



## Key Messages and Recommendations

A Summary of the UN Development Cooperation Forum Side Event on Building Block on Results and Accountability: Strengthening Country Results Framework

*New York, 11 July, 1:15-2:45pm*

This note summarizes the key messages shared by Bangladesh and Benin from their country experiences as well as key messages and recommendations emerging from the discussions during the side event. The event co-hosted by Bangladesh and Switzerland as Co-Chairs of the Building Block on Results and Mutual Accountability (R&MA) attracted UN DCF participants from Bangladesh, Canada, Ireland, Israel, Peru, and development agencies such as the European Network on Debt and Development (eurodad), Development Initiatives, OECD, UNDP and the Asia-Pacific Development Effectiveness Facility (AP-DEF).

This summary note is produced to specifically inform further work by the Co-Chairs and members of the Building Block on R&MA in shaping the proposed Pilot Programme for strengthening country results frameworks – to be shared at the Annual GPEDC workshop, Seoul, November 2014. The note is structured along the four sub-headings including the three modes in which contributions were sought from participants at the side event.

### 1. Strengthening Country Results Frameworks: Bangladesh and Benin Experience

- a. **Government leadership, high-level commitment and permanent dialogue between governments in a whole of government setting and development partners through collective mechanisms** are main drivers of progress made in strengthening mutual accountability using country results frameworks.
- b. **A shift in focus from development inputs to development impact, substantive dialogue between government and development partners** in Bangladesh as well as **sector planning aligned to national plans and development results monitoring discussed in the quarterly Macro-Economic Group meetings** in Benin, are key improvements noted.
- c. **A development results framework that is institutionalized and having a monitoring schedule** that is applied in a timely manner encourages Development Partners willingness to align.
- d. **Quality indicators with baselines and data monitored by technical and thematic groups that promote synergies** in how data is collected and analysed makes a difference.
- e. **A Pilot Programme on strengthening country results framework that facilitates south-south mutual learning augmented by triangular cooperation can help** Bangladesh, Benin and other interested developing countries to enhance internal government coordination, CSO, parliamentarian and private sector participation, donor harmonization with more development partners aligning their programmes including M&E to country results framework, use sector results framework as basis for data gathering; improve quality of indicators including for development cooperation; and strengthen capacity in statistics and budget transparency.

## 2. Critical Reflections on the Country Presentations

- f. **Citizens for both provider and recipient countries of development cooperation are calling for increased transparency and accountability for how development priorities are defined and selected, funds allocated and results measured, monitored and reported.** At the same time they expect to be part of the process. **How strengthened country results frameworks leads to improved access and quality of services delivered is ‘the’ transformational evidence sought.**
- g. **A mutual framework is beneficial for both the developing countries and their development partners.** Alignment will require a willingness on both parties. The greater challenge is how to get development partners with a preference for their own monitoring and reporting mechanisms and procedures, to align.
- h. **Importance of telling a convincing development story supported by sound evidence to make the link between political and technical stakeholders.**
- i. Results based management is not new. **How developing countries can get their development partners to align their development assistance programmes including monitoring and evaluation in ways promoted by the Building Block on R&MA will matter.**
- j. **Interest in the benefits of improved country results frameworks and development partner alignment** in terms of development results and whether having all development partners aligned has been worthwhile.
- k. Proposal that the pilot includes **a condition for each developing country joining the programme is that they also bring on board a development partner that has already aligned their development programme including M&E to the country results framework.**
- l. A number of **questions were posed by participants for the co-hosts of the side event to consider in further shaping the pilot programme:**
  - How useful to the Government is the effort made in strengthening the country results frameworks in order to get development partners to align?
  - What are the key factors for development partners not aligning and how can the pilot programme help recipient countries address them?
  - How can a regional initiative such as the pilot programme get development partners to align to country frameworks?

## 3. Expressed Political Support to the Pilot Programme

- m. Bangladesh, Benin and Madagascar are ready to be part of the Pilot Programme.
- n. Peru<sup>1</sup> confirmed its interest to join the Pilot Programme.

## 4. Suggestions for Budget Sources for the Pilot Programme

- o. Developing countries with existing country projects or programmes on development effectiveness/cooperation to **consider channeling some of the financial resources to the regional Pilot Programme which could then be pooled with the resources of other countries with the same/similar needs and addressed collectively, in a more cost-effective manner.** Benefits include real-time mutual learning and sharing of experiences of what works/does not work.

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<sup>1</sup> Peru participated in the GPEDC global survey for 2013 and is one of 8 countries that included an assessment of Indicator 1: Development cooperation is focused on results that meet developing countries priorities.