

Measuring the Effectiveness of South-South Co-operation

BACKGROUND

The flagship instrument of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation is its biennial monitoring exercise, which measures progress made in implementing the four internationally agreed effectiveness principles: country ownership; focus on results; inclusive partnerships; and transparency & mutual accountability. Country-specific monitoring results, along with global aggregates, provide concrete evidence that can be used to jumpstart dialogue and drive action to enhance the effectiveness development efforts.

The Global Partnership is adapting its monitoring framework to reflect the challenges and opportunities of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), acknowledge the increased importance of South-South Co-operation (SSC) for eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development. In order for SSC resources to have a maximum impact, it is vital that they are used effectively. This sentiment was echoed in paragraph 11 of the Outcome Document of the Second High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40), which recognises the need to enhance the development effectiveness of South-South and Triangular co-operation.

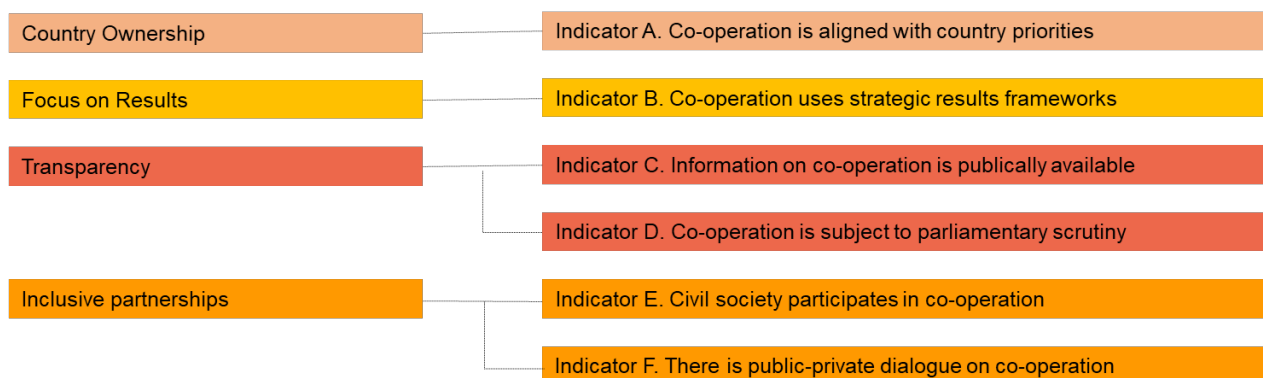
In this vein, the Global Partnership is supporting efforts spearheaded by the Government of Mexico, to develop an approach to monitor the effectiveness of SSC. This approach builds on the existing Global Partnership monitoring methodology, adjusting the indicator framework it to ensure its relevance for SSC.

PROCESS

Step 1. Developing a pilot framework

As part of the 2016 monitoring round, Mexico examined the applicability of Global Partnership indicators to its context as a dual provider and recipient of development co-operation. This assessment informed work undertaken in 2017 to development a pilot framework to monitor the effectiveness of SSC. The pilot framework was developed by Mexico with the support of Germany and UNDP Mexico, along with substantive inputs from the Global Partnership Joint Support Team (JST)¹.

The Pilot Framework



¹ Development of the pilot framework was carried out as part the Global Partnership's workstream on Enhanced Effectiveness at Country Level, under which nine country pilots were implemented with the support of the European Commission and Germany. The pilot in Mexico was financially supported by Germany.

Step 2. Testing the pilot framework

Using the proposed framework, Mexico conducted a national data collection exercise. Over 100 stakeholders from across the national government, civil society and the private sector participated. A workshop was held to discuss findings, bringing together participating actors, as well as recipients of Mexican co-operation and other Southern providers. The key findings include:

- Mexico has strengthened mechanisms to formalise and follow up on its co-operation programmes, including monitoring & evaluation of development results. This has allowed for strengthened alignment of co-operation with development priorities and an increased focus on results.
- However, there is also room to strengthen the effectiveness of co-operation. This includes through: strengthening integration of the 2030 Agenda; improving operational mechanisms; engaging diverse stakeholders; and more systematically incorporating the gender perspective.

The results of the exercise are guiding national action to strengthen Mexico's provision of development co-operation, including informing the development of the next iteration of the Programa de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (PROCID).

The results are also being used to inform Mexico's national reporting on progress made in the implementation of the Sustainable Developments Goals. Specifically providing input for SDG targets 17.15 and 17.16.

Step 3. Looking at other contexts

Understanding the diversity of SSC, the JST engaged a number of Southern providers to begin to gauge the applicability of the pilot framework to other contexts. Officials from Chile, Indonesia, Malaysia and South Africa participated in an online questionnaire, followed by a series of interviews. These consultations examined how SSC is organised and provided, including whether these providers have national and sub-national strategies in place to guide co-operation; the process for deciding on SSC interventions, including how these arrangements are formalised; and which stakeholders are involved at different stages of providing co-operation.

Emerging findings show that some Global Partnership indicators, e.g. on alignment of co-operation, may not be applicable to SSC in their current form, although the underlying issue addressed remains relevant. Further, the findings point to the need to further explore how effectiveness principles are applied to SSC, i.e. clarifying what roles different stakeholders should play in SSC.

NEXT STEPS

The full results of Mexico's exercise, the consultations with SSC providers and other complementary research will be compiled in a background paper that will provide recommendations on revisions to the pilot framework.

The pilot framework will then be revised to ensure it is relevant for Southern providers, collecting information that will allow them to assess and strengthen the effectiveness of their co-operation. The revised framework will then be tested in a number of countries. It is envisaged that this testing will involve a full data collection exercise.

The finalised pilot framework will be integrated with the core Global Partnership monitoring exercise in a way that eases reporting for participating stakeholders.