



In Pursuit of Sustainable and Inclusive Development: A Meta-Analysis of UNICEF Lesotho's Evaluations (2019-2023)

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Abstract

This meta-analysis conducts a thorough evaluation of UNICEF Lesotho's evaluative practices from the 2019-2023 program cycle against the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) criteria (relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability). The analysis closely examines the alignment between the program's objectives and the needs of stakeholders, the efficacy of intervention strategies, the prudent management of resources, the lasting nature of program benefits, and the tangible progress experienced by the beneficiaries. It provides an in-depth look at the impact of these initiatives and considers the foresight of their sustained outcomes. The synthesis of this review brings to light several key insights: the crucial role of community-centric approaches, the need for interventions that are both targeted and inclusive, the importance of strategic resource allocation, the value of sustainability through government ownership, and the necessity of adaptability during crises. The evaluations reveal a consistent theme, the importance of community engagement and the localization of efforts are essential for securing the sustainability and relevancy of development work. Furthermore, interventions that are carefully tailored to address specific vulnerabilities are more likely to achieve significant and meaningful results, especially when they can adapt to the evolving landscape of needs. Additionally, the gradual transition toward community-led initiatives, in strong articulation with government priorities, is emphasized as a critical factor for the long-term sustainability of program impacts. The analysis not only critiques past practices but also carves out a roadmap for future improvements, emphasizing the enhancement of the application of OECD criteria in subsequent evaluations.

Keywords: OECD Criteria; Final Evaluation; Lessons Learnt; Recommendations; UNICEF