

Executive summary

The Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation sustains political commitment and upholds accountability for improving the effectiveness of development co-operation. It does this by regularly monitoring progress on the implementation of agreed development effectiveness principles and related commitments at the country level; and by facilitating dialogue and encouraging the sharing of experiences among governments, multilateral organisations, civil society, parliamentarians and the private sector. The Global Partnership drives change in the way development co-operation is provided by generating evidence to highlight where attention is needed, and by encouraging members to respond to the evidence by agreeing on individual and collective action to accelerate progress.

This monitoring report is an integral part of this process. It compiles data reported by the governments of the 81 low and middle-income countries and territories that participated in the Global Partnership's second monitoring round, generating evidence on the implementation of agreed principles for effective development co-operation:

1. focus on results
2. country ownership of development priorities
3. inclusive partnerships for development
4. transparency and mutual accountability.

The monitoring exercise looks, on the one hand, at how effectively governments put in place a conducive environment to maximise the impact of development co-operation and enable contributions from nongovernmental actors (i.e. civil society and the private sector); and on the other, how effectively development partners deliver their support. It uses ten selected indicators to track progress and create a shared, action-oriented roadmap for making development co-operation more effective, building a foundation for mutual accountability amongst all development stakeholders.

The 2016 monitoring round drew record participation, both in terms of numbers and of diversity: 81 low and middle-income countries; 125 development partners; 74 development organisations; and hundreds of civil society organisations, private sector representatives, trade unions, foundations, parliamentarians and local governments. The data and evidence they generated covers the vast majority (up to 89%) of development co-operation finance programmed for these 81 countries.

Overall, the results of the 2016 monitoring round testify to important progress towards achieving the development effectiveness goals agreed in Busan in 2011 at the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness.

The development community is adopting a decisive focus on results for more impact at the country level: 99% of countries have development strategies at the national and sector levels; 74% of countries have set out their priorities, targets and indicators in a single strategic planning document. In addition, 85% of development partners' new programmes and projects are aligned to country-led results frameworks.

Evidence reveals a promising evolution towards more inclusive partnerships amongst governments, civil society organisations (CSOs) and the private sector. In 70% of countries, the government and the private sector

express equally strong interest in strengthening dialogue, with issues of mutual benefit offering an entry point for building a common public-private agenda for sustainable development. Almost 90% of governments consult CSOs on national development policy. Amongst themselves, CSOs have also improved co-ordination for programming and engagement.

Transparency is also growing, with more publicly available information on development co-operation than ever before: 72% of development partners assessed for transparency achieved a “good” score in their reporting to at least one of the three international databases on development co-operation finance and 39% achieved “excellent” in reporting to one or more systems. In parallel, countries have taken strides to enhance the transparency of their budgeting procedures: they now record 66% of development co-operation finance in national budgets that are subject to parliamentary oversight. Furthermore, 47% of countries are tracking public allocations for gender equality and women’s empowerment.

While these gains are encouraging, they are coupled with an overall need to adapt to a dynamic and evolving development landscape, as well as specific areas where concerted effort is required to unlock bottlenecks.

For example, development partners use government sources and systems to track results for only 52% of interventions – meaning that broadly half continue to rely on other sources of information. Similarly, governments are engaged in the evaluation of results for only 49% of development partner interventions.

Overall performance by countries in strengthening their own systems is mixed: while 18% of countries – including several fragile states and small-island developing states – have improved their public financial management systems, 23% have experienced a decline and 58% of countries show no substantial change. Also, development partners channel only 50% of development co-operation finance through countries’ public financial management and procurement systems.

Inclusiveness is essential for ensuring that development processes and results are widely owned. Yet only 51% of countries have all the elements in place for meaningful dialogue with CSOs. In 63% of countries, the potential for quality public-private dialogue is affected by a lack of champions to facilitate dialogue; in 81%, there is a scarcity of instruments and resources to translate public-private dialogue into action.

To be effective, countries need to manage diverse financial flows in a complementary and strategic manner. Yet development partners’ improvements in medium-term predictability of development co-operation have been limited to only 4%, reaching 74% in 2016. A major institutional and cultural shift is needed to arrive at regular publication of real-time information that meets country needs for planning and managing development co-operation.

The transparency and inclusiveness of country-level mutual reviews also require improvement: less than half of countries involve local governments and non-state stakeholders in these assessments or make the results public.

Moreover, these review processes continue to be largely formulated around traditional development assistance models and require adaptation to the evolving partnership approaches.

Finally, the 2016 Global Partnership monitoring evidence has shown that strong institutionalised partnerships at the country level can build mutual trust and underpin transparency and accountability. It also confirms that across principles and indicators, there are countries, development partners and non-state stakeholders that demonstrate the capacity to progress on agreed effectiveness principles. This indicates great potential for identifying success factors, sharing lessons and facilitating mutual learning to accelerate the global development communities’ efforts to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.



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