

**Wednesday 29 March: ECG Webinars for all staff**

**11.30-12.30 GMT**

Title	Food security and broader resilience using evaluation lens
<p><b>Details</b></p>	<p>Food insecurity remains a prime strategic concern for many countries worldwide. Hunger is on the rise globally. Each night, nearly 800 million people – about 10% of the world’s population – go to bed hungry. <a href="#">Food price inflation remains high globally in almost all countries</a>. According to the latest <a href="#">Food Security Update of the World Bank (9 February 2023)</a>, food price inflation levels above 5% in 83% of low-income countries, 90% of lower-middle-income countries, and 91% of upper-middle-income countries, and many experiencing double-digit inflation.</p> <p>The conflict in Eastern Europe has exacerbated food insecurity worldwide. The spillover effects of the conflict, coupled with significant supply chain disruptions globally, have increased the risks of food insecurity globally. In addition, natural catastrophes and adverse climate shocks continue to destroy infrastructure, crops, and livelihoods. Global economic slowdown, unstable food and fertilizer markets, growing instances of climate shocks, loss of biodiversity and marine and coastal ecosystems, and the global water crisis will continue to pose risks to food security in the near future. The growing food insecurity and crisis are likely to drive more millions into extreme poverty, magnifying hunger and malnutrition, as many households have resorted to eating less healthy and less nutritious food.</p> <p>In ensuring food security in member countries, multilateral development organizations need to extend support to member countries in addressing the urgent food crisis and, most importantly, scale up efforts to contribute to strengthening countries’ resilience to food security shocks in the future. However, it is crucial to understand what interventions, projects, and programs are most effective and efficient in ensuring food security and resilience in member countries. Through the lenses of four fundamental aspects of food security (availability, access, utilization, and stability), appropriate evidence and lessons learned from past evaluation exercises of food security interventions need to be drawn for better design of interventions and quality enhancement of future food security programs. In specific, evaluation evidence is required to understand what interventions worked and what did not, how lessons, recommendations, and best practices can be consolidated, and how the accountability of relevant stakeholders can be strengthened.</p> <p><b>Session format:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Session Chair:</b> <a href="#">Dr. Indran A. Naidoo</a>, Director, Independent Office of Evaluation (IOE), IFAD</li> <li>• <b>Keynote Speaker:</b> Dr. Areef Suleman, Director, Economic Research and Statistics, IsDB Institute (<i>Future Security Outlook</i>)</li> <li>• <b>Panelists:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <a href="#">Fabrizio Felloni</a>, Deputy Director, Independent Office of Evaluation (IOE), IFAD (<i>Lessons in Tackling Food Insecurity</i>)</li> <li>b. Samer Hachem, Director, Sector-Country-Project Evaluations, Evaluation Department (EvD) - EBRD (<i>EBRD’s Perspectives on Food Security</i>)</li> <li>c. Amin Abdullahi, Senior Evaluation Specialist, Independent Evaluation Department (IEvD) - IsDB (<i>Lessons Learned from recent evaluation IsDB Food Security Program</i>)</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Connection</b></p>	<p>No registration required. Meeting URL is <a href="#">here</a>. (Meeting ID: 873 3346 1642) YouTube live streaming link is <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<p><b>Contact</b></p>	<p>ABM Javeed Ahsan, Senior Evaluation Learning and Outreach Specialist, Independent Evaluation Department (IEvD) - IsDB, <a href="mailto:aahsan@isdb.org">aahsan@isdb.org</a>.</p>

<b>Title</b>	<b>Evaluating Advisory Services and Technical Assistance - Experiences from EIB, WB IEG, AsDB</b>
<b>Details</b>	<p>It is methodologically challenging to measure how the provision of technical assistance results in improved capacities. For advisory services or technical assistance, causation is often considered a black box, and the internal validity of non-experimental methods is often criticised for its [perceived] insufficient rigour.</p> <p>The EIB evaluation division recently applied a process tracing approach for an evaluation of EIB advisory support to local authorities in Romania and Bulgaria. This approach is particularly appropriate in the context of intangible outcomes such as capacity development. It allows by design for more rigour in determining the causal attribution in non-experimental case studies. It encourages evaluators to open the black box of causation, and provides valuable information to improve programs.</p> <p>Emmanuel Pondard, from the EIB Evaluation Division, will share his experience in applying process tracing for the first time in one of EIB's evaluations. He will share lessons on: methodological skills and type of data required; trade-offs countered between effort, rigour, and usefulness of the approach; and the contribution of findings resulting from this analysis to the overall evaluation.</p> <p>Jos Vaessen from the World Bank IEG, and Sung Shin from ADB, will reflect upon EIB's experience and will share their own experiences with the evaluation of capacity development support.</p> <p>Session format:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Moderator:</b> Tania Rajadel, Head of the Knowledge Management, Products &amp; Methods Unit at the EIB Evaluation Division</li> <li>• <b>Panelists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Emmanuel Pondard, Evaluation Expert at EIB evaluation Division</li> <li>○ Jos Vaessen, Methodological Advisor at the World Bank Independent Evaluation Group</li> <li>○ Sung Shin, Senior Evaluation Specialist at the Asian Development Bank</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Connection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No registration required</li> <li>• <a href="#">Link to connect.</a></li> <li>• Meeting number / access code: 2743 329 8935</li> </ul>
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:evaluation@eib.org">evaluation@eib.org</a>