@UN75 – Shaping our future together through Effectiveness: principle-based, evidence-led development

With the 2020–21 session of the General Assembly we mark 75 years of unprecedented global cooperation. And yet one of its greatest outcomes – the global effort to drive human development – is facing profound headwinds, from growing inequality, to a global pandemic.

Only collective action, multilateral and multi-stakeholder, will see us through these challenges.

And that is why how we partner and work together – through principle-based, evidence-led, development efforts – is more important than ever to achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Lessons are already emerging from COVID-19: project pipelines have shortened; and public health has come to the fore. Some of the effectiveness challenges noted in the Global Partnership’s 2019 Monitoring report have been exacerbated. But we can also use this data, and the four effectiveness principles (below), to re-build our partnerships on a more equitable basis, for more sustainable results.

The Global Partnership is the primary multi-stakeholder vehicle for driving development effectiveness efforts. Led by four Co-chairs, from Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Switzerland, and a civil society representative, it launched its 2020-22 work programme in May. For more on how to engage, go to https://www.effectivecooperation.org/, or contact info@effectivecooperation.org.

Decomposing forward visibility of development co-operation

Comparing development partners’ use of countries’ public financial management systems

Country Ownership

Government leadership in development efforts remains essential to ensuring interventions are sustainable and adapted to context – the speed of change and needs emerging cannot undermine this essential feature of sustainable development.

Prior to the advent of COVID-19, the picture on country ownership was mixed: the majority of development cooperation was captured in forward expenditure plans, though less than in 2016.

Meanwhile, steady progress in public financial management systems was met with only a marginal increase in their use by development partners.
Inclusive Partnerships

- Reaching the furthest behind, and the hardest hit, requires broad ‘whole-of-society’ partnerships.
- Even before COVID-19, governments often consulted civil society and other partners in development policies and plans, but consultations were not always perceived by partners as either inclusive or transparent.
- Frameworks like the Kampala principles provide a basis for more effectively engaging private sector actors in development.
- Evidence also suggests the enabling environment for CSOs – so crucial to public and community health efforts – has deteriorated over the last few years. Efforts should instead focus on expanding civic space.

Mutual Accountability & Transparency

- With development cooperation flows moving fast, and being re-allocated in response to crisis, investing in mutual accountability is essential to ensuring the trust that underscores the best development cooperation.
- Again, the picture was mixed before 2020: more donors were publishing more data, but less development cooperation was being subject to parliamentary oversight.
- While more partners were engaged in mutual accountability mechanisms at country level, fewer recipient countries were setting targets for these partners.
Focusing on Results

- Development planning in recipient countries has improved dramatically over the last decade, into the 2030 Agenda era.
- But donor alignment to these plans and priorities has decreased over the last few years.
- COVID-19 has the potential to drive this further – as partners scramble to respond to the pandemic;
- or, provide the opportunity for a re-set – as it underscores the need to align and leverage collective efforts, guided by the results.

Partner countries’ progress in development planning

- 2011: 36%
- 2018: 64%

- Of countries have high-quality national development strategies in place

Use of country-owned results frameworks and planning tools by development partners

- Country priorities & objectives: 83% & 85%
- Country-owned results indicators: 59% & 61%
- National statistics & data: 50% & 52%
- Joint evaluations: 57% & 59%

Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation

effectivecooperation.org  DevCooperation  DevCooperation  TheGlobalPartnership