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Department of Foreign Affairs

MFA Finland Webinar Meta-Analysis of Country Programmes

Perspectives from Evaluation and Audit Unit, DFA Ireland

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Context – Ireland's ODA (2023)

- Total ODA, excluding In-Donor Refugee Costs - €1.47 billion, representing 0.38% of GNI.
- International Development Programme (D/Foreign Affairs managed) – c €0.7 million
- Balance is managed by other Departments and includes our contribution to the EU Development Budget
- Ireland's Development Policy *A Better World* (2019) – 4 pillars - Reduce humanitarian need, » promote gender equality, » strengthen governance, and » support climate action



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Mission Strategies (1)

- Over 100 Missions globally (expansion by 25 under the *Global Ireland* Strategy since 2018)
- 12 'Partner' Countries – annual budget c. €200m (range €5m - €32m); 5-year cycles
- Formerly known as Country programmes, but now cover full spectrum of foreign policy - political, trade, culture, citizens services, development
- Outcome/outputs focused linked to Policy Priorities
- Emphasis on Influencing (but not monitored/structured in a systematic way)



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Evaluation and Learning

- Mid-Term Reviews and Ex-post Evaluation of all Mission Strategies
- Individual Mission approach to evaluation (unlike Finland, not meta/synthesis)
- Utility – inform next strategy cycle + Accountability and learning NB
- Using OECD Evaluation Criteria – Coherence and Effectiveness
- Reviewing approach to Mission Strategy Evaluation (Scope – breadth v depth)



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Some Observations on Meta Analysis

- CPs have delivered results
- CPs have strengthened continuity and Results-based Management
- CPs need to reflect realities on the ground....required unrealistic level of effort
- Importance of pro-active planning for sustainability of results and resilience



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Thank you



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