

## English Abstracts

*Alexandra Caspari:* ‚Rigorous‘ Impact Evaluation – Methodological and Conceptual Approaches for Measuring Impact in Development Cooperation, pp. 183-213

Caused by the aid effectiveness debate and reinforced by the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action the focus of policy makers worldwide is more and more on impact. In this context, it is the task of evaluations to provide reliably findings about the impact of projects and programs to identify evidence-based options for action for designing future interventions. In consequence, the topic ‚Impact Evaluation‘ got subject of international discussions – whereas the add-on ‚rigorous‘ provoke many debates: pivotal question is with which methodological and conceptual approaches the impact of interventions can be clearly assessed. The focus of approaches is on adequate evaluation designs. The article highlights the background of the old new question about the effectiveness of development cooperation and gives an overview of relevant evaluation designs.

*Jan R. Böhnke, Jan Koehler, Christoph Zürcher:* Evaluation of Development Aid as Means to Stabilize Post-Conflict-Zones: Application of a Mixed-Methods-Survey in North East Afghanistan, pp. 215-235

As development and security concerns increasingly converge, there is a need for better impact assessments of development aid on peacebuilding. The logistical challenges in conflict zones have often made the conduction of evaluations impossible due to budget and time constraints. This paper presents a method which could help to overcome these challenges by combining quantitative assessment (survey methods) at separate intervals with qualitative field research methods. The former are used to identify general trends in the local population while the latter make it possible to trace processes and to check for local idiosyncrasies. The method is illustrated with examples from ongoing work in North East Afghanistan.

*Nicolà Reade:* Pilot-Impact Evaluations in the Water Sector, pp. 237-262

The article describes the piloting of impact evaluations in the context of GTZ independent evaluations. Object of the pilot-impact evaluations were three water sector programs in Zambia, Kenya and Turkey. First of all the article defines and describes the concepts of impact and how to measure impacts. Based on these clarifications, hypothesis for the measurement of the concerned program impacts are derived. Furthermore the evaluation method and its implementation, which covers hypothesis-guided cause-

effect analysis, quasi-experimental design, multi-method approach and rigorous data analysis, are described. Finally, selected results and challenges in impact measurement are presented. The résumé of the article covers a critical assessment of the evaluation concept and its potential, to adequately measure impacts.

*Reinhard Stockmann, Axel Borrmann: The Evaluation System of German Development Cooperation, pp. 263-295*

New development-policy agenda and respective donor commitments e.g. towards poverty reduction, results orientation and mutual accountability of donors and partners have a tremendous bearing on evaluation in this policy field. What is needed are inter alia more complex evaluation designs and methods, a stronger national and international networking of institutions and ownership of partners. This paper examines whether Germany as a leading donor has an evaluation system at hand to meet these new requirements. Drawing on in-depth case studies covering 20 German aid agencies and using national and international evaluation standards as reference, it concludes that, despite significant efforts, there is still enormous institutional, conceptual, terminological and methodological heterogeneity, which calls for immediate reforms towards an urgently needed system formation and quality improvements.