

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION, GIVING RESULTS A VALUE: THE SYRIA CASE

Hotel Nazionale, Sala Capranichetta

Rome

(on-line streaming available)

21st October 2021

Context

During the '90s, in the light of the changed orientations of many governments in the management of the public sector, development co-operation donor agencies have been invited to reform their management systems to become **more effective and results-oriented**. "Aid fatigue", the public's perception that aid programs were failing to produce significant development results, declining aid budgets, and the government-wide reforms have all contributed to the donor agencies' efforts to establish results based management systems. In turn, over the years, this approach has also been shifted to **single development cooperation initiatives and projects**, which have adopted new management strategies to measure their performance through measuring both implementation progresses and results achieved (OECD, 2000).

More recently, the **UN 2030 Agenda** has called upon donor governments and agencies to mobilize more resources to development with the aim of "leaving no one behind". The ambitious objectives of the UN 2030 Agenda cannot be met with the sole engagement of the public sector. Yet, it is necessary to convene different stakeholders and actors, **including profit and private entities**. At the same time, it is pivotal to find effective tools able to measure and to evaluate the concrete contribution of the private sector to development. Building on this awareness, the OECD and other agencies have identified approaches **to define and to measure the impact** of the so called Social Impact Investments (OECD, 2019).

The *fil-rouge* underlying all these elements, whether we talk about public aid to development or about private sustainable investments for development, is the measurement of **the social value generated by specific actions**, in a given context. Very often programme ex-post evaluations, a pivotal yet necessary step of project cycle management, are not able to provide a comprehensive view on the **real changes** casted by the interventions and on how they **impact on societies and communities**. This is today a key challenge for development agencies and donors.

*Scope of this event is to dig out how to better **define, assess and monitor the capacity of development programmes to produce changes in specific contexts**, with the view to allow more coherent impact evaluations and more effective result-based management vis-à-vis UN 2030 Agenda goals.*

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The event

The event is intended to be a public **high-level discussion** on the social impact assessment and change measurement approaches, tools and good practices, with the view to uncap **new models of programming and implementing** development cooperation, with particular focus on protracted crises.

The discussion will be triggered by **CIHEAM Bari** and **Open Impact** experience on the field in the Programme “Agriculture and Livestock Support for Syrian People”, funded by the Italian Cooperation and ongoing since 2015 (for further information, please see the web site <https://syriabuildingresilience.org>)

The following topics will be discussed during the event:

- New challenges of result-based management in protracted crises
- Social impact analysis: how to collect and evaluate data
- Going beyond objectives: how to measure unforeseen positive externalities
- New model of cooperation intervention: beneficiaries co-financing of actions

Agenda

10h30 - Welcome & Opening Speech

L. Maestriperi, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation

R. Colaminé, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

B. Di Terlizzi, CIHEAM Bari

10h45 - Italian Strategy in Syria and in emergency contexts/protracted crises

S. Ravagnan, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

11h00 - The Syria Case

- **An innovative approach to early recovery**
L. Cavestro, CIHEAM Bari
- **The impact perspective: assessment and future opportunities**
L. Corvo, Open Impact – University Tor Vergata

11h30 - Q&A Session from the audience

12h00 - Conclusions

E. Ciarlo, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation

Moderator: **Riccardo Cristiano**, Journalist

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