

Revised Concept Note Working Session: Unlocking the Potential of Effectiveness

Introduction

The [Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation](#) (Global Partnership) was established in 2011 at the *Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness* in Busan. Through its multi-stakeholder platform, the Global Partnership sustains political commitment and upholds accountability for improving the effectiveness of development co-operation (EDC). It also provides practical support to boost development impact, with a strong focus on implementing the internationally agreed effectiveness principles – *country ownership, a focus on results, inclusive partnerships and transparency and mutual accountability* – at the country, regional and global levels.

The Global Partnership does this by regularly monitoring progress on the implementation of development effectiveness principles at the country level, and by facilitating dialogue and encouraging the sharing of experiences among governments, multilateral organisations, civil society, parliamentarians, local governments, trade unions, foundations and the business sector. In this context, the Global Partnership monitoring framework is recognised as one of the main instruments to drive change in the way development co-operation is provided, managed and harnessed. The evidence and data generated from Global Partnership monitoring also contributes to the global follow-up and review of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The [2017-2018 Work Programme of the Global Partnership](#) was endorsed by its Steering Committee at their 13th Meeting in April 2017. Its work is structured under six strategic outputs: (i) enhanced support to effective development co-operation at the country level; (ii) unlocking the potential of effectiveness and updated monitoring for 2030; (iii) sharing knowledge to scale-up innovative development solutions; (iv) scaling up private sector engagement leveraged through development co-operation; (v) learning from different modalities of development co-operation; and (vi) strengthened high-level political engagement, advocacy, public communication and strategic use of data and evidence. As a next step, the Steering Committee agreed to organise ‘working sessions’ to lead the implementation of each strategic output, with individual Committee members taking responsibility for leading, co-ordinating engagement and reporting progress at biannual Steering Committee meetings.

Under strategic output two: unlocking the potential of effectiveness and updated monitoring for 2030, the Global Partnership will aim to enhance the relevance of its monitoring evidence by spearheading policy dialogue to unlock the potential of effectiveness commitments to boost progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda; launching a refined monitoring framework to reflect the diversity of actors and forms of development co-operation; and implementing the third monitoring round and next progress report. The work of the Working Group leading these sessions will inform Steering Committee decision-making, in particular regarding the development of the Global Action Plan to unlock the effectiveness potential.

Background

The Global Partnership monitoring framework is comprised of [10 indicators](#), focusing on strengthening developing country institutions, increasing the transparency and predictability of development co-operation, enhancing gender equality, and supporting greater involvement of civil society, trade unions, parliaments and the private sector in development efforts. The framework includes indicators from the

Paris Declaration that were identified as particularly important by developing countries, together with indicators introduced in 2012 that aim to capture the broader effectiveness dimensions of the [Busan Partnership agreement](#).

The [Global Partnership monitoring exercise](#) is country and territory-led, based on developing countries and territories' own data and information systems, and is intended to involve the full range of development stakeholders (including civil society, the private sector and other actors) and contribute to strengthening mutual accountability for implementing commitments and promoting country and territory-level dialogue between development partners. The data is compiled into a [Global Progress Report](#), which gives a global state of play, trends, and analysis of the data and lessons learnt from implementation efforts, complemented by country-specific (and territory-specific) profiles, visualizations and detailed monitoring data.

The primary focus of Global Partnership monitoring is promoting change at the country level, where the monitoring exercise helps drive change in the way development co-operation is provided by generating evidence to (i) highlight where attention is needed, and (ii) support participants to respond to results by agreeing on individual and collective actions to accelerate progress. In this way, governments, development partners and non-state actors can use the monitoring exercise to ensure that development co-operation observes the shared principles of development effectiveness and supports realisation of their respective commitments.

As such, one of the broader aims of the Global Partnership's monitoring exercise is behaviour change for increased development effectiveness. Rather than stemming from the monitoring exercise itself, change is generated through follow-up and action based on the monitoring results. Country-led monitoring has proven to not only be a way to assess progress on effective co-operation commitments, but is also an instrument to implement the four effective co-operation principles themselves, by focusing on country-level results and providing a useful entry point for multi-stakeholder dialogue and accountability. That said, the quality and stakeholder engagement in country-led monitoring is uneven across participating countries.

A number of countries are already using the results of the Global Partnership monitoring exercise to inform future planning. For example, in the Dominican Republic and Honduras the results of the 2016 monitoring exercise are informing the reform of the development co-operation policies. They are also being used as a reference to establish more permanent multi-stakeholder dialogue spaces on development effectiveness challenges. In Myanmar, results from the 2016 exercise were integrated into the initial draft of the Myanmar Development Assistance policy. Additionally, the monitoring round allowed the collection of unique quantitative data in Myanmar for the first time. Development partners are also discussing the monitoring findings and how to improve the performance of their development co-operation programmes against the effectiveness principles. Germany, Switzerland and the European Union already held workshops to review results and the United Arab Emirates, Sweden and Canada will be hosting workshops in the coming months. Germany, the European Union and Switzerland are preparing analyses self-reflecting on their performance per indicator and assessing the drivers of change and institutional or policy constraints to fully implement this agenda.

Both the *Task Team CSO Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment*, a Global Partnership Initiative, and the *CPDE Working Group on CSO Enabling Environment* undertook stock-takes and

detailed analyses of the monitoring findings related to the civil society indicator¹, highlighting challenges and constraints to effectively carry out inclusive, multi-stakeholder monitoring processes.

Country-level data generated through Global Partnership monitoring is also a unique source of evidence for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) providing information to SDG targets on country-level policy space and leadership (SDG 17.15), multi-stakeholder partnerships for development (SDG 17.16) and gender equality and women's empowerment (SDG 5c). The results of the 2016 monitoring exercise were used to inform discussions the 2017 Financing for Development Forum and the High-Level Political Forum.

The 2016 monitoring round revealed areas with limited progress in aligning with the Busan principles. The Nairobi Outcome document recommitted to make progress in areas with limited progress, while proposed new commitments linked with the 2030 Agenda. The Working Group will take into consideration these areas in devising the different activities listed below.

Deliverables

With these considerations in mind, the purpose of the working sessions is to agree on a way to operationalise strategic outputs 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3, as outlined in the [Work Programme](#).

These strategic outputs are aimed at interlinking monitoring evidence, learning and policy suggestions, and concrete global action to boost the impact of development co-operation by aligning it closer to the four EDC principles.

The outputs are also clearly intertwined with the work on country level implementation (working group 1) and knowledge sharing (working group 3), and synergies in between these three work streams are highlighted in the annexed timeline.

The proposed deliverables of this working session are the following:

1. Determine and implement an approach to collect evidence on effectiveness of development co-operation, related to:
 - How monitoring results are employed at the country-level to inform decision making or strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships, or demonstrated challenges and bottlenecks to country-level use of evidence.² This work will directly inform the work to strengthen the monitoring process, to be undertaken under *Strategic Output 2.2*.
 - Demonstrated action taken on the monitoring evidence to increase the effectiveness of development co-operation in both developed and developing countries³, and within non-executive entities.

¹ Indicator 2: Civil society organisations operate within an environment that maximises their engagement in and contribution to development.

² Among other sources, the activities and country pilots being led by Working Group 1 can feed into this specific area

³ Including the full array of countries, from least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states, to lower and upper middle income countries

- Key entry points for the dissemination of results within both developing and developed government institutions (where is the evidence being analysed, incorporated into action plans, etc.), and in relation to country processes to implement priority SDGs.
 - Relevance of the current monitoring indicators, in particular in the context of countries with dual role in international development cooperation, particularly providers of South-South and/or Triangular Cooperation. This work will directly inform the refinement and expansion of the current monitoring framework a, to be undertaken under Strategic Output 2.2.
2. Guide the design and support the production of **analytical work to unpack solutions to effectiveness challenges**, on strategic areas prioritized through the comprehensive mapping described above (Action 1) and through the scoping work of Working Group 3 (e.g. survey of stakeholder knowledge needs). Upon availability of resources, this in-depth analytical work is to be carried out under the aegis of Steering Committee and related constituencies.
 3. Inform the **design of regional/stakeholder dialogues** on effectiveness / taking stock of bottlenecks through inputs to the dialogue agendas; outreach to respective constituencies to actively participate in these dialogues; and potentially hosting of events. Identify champions to support running of the dialogues, particularly on identified challenging areas.
 4. Propose a **Global Action Plan** (*Strategic Output 2.1.2*), which could aim to address the challenges faced by different stakeholders in operationalising the development effectiveness principles. The Global Action Plan could draw on prior and new evidence (point 1), , as well as complementary research commissioned for this purpose (point 2), the outcomes of the regional dialogues (point 3), as well as the findings and conclusions of the Working Group 1 “*Enhanced Support to Effective Development Co-operation at the Country Level*”) and the Global Needs Assessment Survey undertaken as part of Working Group 3, “*Knowledge-Sharing for Increased Development Effectiveness*.”.

Note: Given the need to better define the nature and scope of the ‘Global Action Plan’, an initial action by Working Group 2 members will be preparing a proposal (or a menu of options, if no agreement exists) to be discussed in the upcoming [14th Steering Committee](#) in Dhaka, Bangladesh, 24-25 October 2017.

5. Engaging their respective constituencies in the **broad and targeted consultations linked to the revisions of the monitoring framework**, to ensure inclusiveness of the revision process and broad buy-in. (*Strategic Output 2.2*)
6. Leading active outreach to their respective constituencies for **participation in the third monitoring round**, starting in May 2018. (*Strategic Output 2.3*)

Synergies with other Working Groups

The evidence demonstrating the impact of effective development co-operation principles in practice, as well as multi-stakeholder partnerships on the achievement of national development priorities, generated by Working Group 1 via country pilots, will feed into the evidence mapping and generation ambitious within this workstream. Similarly, the work of Global Partnership Initiatives will also inform the evidence gathering and dialogue promoted by this workstream.

The global mapping and evidence gathering exercise (deliverable 1), the targeted analytical work carried out around effectiveness bottlenecks (deliverable 2) and the results of regional dialogues (deliverable 3) will feed into the knowledge sharing platform and demand-driven refinement of further Global partnership knowledge-sharing efforts being undertaken as part of strategic output 3.

Participation and Timeline

To reflect the multi-stakeholder nature of the Global Partnership, each working session is expected to include members from different constituencies – governments and non-executive stakeholders. Given the deliverables expected from this working session, the majority of engagement is expected to take place between September 2017 and March 2018, with occasional engagement afterwards – particularly in the lead up to the third monitoring round.

A tentative timeline is annexed to this document.

Working Arrangements

The working group is encouraged to conduct its business by electronic means (e.g. email, Skype, phone calls). Given the scope of work and Working Group composition, it was proposed to break out in smaller groups around specific deliverables, which will then be presented and discussed with the broader group.

In order to achieve the above-described deliverables, the group co-leads, Bangladesh and the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness, will establish the frequency of exchanges, as agreed with the group,

Note: Given the significant 15-hour time zone difference between Working Group members (from Japan's UTC +09:00 to Mexico's UTC -06:00), electronic means of collaboration are encouraged, including document sharing and editing platforms such as google docs and dropbox. Please also take these differences into account in clustering around sub-groups for different deliverables, in order to make phone and video calls still possible.

ANNEX 1. WORKING GROUP 2: INDICATIVE TIMELINE OF ACTIVITIES AND DELIVERABLES

	2017					2018			
	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<i>Kick off - first working group call</i>									
Finalisation of concept note									
1. Global mapping / evidence gathering exercise									
Determine an approach for mapping and evidence gathering									
Carry out mapping and evidence gathering exercise									
2. Analytical work on strategic areas									
Define strategic areas with gaps of knowledge (from comprehensive mapping)									
Lead or guide design and production of targeted analytical work									
3. Regional dialogues on effectiveness & stock-take									
Map relevant planned dialogues and potentially host or co-host event(s)									
Propose inputs to dialogues' agendas									
Outreach to respective constituencies to participate in dialogues									
4. Global Action Plan (GAP)									
Propose GAP options to Steering Committee (24 October)									
Preparation and drafting of Global Action Plan									
Consultations around the Global Action Plan									
Launch the Global Action Plan									
5. Refining the Monitoring Framework for the 2030 Agenda									
Development phase: participation in <i>Reference Groups</i> on indicators									
Validation phase: participation in pilot testing and consultations									
6. 2018 Monitoring Round									
Active outreach to respective constituencies for participation									

For reference:

	2017					2018			
	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Working Group 1: Country level Implementation									
Country pilots									
Working Group 3: Knowledge sharing Platform									
Knowledge sharing platform becomes available									