

# Post-monitoring survey among national co-ordinators of the 2018 Monitoring Round

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## Report of survey results

OECD-UNDP Joint Support Team

Date: 10/10/2019

## Executive Summary

The post monitoring survey of the 2018 Monitoring Round collected feedback on national co-ordinators' experiences throughout the monitoring exercise. This brief is based on answers provided by national co-ordinators of 62 out of 86 (72%) partner countries that participated in the 2018 Monitoring Round. Key findings are:

- **Partner countries intend to use findings of the 2018 Monitoring Round mainly for national and international dialogue processes and to inform domestic policy reform.** This includes stimulating national dialogue (67%), improving co-ordination and collaboration with development partners and non-executive stakeholders (67%), as well as developing or reviewing development co-operation policies (66%). Two-fifths (41%) of countries cite SDG follow-up and review, including through VNRs, as a major reason to participate.
- **National co-ordinators' overall satisfaction with their countries participation in the 2018 Monitoring Round is high.** However, views of co-ordinators in fragile settings and countries that did not implement all aspects of the monitoring exercise were more critical.
- **National co-ordinators express high satisfaction with the support provided by the OECD/UNDP Joint Support Team.** Still, despite overall positive feedback, some national co-ordinators suggest to improve data collection tools and further enhance and tailor remote technical support.
- **Major challenges in implementing the 2018 Monitoring that national co-ordinators identify include responsiveness of government ministries, development partners and non-executive stakeholders.** However, partner countries value the multi-stakeholder approach of the monitoring exercise as it allows improving collaboration with non-executive development actors. Regarding challenges, those countries that only partly reported in the 2018 Monitoring Round highlight national capacity and resources to lead the monitoring exercise as a key bottleneck.
- **National co-ordinators suggest strengthening the role and support of development partners in monitoring rounds.** In particular, 75% of countries suggest that development partners improve their co-ordination mechanisms at the country-level. Likewise, three-quarters (74%) of partner countries with limited engagement in the 2018 Monitoring Round also point to the need for additional technical support by development partners in the monitoring process.
- **Most partner countries found the timing of the 2018 Monitoring Round suitable for their countries' participation but increased flexibility could allow more countries to embed the exercise into national processes.** Nearly two-thirds (63%) of national co-ordinators state that this time was sufficient but a significant minority of co-ordinators (37%) would have preferred more time to collect and validate data.

## I. Introduction

**The Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (Global Partnership) spurs action for more effective partnerships that can deliver long-lasting development results.** Its biennial global monitoring exercise tracks progress against agreed commitments and actions for promoting effectiveness. The Global Partnership monitoring exercise is country-led, voluntary and aims to strengthen multi-stakeholder dialogue.

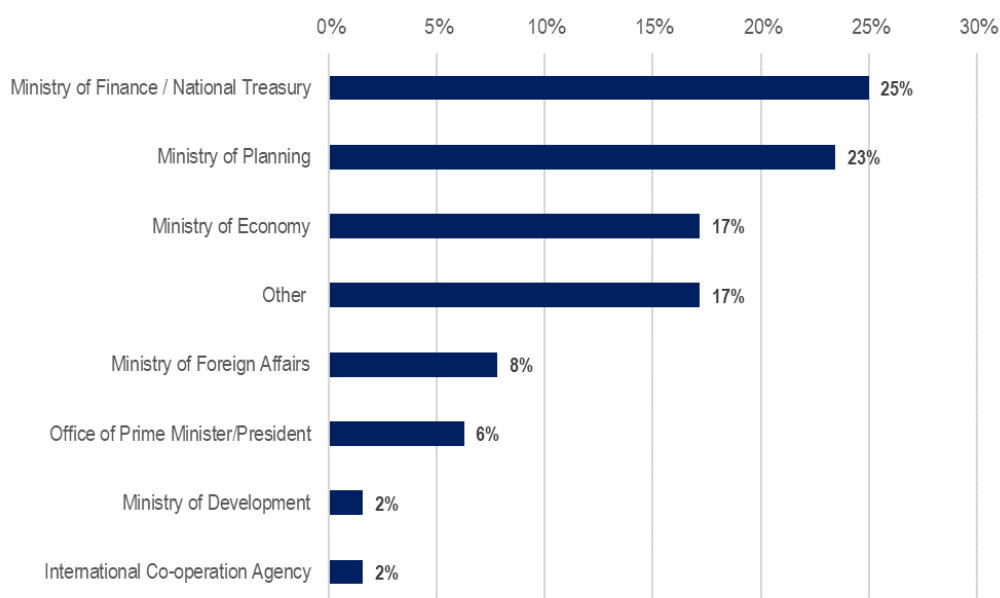
**The Global Partnership 2018 Monitoring Round was led by a record number of 86 partner countries & territories in collaboration with more than 100 development partners.** Together

with hundreds of civil society organisations, private sector representatives, foundations, trade unions, parliamentarians and local governments, partner countries and development partners reported jointly on USD 58.8bn in development co-operation funding. The 2019 Progress Report presents findings of the Monitoring Round and assesses how partner countries ([Part I](#)) and development partners ([Part II](#)) are promoting effective, country-led partnerships.

**This brief presents findings from the post-monitoring survey conducted among national co-ordinators and their teams at the end of the data collection process of the 2018 Monitoring Round.** The survey aimed to collect feedback on national co-ordinators' experiences throughout the monitoring exercise, including the perceived role and support of development partners and the OECD/UNDP Joint Support Team (JST) and how partner country governments are planning to use the findings of 2018 Monitoring Round. The post-monitoring survey questionnaire was completed by national co-ordinators in 62 out of the 86 (72%) partner countries that participated in the 2018 Monitoring Round.

**National co-ordinators of the 2018 Monitoring Round are based in a wide range of government ministries reflecting an evolving development co-operation landscape at partner country-level.** The 2018 Monitoring Round was led by 86 partner countries and territories. Each participating partner country assigned a government focal point to lead the monitoring exercise in country. Most national co-ordinators in the 2018 Monitoring round were based in either the Ministry of Finance (25%), Ministry of Planning (23%) or Ministry of Economy (17%). The remaining third of national co-ordinators (35%) were based in a wide range of other ministries from the Office of Prime Minister to Ministries of Development, International Co-operation, Foreign Affairs and Trade reflecting an evolving development landscape (see Figure 1).

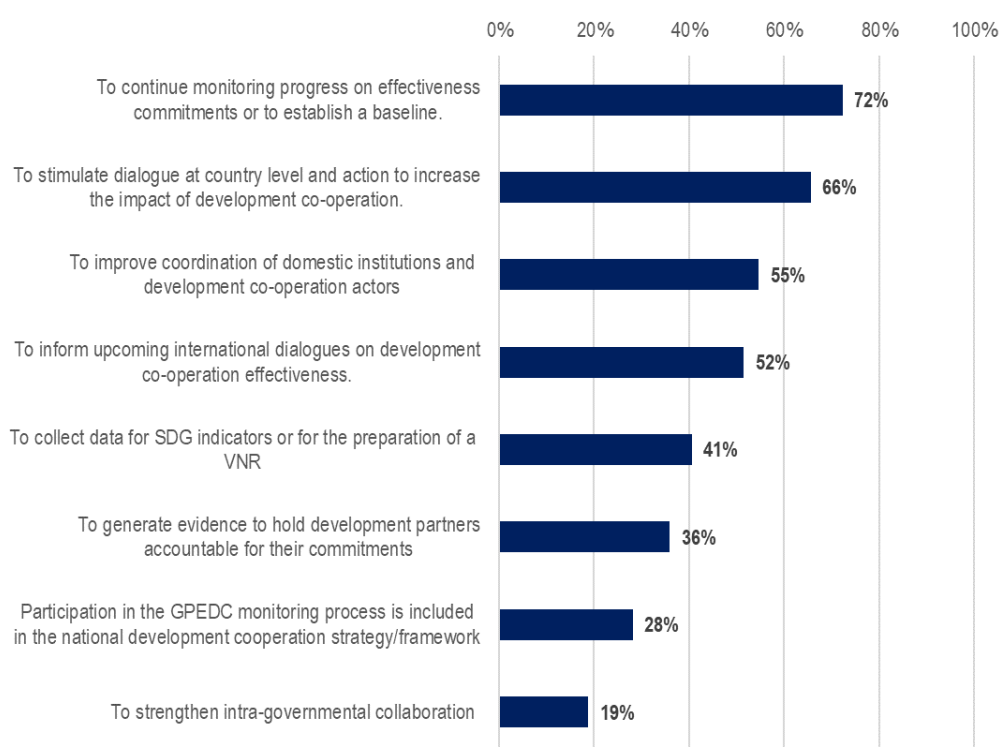
**Figure 1. Government ministry affiliation of national co-ordinators**



## II. Why did countries participate in the 2018 Monitoring Round and how do they intend to use findings?

**Partner countries participated in the 2018 Monitoring Round to spur dialogue and improve co-ordination at the country-level, to contribute to international dialogue processes and, to a lesser extent, to generate data for SDG reporting.** As shown in Figure 2, most partner countries recognise the exercise as a means to continue monitoring progress made on development effectiveness or to establish a baseline (72%). Furthermore, partner countries participated to stimulate dialogue (66%) or improve co-ordination (55%) among national development stakeholders. For around half of partner countries (52%) informing upcoming international dialogues on development effectiveness is a key reason to participate. While Global Partnership Monitoring generated data to report on three SDG indicators, less than half (41%) of countries cite SDG reporting as a major reason to participate.

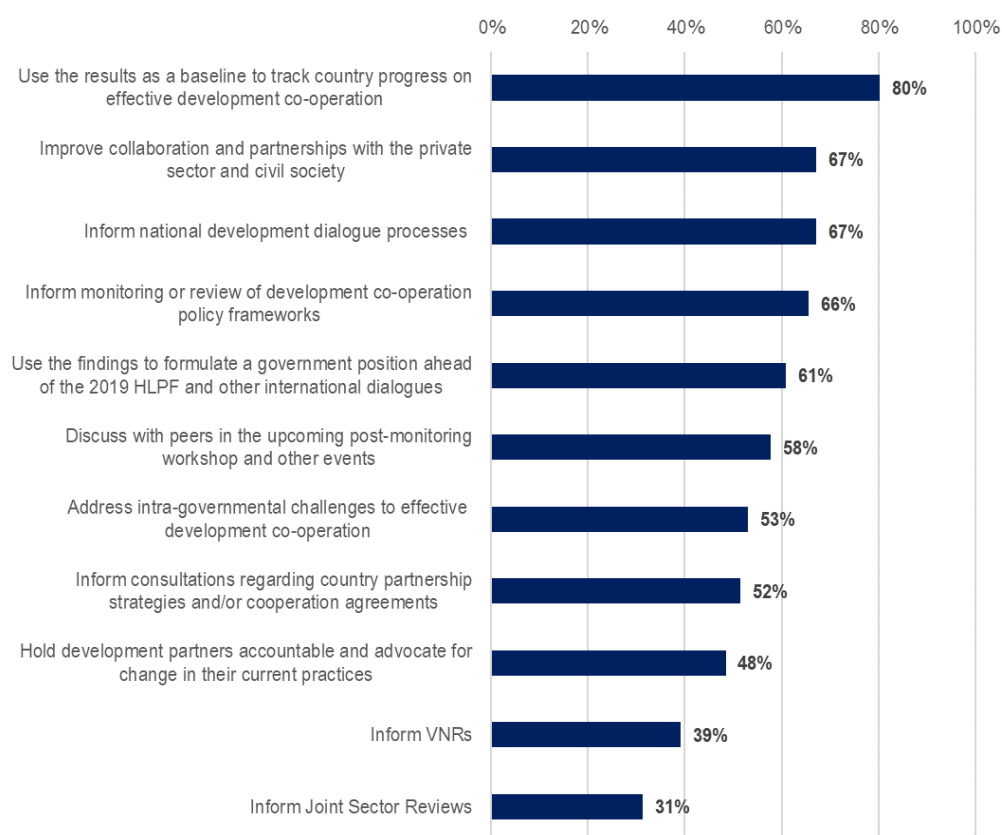
**Figure 2: Partner countries' motivation to participate in the 2018 Monitoring Round**



Note: Multiple answers possible.

**Partner countries intend to use findings of the 2018 Monitoring Round mainly for national and international dialogue processes and to inform domestic policy reform.** Four out of five partner countries plan to use the results as a baseline to track country level progress towards the commitments (80%). Improving collaboration with non-executive stakeholders (67%), informing national development dialogue processes (67%) and monitoring or review of development co-operation policy frameworks (66%) are all priority areas for most partner countries (see Figure 3). A majority of partner countries also foresees to use findings as inputs to international dialogue processes, such as the High-Level Political Forum (61%). A minority of partner countries are planning to use results to inform Voluntary National Reviews (39%) or Joint Sector Reviews (31%).

**Figure 3. Planned use of findings of the 2018 Monitoring Round**



Note: Multiple answers possible.

**Dedicated country profiles provided in the previous monitoring round proved useful to inform domestic policy reform and helped countries in SDG reporting.** National co-ordinators in almost all countries (93%) appreciated country profiles provided in the 2016 Monitoring Round<sup>1</sup>. For most countries, those profiles served to inform the development or strengthening of a development co-operation policy (77%) – confirming that data and findings can be an important input to inform domestic policy reform processes. Around half of countries indicate that country profiles helped to inform SDG reporting (45%), while only around a third (34%) of countries used the profiles as input into the design of new development interventions.

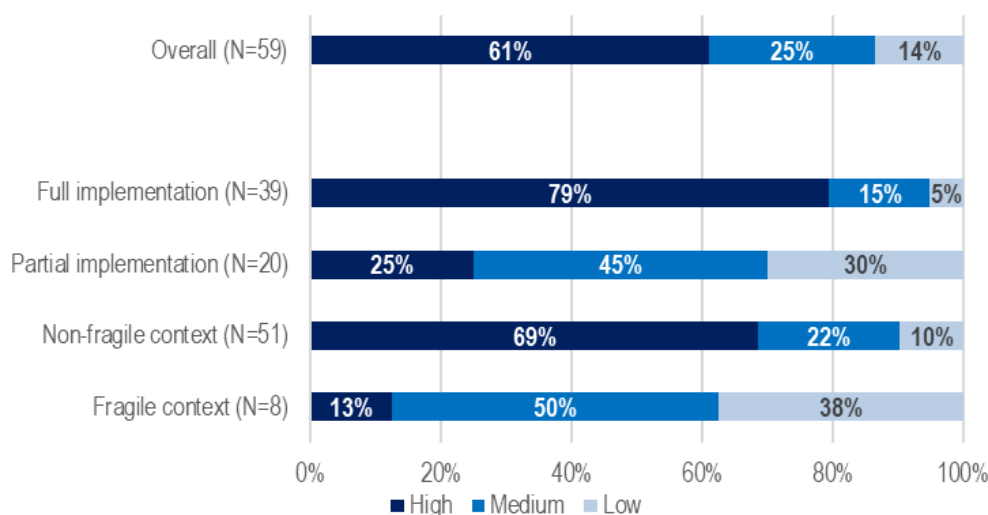
### III. Evaluation of the 2018 Monitoring Round: what did work well and what can be improved?

**National co-ordinators overall satisfaction with their countries' participation in the 2018 Monitoring Round is high even though views so in fragile settings and for countries that didn't implement all aspects of the monitoring exercise are more critical.** Three out of five countries reported an overall high level of, compared to 25% with "medium" satisfaction and 14%

<sup>1</sup> In addition to collecting feedback on national co-ordinators' experiences throughout the 2018 Monitoring Round, the survey also inquired whether country profiles provided in the previous monitoring round (2016) have since proved useful for informing development co-operation policy reform and SDG reporting. Country profiles of the 2018 Monitoring Round were still under preparation when the post-monitoring survey was conducted.

with a low satisfaction level (see Figure 4)<sup>2</sup>. National co-ordinators in countries that implemented all aspects of the monitoring around, including in most cases multi-stakeholder dialogues with civil society and private sector representatives expressed a significantly more positive view than countries that only partially reported (share of countries expressing high satisfaction: 79% vs. 25%). Similarly the national co-ordinators’ experiences in fragile contexts was more critical than among countries in non-fragile settings (share of countries expressing high satisfaction: 13% vs. 69%).

**Figure 4: Overall level of satisfaction with the participation in the 2018 Monitoring Round**



**National co-ordinators identified a broad range of areas as important for collection of quality data, underscoring the ambition and multi-stakeholder nature of the monitoring framework.** As shown in Figure 5 national almost all areas are perceived as important for successfully participating in the monitoring exercise. This includes remote support from the JST, national government capacity and responsiveness of development partners, civil society and private sector representatives. The finding underscores that successful implementation of the monitoring exercise requires coordinating and consulting with a variety of actors, including government ministries, development partners and non-executive stakeholders.

<sup>2</sup> National co-ordinators rated their overall experience in participating in the monitoring exercise on a scale from 1 (negative) to 10 (positive). The threshold for a “high” level of satisfaction used for this analysis is 7.0 and 5.0 for a “medium” level of satisfaction.

### Box 1. Partner country voices: key challenges implementing the 2018 Monitoring Round

Qualitative feedback received from national co-ordinators confirms that national capacity and development partners' level of engagement were key challenges in the implementation of the 2018 Monitoring Round.

#### National capacity to lead the monitoring exercise

"Lack of capacity within the Planning Ministry to coordinate the country's participation by engaging with all stakeholders especially the Private Sector/CSO and other Government agencies that are necessary."

"We're all very small and are run off our feet by many competing priorities"

#### Development partner co-ordination and support

"It is unfortunate that none of the UN Agencies in [...] returned the Excel Sheet to collect data"

"Rigorous follow up needed to collect data from few DPs, CSOs and especially Private sector. Quick responses from JST helped."

"[a] few DPs didn't provide inputs on this assignment. also the issue of non-traditional /emerging partners who are not very cooperative in these kind of initiatives"

« Notre insatisfaction est liée à la participation des Partenaires Techniques et Financiers au processus de collecte des données. Malgré les différents rappels peu ont répondu à notre sollicitation »

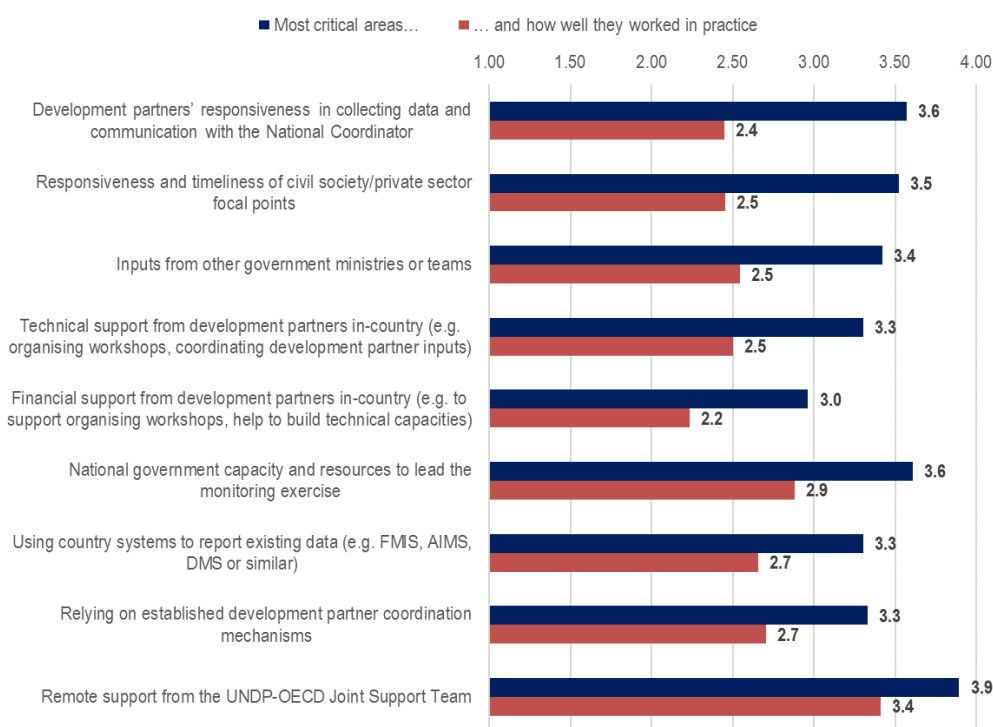
**Major challenges in implementing the 2018 Monitoring Round included responsiveness of government ministries, development partners and non-executive stakeholders, national capacity as well as development partners' technical support in-country.** While a broad area of elements emerged as important for data collection, national co-ordinators indicated that not all of them worked equally well in practice<sup>3</sup>. Responsiveness of other government ministries, development partners, civil society and private sector representatives shows the biggest potential for improvements. Moreover, technical (and, to a lesser extent, also financial) support from development partners could be strengthened. This is in line with the perception that national capacity to lead the monitoring exercise could be improved further. These findings are corroborated by qualitative feedback provided by national co-ordinators (see Box 1 for a selection of representatives quotes). Remote support provided by JST is described as well functioning across the board.

**Key challenges for countries that partly implemented the 2018 Monitoring Round were national capacity constraints, the inability to rely on existing development partners' co-ordination mechanism and lack of access to technical support.** Among countries which did only implement some elements of the monitoring exercise different priority areas for improvement emerge:<sup>4</sup> in those countries, national government capacity, the ability to rely on existing country systems and quality of inputs across government ministries were perceived as the key bottlenecks. Moreover, national co-ordinators in those countries underline the importance of relying on established development partner co-ordination mechanisms which, however, rarely appears to work in practice. Moreover, technical support from development partners in-country seems insufficient.

<sup>3</sup> National co-ordinators were asked to rate the importance of a number of elements (see Figure 5) before assessing how well each of these elements worked in practice during the 2018 Monitoring Round. This allows identifying high-priority areas for improvements in future monitoring rounds: those elements with the largest gaps between perceived importance and functionality in practice.

<sup>4</sup> The "gap" between perceived importance and functionality for those country that only partially implemented the 2018 Monitoring Round (not displayed in Figure 5, scale from 1 to 4) were as follows national capacity: 1.2 (Importance: 3.6, functionality: 2.4), relying on existing country systems: 1.1 (importance 3.4, functionality: 2.3), inputs from other government ministries: 1.0 (importance: 3.0, functionality: 2.0), relying on established development partner co-ordination mechanisms: 1.3 (importance: 3.5, functionality: 2.2), technical support from development partners: 1.1 (importance: 3.0, functionality: 1.9).

**Figure 5. Most important elements to collect data and how well they worked in practice**  
 [blue bars, 4: very important, 1: Not important]; [red bars, 4: Excellent, 1: Needs improvement]



Note: Sorted by gap between how important a given element scored [blue bar] and how well this was perceived to have work in practice [red bar].

**National co-ordinators expressed high satisfaction for the support provided by the OECD/UNDP Joint Support Team.** Most national co-ordinators (80% to 90%, see Figure 6) rate all areas of support as either “excellent” or “good”. More than half of national co-ordinators also describe guiding materials, flexibility with deadlines as well as support provided during the preparatory phase as “excellent”. Still, despite overall positive feedback, some national co-ordinators suggest to improve data collection tools and further enhance and tailor remote technical support (see also a selection of representative comments as provided by national co-ordinators, Box 2).



**Box 2. Partner country voices: What are your suggestions to improve the OECD-UNDP Joint Support Team support in future monitoring rounds?**

Providing qualitative feedback, national co-ordinators requested additional technical support and in some cases asked to improve data collection tools.

**Provide additional technical support**

“In the future, [...] might do the full monitoring round and would need some technical assistance from the team.”

“Need OECD team to visit countries conducting survey and use questionnaires to collect data”

“We have some difficulties with all online trainings and webinars that provided by you. We suggest providing other means for supporting countries to upgrade their skills in collecting data and reporting.

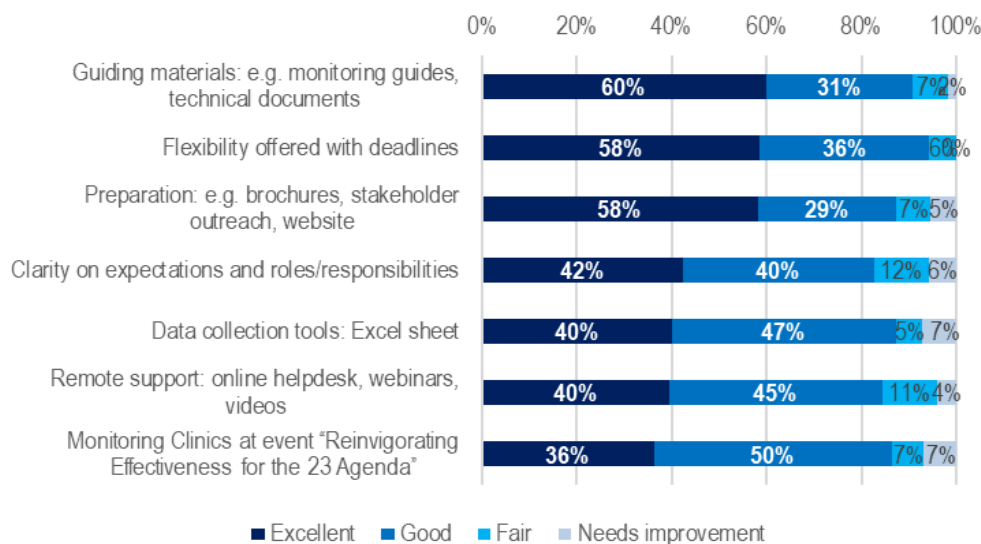
**Improve data collection tools**

“1) simplify the survey worksheets 2) provide clear yet simple guideline”

“The data collection sheet (excel sheet) was found a bit complicated to be filled out by many of the partners. Also it did not offer the possibility of sending only one separate indicator to the relevant stakeholders, e.g. Indicator 2 to CSOs or Indicator 3 to PS. Indeed, it allowed only the entire package to be sent to stakeholders, increasing a bit the level of complexity”.

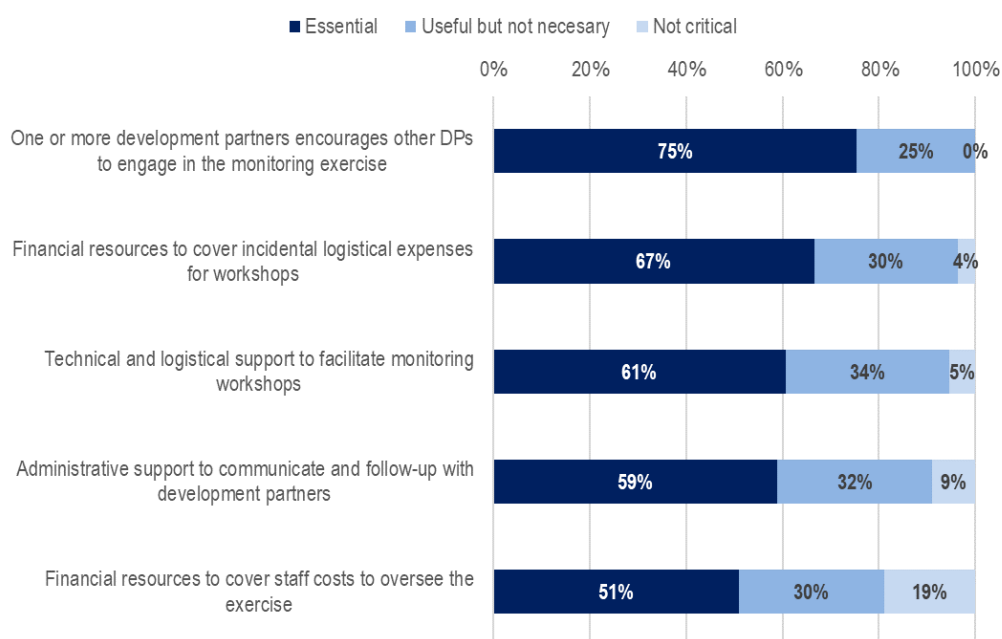
“The country excel has been improved a lot, however, we still found a bit difficulty in inserting additional DPs name and cut some of the data at the latter stage of the survey. So, we suggest to improve the Excel-tool- make it more user friendly and easy to use. Guidelines were excellent.”

**Figure 6. Rating of the OECD-UNDP Joint Support Team**



**National co-ordinators suggest to reform the role and support of development partners in monitoring rounds and in particular demand support to co-ordinate development partners' engagement at the country-level.** Three out of four national co-ordinators state that it is “essential” for one development partner to encourage the engagement of other development partners in the monitoring exercise (see Figure 7). Furthermore, financial and technical support to organise and facilitate monitoring workshop at the country-level are seen as critical to ensure participation of partner countries in the monitoring exercise.

**Figure 7. How to improve development partners' support in future monitoring rounds?**



**A majority of partner countries found the timing of the 2018 Monitoring Round suitable for their countries' participation but increased flexibility could allow more countries to embed the exercise into national processes.** Among those countries which fully engaged in the 2018 Monitoring Round 82% stated that the timing (starting with engagement at country-level in June 2018) enabled their countries to embed the exercise into national processes. However, this is only true for 56% of countries that did only partially report in monitoring indicators, showing considerable room for improvement for this subset of partner countries.

**Over a third of countries (37%) indicate that more time is needed to complete the exercise.** During the 2018 Monitoring Round partner countries had approximately six months to complete the monitoring exercise (ca. August to December 2018). Around two-thirds (63%) of national co-ordinators stated that this time was sufficient but a significant minority of co-ordinators would have preferred more time to collect and validate data. Taken together, it appears that the timing of the 2018 Monitoring Round works for a majority of countries but that increased flexibility could potentially lead to more complete reporting among a larger set of countries.