

CONCEPT NOTE: SESSION 2

Tackling the Multiple Challenges: Strengthening Health Systems, Food Security and Socio-Economic Recovery

Monday, 12 December 2022, 16:30 – 18:00 CET

Background

In 2022, the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development, acknowledged that “ambition of sustainable development for all is facing perhaps its greatest threat since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda”. The COVID-19 pandemic negatively affected development trends, with millions of people around the world pushed deeper into extreme poverty and a gap between developed and developing countries growing wider. Some regional reports analyzing development trends acknowledged that many countries are not on track to reach the Sustainable Development Goals; the progress is insufficient and, in some instances, decelerated. Yet, there are more challenges ahead. The current [global inflation rate at 7.4%](#) is the highest the world has seen. This has precipitated a sharp rise in the cost of living. [Food price inflation stands at 9.1%](#) which is twice the 2021 rate. Taken together, these increasing costs are crippling developing countries and governments are not adequately prepared to deal with these socio-economic challenges. The [recent fiscal crisis in Sri Lanka](#) is one such outcome of continued fiscal pressure against a tax system unable to meet national development needs. As countries struggle to address multiple crises, experts see new megathreats on the horizon.

While the urgency to respond to the multiple crises is widely acknowledged, effective response is constrained by many hurdles. Development partners (including providers of South-South Cooperation) are under pressure to reduce spending faced with inflationary pressures at home. Multiple challenges may create competition between different priorities and the immediate humanitarian needs may jeopardize longer-term support required to address the root causes. Addressing global challenges will require active cooperation (including, between DAC and non-DAC providers), use of nexus approaches (between multiple humanitarian and development priorities) and ensuring effectiveness of increasingly limited resources. It will also require reconciling the tension between country-focused development cooperation and the pressure to use ODA to address global challenges. Coordinated and country-led response to COVID-19 in many countries was critical in response to the pandemic and its consequences. However, it also showed the challenges of response to the global emergencies with some support provided outside national budgets or insufficiently aligned to the government priorities. With multiple challenges, coordination becomes even more multi-dimensional.

Purpose of the Session

The overarching purpose of this multi-stakeholder dialogue is to discuss the role of development co-operation in addressing global challenges and the relevance of effectiveness principles to inform decisions related to the trade-offs and tensions around investing in Global Public Goods vis-à-vis other immediate programming needs and priorities.

Objectives

- Taking stock of stakeholder experiences in using the principles of effective development cooperation in addressing global challenges, including COVID-19 pandemic and its socio-economic consequences, food security et al.
- Consider lessons learnt from the use of coordinated and country-led strategies addressing multiple crises while localizing the response.
- Discuss how different stakeholders can work together to effectively tackle global and local challenges through cooperation and partnership.

Format

Following a brief introduction of the moderator of the session, the keynote speaker will provide a brief overview of the multiple crises. This will be followed by initial interventions by all high-level panelists (5 minutes). The moderator will then initiate an interactive discussion among the participants, including those from the floor and those following the event online. It will be important to frame the discussions from an effectiveness angle.

Moderator

Mr. Paul Ladd, Executive Director, UN Research Institute

Speakers

The session will include a multi-stakeholder panel of 5-6 people with representatives of all major constituencies of the GPEDC.

Session Contacts

Ms. Andrea Ries, Senior Policy Advisor, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Andrea.Ries@eda.admin.ch

GPEDC Secretariat: Gregory.Depaepe@oecd.org