Development stakeholders increasingly take action to make development co-operation more effective and tackle inherent power imbalances through strengthened local leadership.

- The internationally-agreed principles of development effectiveness (country ownership, a focus on results, inclusive partnerships, and transparency and mutual accountability) advocate that development co-operation contributes to more sustained development progress when it is context-specific and led by local stakeholders, including national and sub-national governments, parliaments, civil society, trade unions and the private sector.
- The urgency to get back on track to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and other global challenges, along with increasing attention to the decolonization of development and tackling power imbalances, have contributed to renewed political momentum on local leadership in development co-operation.
- This momentum is reflected in commitments by development partners such as USAID. It was also strongly demonstrated at the 2022 Effective Development Co-operation Summit through the Geneva Summit Declaration and the Donor Statement on Supporting Locally Led Development.

Global Partnership monitoring evidence points to ongoing challenges in operationalizing an inclusive, fully locally-led approach to development co-operation.

- Results from the 2018 monitoring round of the Global Partnership show that while partner countries have national strategies in place, development partner alignment to partner country priorities and results frameworks has declined. In addition, the monitoring evidence shows that development partners’ and partner country governments’ engagement with non-state development stakeholders is often not occurring in a systematic way.
- These results point to the need to strengthen the power and capacities of both national governments and non-state actors at country level, while using and strengthening country systems. This demands careful consideration of power dynamics between those actors.
Effectiveness Spotlight:
Locally-Led Development Co-operation (cont.)

- Promoting local leadership in all phases of development co-operation programmes and projects – from agenda setting to evaluations – requires **development partners to align their own priorities with those of local actors and change mindsets, policies and practices**. For instance, there is a need for risk mitigation practices that allow local actors to enter into partnerships and access funding.

The **new Global Partnership monitoring exercise** drives evidence-informed dialogue and action for greater local leadership in development co-operation.

- The monitoring exercise generates relevant insights on the degree to which **development co-operation is locally-led**. Concretely, it provides evidence on:
  - the extent to which there is an enabling environment for civil society
  - transparency of information on development co-operation
  - the extent to which the setting of national development priorities were inclusive
  - alignment of development partners’ country strategies with national development plans and priorities

- The monitoring results are then used to inform inclusive country dialogues to discuss where challenges remain to making development co-operation more locally-led. Country-level actors are encouraged to then co-create an action plan with collective accountability to make concrete progress toward stronger partnerships.