

Abstract

The international community is holding multiple talks at various levels to find ways to measure aid effectiveness more accurately. In line with this trend, major donor agencies are establishing their own monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and using it to measure the effectiveness of development projects. To keep up with this international trend, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) is also paying keen attention to the issue of monitoring and evaluation. Despite increasing interest in monitoring and evaluation, KOICA has not drawn up a manual that lays out the methods in which monitoring and evaluation can be conducted. This study thus was undertaken to meet two purposes. First, it aims to introduce the system of how the baseline survey is carried out as the first stage of monitoring and evaluation. Secondly, the study makes policy recommendations by utilizing the baseline survey to analyze projects undertaken by KOICA.

The study helped identify characteristics of the baseline survey. Firstly[p1], the survey is carried out in the sequence of understanding a project, designing a survey, collecting field data and providing feedback through data analysis. Secondly, it was found out that certain processes can be added or taken out at each stage of the survey as deemed necessary. Thirdly, a special emphasis was put on the designing phase of the baseline survey. In fact, major donor agencies invested a significant amount of time in the designing stage to focus more on sampling, scheduling and formulating plans to allocate and train human resources.

The policy implications of this study are as follows. First, it is urgently required to make and distribute baseline survey manual. Without standards set by the survey manual, it is difficult to clearly define what a baseline survey is attempting to achieve, what the scope of the applicable project is, when and how long the survey will be undertaken and who will carry out the survey. Secondly, the baseline survey needs to be incorporated into the project evaluation system along with the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. This is to recognize that the baseline survey has been conducted not as a preliminary project field study but as the first stage of project evaluation. Thirdly, KOICA's projects should include a specific plan to carry out the baseline survey from the planning stage. Those in charge of projects must have a clear understanding of what sectors require the baseline survey, who undertakes the survey, where the survey is required and what the key purposes (indicators) of the survey are. These are essential processes to maximize the effectiveness of the project design matrix.