

Pioneering Real-time Impact Monitoring and Evaluation

PROGRESS AND FIRST RESULTS

PRIME NEWSFLASH, SECOND QUARTER OF 2014

A lot of work has been done in the last quarter and it is time for a new update. In this newsletter we give an overview of key activities in the period April till July 2014 including: the development of key-indicators for the yearly monitoring of supported firms, alignment of these indicators with CBI and PUM M&E, conducting the first two case study missions to Bolivia and Indonesia, a meeting with the advisory committee and the program board, and participation in various interesting PRIME related events.

Throughout the course of the second quarter of 2014, a set of “large N” indicators has been agreed upon to measure outcomes and impact of CBI and PUM activities based on their M&E data. The selection of indicators in PRIME was based on three main criteria. First, we want to capture indicators at each stage of the intervention logic. Second, it is essential to harmonize proxy-indicators and outcome areas with other studies to enable future benchmarking. To do so PRIME has adopted various indicators that align with IRIS, an online catalogue of performance metrics aligned with a large number of third party standards and metrics, including in the sector of development cooperation. Third, we built on existing M&E tools from CBI and PUM, to enable learning within PRIME.

An online survey instrument was developed for the data collection from PUM & CBI supported SMEs. This survey is mostly focused on measurement of knowledge and practices (immediate and intermediate outcomes). This survey will be sent out in August by CBI. At a later stage in 2014 the survey will also be sent to those SMEs that received support from PUM. These data will be used to estimate the impact of the programs on the knowledge, practices and performance of the SMEs.



Case study 1: mission aquaculture Indonesia

What is “PRIME”? The Centre for the Promotion of Imports from Developing Countries (CBI), the Foundation Netherlands Senior Experts (PUM), the Agricultural Economics Research Institute (LEI Wageningen UR) and the Erasmus School of Economics (ESE) develop a joint programme to pioneer impact evaluation methods of support to small and medium enterprises in developing countries. The PRIME programme is designed to develop an approach to data collection that enables the impact of PUM and CBI to be tracked while at the same time giving both organisations more insight into their interventions and the opportunity to learn about how they can manage for greater impact.

How does PRIME use the M&E data? Time-series datasets will be constructed with data on key indicators of SME clients. This dataset will be used in the econometric analysis of impact and to develop a typology of different modalities of support provided.

How does PRIME use the case studies? The case-studies are complementary to the quantitative analysis of the monitoring data. Case-studies will include in-depth semi-structured interviews with client enterprises, non-client enterprises, BSO representatives, and local (sector) experts in order to get a deeper understanding of the mechanisms that resulted in the (non) changes in SME processes and performance. Case studies will also include the measurement of key indicators among non-supported firms.

It was decided that the fully revised and improved indicators will be collected starting from 2015 onwards. Data will be collected by the experts during the missions and online to the firm owners. PUM and CBI are both in the process of adapting their M&E systems to integrate the data needed in PRIME.

In July we have started with the analyses of data on those indicators already available for firms that started receiving support in 2013 and 2014. To this end the M&E data from PUM and CBI have been exported and are made ready for analysis.

In June the first two case study missions were conducted to the aquaculture sector in Indonesia and the tourism sector in Bolivia. Several SMEs were visited, as well as a various other stakeholders in this sector, such as the national and local ministries involved. The missions provided valuable insights in the activities and (potential) outcomes and impacts of CBI and PRIME in these sectors. Furthermore, the insights obtained during this mission were used to improve the case study methodology and will inform future PRIME activities and research. Case study reports are currently being written.



Case study 2: mission tourism Bolivia

The minister of foreign trade and development cooperation, Minister Ploumen, referred to PRIME in a letter to the Second Chamber on the 25th of April. PRIME was mentioned in relation to the measurement of effective private sector development.

The International Trade Centre, the Netherlands Trust Fund programme, coordinates with PRIME about the data-collection for impact evaluation. Possibly, ITC will engage PRIME in the study in two of their country programmes.

On July the 11th the website for PRIME was launched: www.primepartnership.nl. On this website the most important news and documents from PRIME will be shared. Together with a data expert, we are also currently in the process of finding innovative ways of presenting results from the yearly monitoring and impact evaluation.

Erasmus University is currently exploring options for the implementation of an experimental study together with PUM. Experimental studies are increasingly popular in development policy making and the aim of this study is to collect rigorous evidence about the impact of specific elements of the intervention on the performance of SMEs.

Steps have been taken to develop **an assessment tool for Business Support Organisations.** This will include a self-assessment on organisational capacities that is expected to be used in PRIME to track progress over time.