

Assessment of Government Evaluations

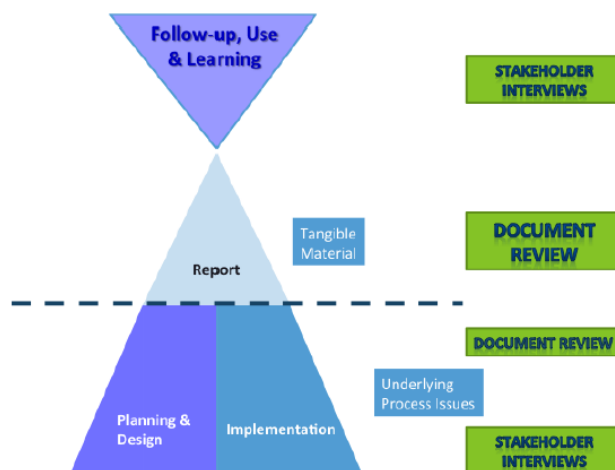


The establishment of the National Evaluation System (NES) raised the question of how the Department of Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation (DPME) would provide quality assurance of all government evaluations within the national system. An initial project designed to develop a quality assessment methodology and assess historic government evaluations identified gaps in the evaluation management life-cycle and the absence of a common systemic platform for national evaluations.

PDG was appointed to develop and refine a quality assessment methodology and online platform drawing on a panel of established evaluators to undertake assessments of government evaluations. Our involvement entailed development and support for the NES including research into peer review, development of an overarching Evaluation Management Information System (EMIS), and an Improvement Plan tracking system. The quality assessment work took place over four successive contracts from 2012-2018 while the support for the NES was within the scope of two contracts.

Using DPME's Standards for evaluation in government (2014) and the Evaluation competency framework (2012), PDG developed a standardised quality assessment process drawing from a panel of quality assessors to evaluate and moderate every government evaluation completed within the NES. Among other insights, the quality assessment process highlighted weaknesses in the evaluation management life-cycle which informed targeted support to the NES.

PDG developed and refined the first standardised quality assessment methodology for a government NES customised to the South African Government's own standards and competencies for evaluations, benchmarked on international



best-practice. We developed a customised evaluation project management tool and tracking system for DPME to support undertaking government evaluations from the point of conception up until two years after adoption of the final evaluation report, with an improvement plan tracking component to support utilisation of findings and recommendations.

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AGE PROJECT:

Project Profile: Assessment of government evaluations and support for the national evaluation system (four successive contracts)

Client: Department of Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation

Date: 2012 - 2018