluation.

They should be **contextualized to the individual evaluation**, the intervention being evaluated, and the stakeholders involved.

## PRINCIPLE TWO: NO STRAIGHT JACKET

Use of the criteria depends on the purpose of the evaluation.

**Covered according to the needs** of the relevant stakeholders and the context of the evaluation. More or less time and resources may be devoted to each criterion

Each criteria is a lens,  
giving a different  
perspective on the  
intervention – both the  
implementation  
process & the results...







**...together,** they provide a  
**more complete picture.**

# RELEVANCE

A black and white photograph of a rural agricultural field. In the foreground, a man in a light-colored shirt and shorts stands with his back to the camera, looking towards a group of people working in the field. The field is divided into rows of crops, and several other people are visible, some bending over as if working. The background shows a hilly landscape under a clear sky. The entire image is overlaid with a purple gradient.

**Is the intervention doing  
the right things?**

# RELEVANCE

The extent to which the intervention objectives and design respond to beneficiaries', global, country, and partner/institution needs, policies, and priorities, and continue to do so if circumstances change

Note: "Respond to" means that the objectives and design of the intervention are sensitive to the economic, environmental, equity, social, political economy, and capacity conditions in which it takes place. "Partner/institution" includes government (national, regional, local), civil society organisations, private entities and international bodies involved in funding, implementing and/or overseeing the intervention. Relevance assessment involves looking at differences and trade-offs between different priorities or needs. It requires analysing any changes in the context to assess the extent to which the intervention can be (or has been) adapted to remain relevant.

# How has relevance changed?

## USING PREVIOUS DEFINITION THE EVALUATION LOOKED AT...

Relevance of the strategic focus to contexts and found it addressed well food emergencies driven by weather-related or economic shocks, but failed to address food insecurity driven by conflict.

## USING NEW DEFINITION....

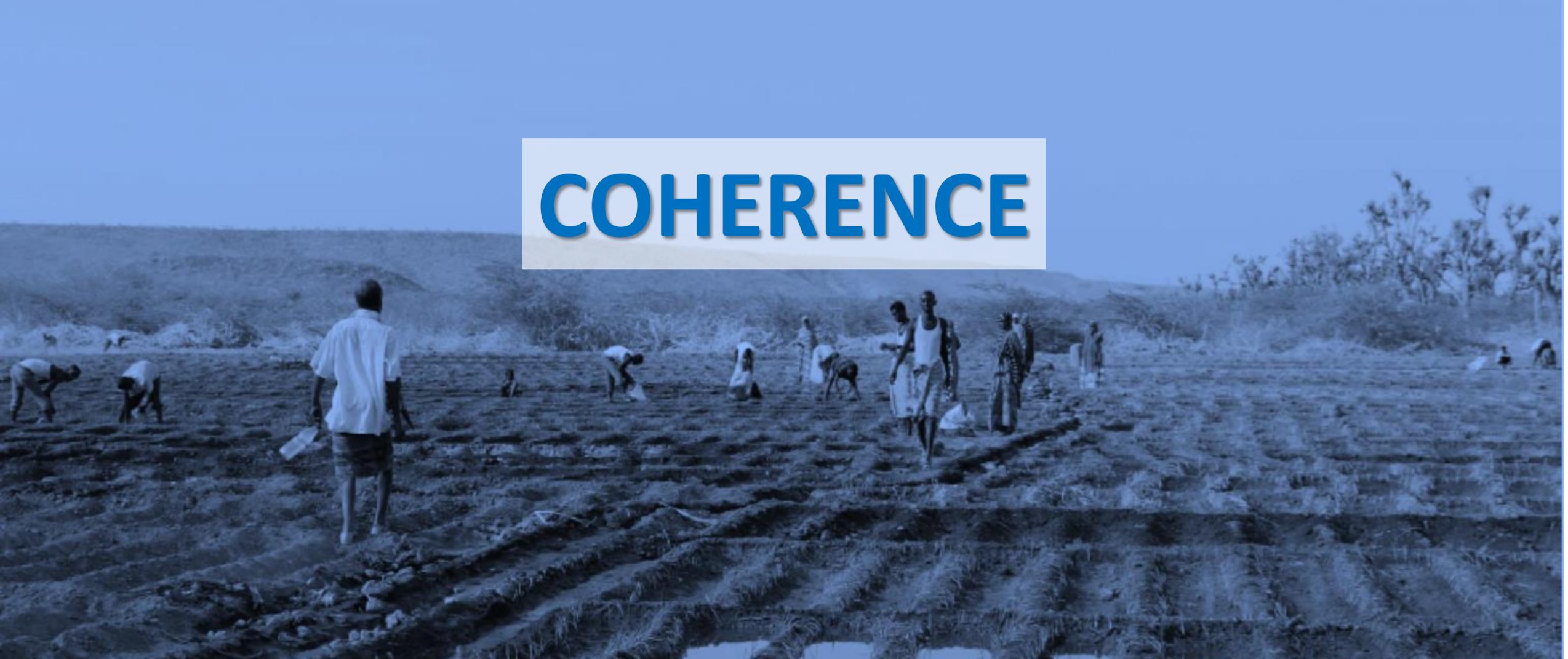
Look at different groups of beneficiaries

-> Example

Look at change over time

-> Example

# COHERENCE



**How well does  
the intervention fit?**

# COHERENCE

The compatibility of the intervention with other interventions in a country, sector or institution.

Note: The extent to which other interventions (particularly policies) support or undermine the intervention, and vice versa.

**Internal coherence** addresses the synergies and interlinkages between the intervention and other interventions carried out by the same institution/government, as well as the consistency of the intervention with the relevant international norms and standards to which that institution/government adheres.

**External coherence** considers the consistency of the intervention with other actors' interventions in the same context. This includes complementarity, harmonisation and co-ordination with others, and the extent to which the intervention is adding value while avoiding duplication of effort.

# EFFECTIVENESS



**Is the intervention achieving  
its objectives?**

# EFFECTIVENESS

The extent to which the intervention achieved, or is expected to achieve, its objectives, and its results, including any differential results across groups.

Note: Analysis of effectiveness involves taking account of the relative importance of the objectives or results.

# EFFICIENCY



How well are  
resources used?

# EFFICIENCY

The extent to which the intervention delivers, or is likely to deliver, results in an economic and timely way.

Note: “Economic” is the conversion of inputs (funds, expertise, natural resources, time, etc.) into outputs, outcomes and impacts, in the most cost-effective way possible, as compared to feasible alternatives in the context. “Timely” delivery is within the intended timeframe, or a timeframe reasonably adjusted to the demands of the evolving context. This may include assessing operational efficiency (how well the intervention was managed).



# IMPACT

**What difference  
is the intervention making?**

# IMPACT

The extent to which the intervention has generated or is expected to generate significant positive or negative, intended or unintended, higher-level effects.

Note: Impact addresses the ultimate significance and potentially transformative effects of the intervention. It seeks to identify social, environmental and economic effects of the intervention that are longer term or broader in scope than those already captured under the effectiveness criterion. Beyond the immediate results, this criterion seeks to capture the indirect, secondary and potential consequences of the intervention. It does so by examining the holistic and enduring changes in systems or norms, and potential effects on people's well-being, human rights, gender equality, and the environment.

# How has impact changed?

## USING PREVIOUS DEFINITION THE EVALUATION LOOKED AT....

How resilience measurement tools supported strategy and policy development (rather than measuring the contribution of specific programmes and projects to building resilience).

## NEW DEFINITION COULD...

Look at the extent to which the approach supported transformational change, for example by addressing underlying root causes of conflict and drivers of displacement (food crises).

The significance of the “increased resilience” (to what extent were lives saved?)

# SUSTAINABILITY

A photograph of a rural agricultural field. In the foreground, a man in a white shirt and shorts stands with his back to the camera, looking out over the field. The field is filled with rows of crops, and several other people are visible in the distance, some working. The sky is a uniform yellowish color, suggesting a bright, sunny day. The overall scene depicts a traditional farming community.

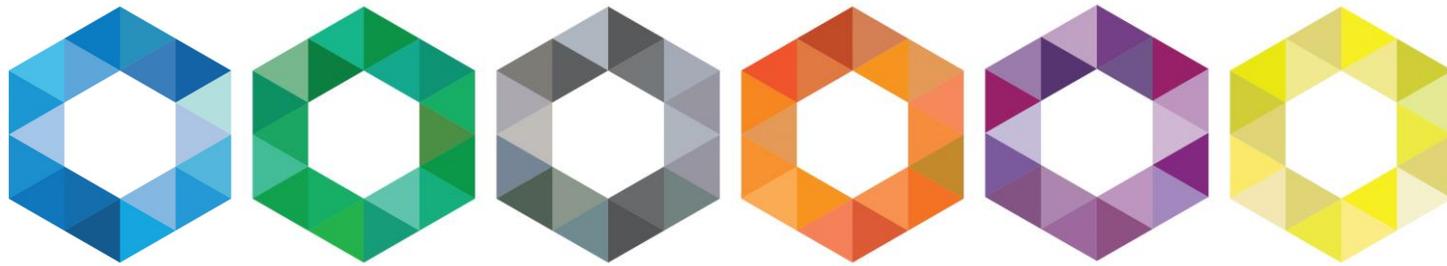
**Will the  
benefits last?**

# SUSTAINABILITY

The extent to which the net benefits of the intervention continue, or are likely to continue.

Note: Includes an examination of the financial, economic, social, environmental, and institutional capacities of the systems needed to sustain net benefits over time. Involves analyses of resilience, risks and potential trade-offs. Depending on the timing of the evaluation, this may involve analysing the actual flow of net benefits or estimating the likelihood of net benefits continuing over the medium and long-term.

# Thank you!



[oe.cd/criteria](https://oe.cd/criteria)

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