

### Rigorous Impact Evaluation – Checklist

#### Is my development cooperation project eligible for a rigorous impact evaluation (RIE), especially under DEval’s RIE funding programme?

We ask you some questions below about your development cooperation project. If you can answer all the questions with “yes”, your development cooperation is most likely eligible for RIE. Even if you cannot answer “yes” to all the questions, your development cooperation project may be eligible. If you are unsure about whether your development cooperation project is eligible for RIE, please feel free to take advantage of our consulting services and make an appointment via [rie-fund@deval.org](mailto:rie-fund@deval.org).

We will then ask you to complete this project description for your development cooperation project: [Project description](#)

Question

Yes

#### Is this project eligible for RIE under DEval’s RIE funding programme?

- 1 Is the project at least partially funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)?

Description: Projects/interventions that are (co-)financed by the BMZ are eligible for funding under the RIE funding programme.

#### Would an RIE on this project be useful?

- 2 (1) Is there uncertainty as to whether the project or intervention will achieve the desired impact(s), (2) Uncertainty as to whether the intervention is optimally designed or (3) Is there another (research) question that can be answered by an RIE?

Description: RIEs should be conducted when uncertainty exists as to whether a project will achieve the desired impacts. This is particularly the case when there is not yet clear (rigorous) evidence of the impact of the intervention. If you are not sure whether rigorous evidence already exists, the [DEval](#) and International Initiative for Impact Evaluation [3ie](#) repositories provide overviews of existing studies.



If you are wondering whether an intervention could be implemented differently and would then have greater effects, an RIE may be suitable for answering this question. An example of this could be the implementation of a cash-for-work intervention where you ask yourself what the optimal amount of money to be paid is or how an intervention on young adults' labour market integration could best be designed. In general, RIEs are particularly useful for examining cause-and-effect relationships and answering "causal" questions.

- 3 Are the results obtained from the RIE relevant beyond the project?

Description: Evaluations are particularly cost-effective when the lessons learnt are relevant to other projects. The results are often not available until after the project has been completed. It is therefore particularly important that the lessons learnt from the RIE have high developmental relevance. This is the case, for example, if there are many similar projects or if the plan is to repeat a project that has been carried out elsewhere, including in other countries.

Is an RIE feasible for this project?

- 4 1. Is it possible to form a so-called comparison group (or control group)?

Description: A comparison group refers to a group (of individuals, families, regions, etc.) that does not participate in the intervention being studied. The comparison group differs from the intervention group – the group that does participate in the intervention – only in that it has not participated in the intervention. Ideally, the assignment to one of the two groups takes place randomly. Under certain circumstances, other methods of forming a comparison group are possible.

- 5 Are more than 50 people, companies, villages, etc., to participate in the project or the intervention to be evaluated? The unit of observation will depend on the level of intervention. OR Can the number of participating people, companies, villages, etc., be varied or increased?



Description: To carry out an RIE successfully, the group studied needs to be sufficiently large. This ensures that the subjects in the comparison and intervention groups are as comparable as possible. This in turn allows the intervention impact to be quantified.

If the unit of observation is not person but instead, for example, companies, a corresponding number of these must exist.

The number of observations required depends on the research question and can vary considerably.

Thank you for completing the checklist.