# Strategies for Improving International Development Evaluation TORs and RFPs

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# Background and Context

- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
  - In 2007, foreign assistance totaled $103.5 billion.

# Findings Past Research

- Prescriptive Methodologies:

  o 82% mandated methodology

  o 28% indicated flexibility in methodology

# Findings Past Research:

- Short time frames = Quality?

|  | To submit proposal | Submission to start | Duration of evaluation |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mean | 17 | 27 | 67 |
| Minimum | 5 | 1 | 17 |
| Maximum | 30 | 106 | 180 |

# Findings Past Research:

- Only 10% provided range for evaluation budget

- Strict familiarity/experience requirements

# Past Research Limitations:

- Small sample ($n$=48)

- Convenience sample

# Strategies

# Not too prescriptive or vague

Example:

4.2 Key informant interviews with the UN agencies, GoU, other donors including DFID and SIDA at both country and head- quarters level, Local governments collaborating NGOs, and civil society. List of suggested initial key informants will be provided prior to the field work.

# Plan in advance (2 months)

# Clearly define budget parameters

- Evaluator or project budget range
- Evaluation budget commonly suggested to be 5-10% of project budget

# Realistic time lines

- Posting of TORS/RFPs to submission 2 months
- Announcement to start of evaluation 1-2 months
- Evaluation time line at least 3 months

Example:

6.1 It is anticipated that up to 23 days' work per consultant will be required for th[e] consultancy and that the humanitarian consultant will spend more of their days in th[e] field. The start date of the consultancy is 26 July 2007 with an end date of 31 Augu[st] 2007.

6.2 A draft report should be submitted by 17 August 2007 and a final report not later th[an] 31 August 2007.

# Realistic time lines

**Provide feedback on proposals**

# -$3,500
## Opportunity Cost

- Cost approximately $3,500 to prepare one proposal

- If 10 organizations submit proposals then $35,000 worth of work.

# Others?