

Position statement of the external evaluation committee on the Performance and Quality Report 2023–2024

At its meeting on 3 September 2025, the external evaluation committee took note of the Performance and Quality Report 2023–2024 and discussed the recommendations. The committee finds the report to be very informative and valuable. It is impressed by the depth of analysis and complexity of the report.

In particular, the analysis highlights weaknesses in the transparency of evaluation reports and in the sustainability of projects. The use of theory of change is also often insufficient in the evaluations, while monitoring and evaluation capacities could be further developed. This leads to five recommendations: (1) more causal evaluations, (2) greater transparency, (3) strengthening of M&E capacities, (4) greater consideration of unintended effects, and (5) more intensive use of completion notes. The committee supports these recommendations.

Due to the complexity of the report, the committee would like to see a simplified version for communication to politicians and the public. The committee notes that Swiss IC and SECO perform as well as other agencies in international comparison.

The committee notes that sustainability is a key issue and agrees with the intention of SECO to strengthen the sustainability of its work. However, this critical aspect is as well a challenge in other international agencies.

The committee has certain doubts about the consistency of the conclusions: on the one hand, the data quality is considered poor, but on the other hand, many overall assessments of the projects appear positive. This should be presented in greater depth and with greater clarity.

The committee also discusses the lack of expertise among the evaluation firms commissioned and supports WEOP's intention to expand the pool of evaluation expertise and agencies. Like the report, the committee views the strong focus on outputs and activities in the evaluations as problematic and would like to see greater consideration and presentation of outcomes and impacts in future evaluations.

The committee also considers it important that the results of the evaluations have an impact not only internally but also among partners.

Bern, November 2025