

## Post-Busan Building Block on Results & Mutual Accountability (BB R&MA)

### Pilot programme for strengthening Country Results Frameworks (draft 11 September 2014)

Proposed by Building Block Co-Chairs:

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## 1. Introduction

At the High Level Forum in Mexico (15-16 April 2014) the BB R&MA presented a paper together with two suggestions on how to continue with its agenda. One of these focuses on strengthening Country Results Frameworks:

“We reaffirm the need of a robust information system for national level policy decisions. After Busan most partner countries have improved their CRF, a system of formulating and assessing progress and results set out in the National Development Plan (NDP). To increase the linkages between NDP achievements and Development Partners’ support efforts, we encourage the set-up of country level platforms, led by the mostly existing country level aid coordination systems ..... The results information will also feed into regional level aid effectiveness platforms informing the global partnership policy discussions. To facilitate a *country heavy* approach and further improving the effective use of the CRF, will require focussed capacity development support.”

The BB R&MA has prepared a pilot programme aiming to reconcile the international agreement of using partner CRFs as the basis for development programming, with the need from DPs to acquire their own (aggregate) results information. The BB R&MA has been discussing this issue and wishes to be a support to partner countries in how to develop the most appropriate CRFs. In the current situation where both partner countries and DPs are developing results frameworks (one more elaborate than the other) a pilot among a number of countries may find practical ways in finding solutions that serve both provider and recipient needs.

This initiative is in line with the intention from the GP for Effective Development Co-operation to include BB activities. It will contribute to the post-2015 development agenda (Sixth GPEDC Steering Committee meeting, 9 July 2014).

## 2. Focus of the pilot programme

The programme will address – in a practical way – the main issues that surfaced in various workshops among BB members and in a recent side event of the UN-DCF meeting in New York (11 July 2014). In summary, two main areas of concern surfaced in these discussions:

- How to get buy-in from the DPs into the partner’s CRF, what are their drivers and constraints? Each DP has a parliament back home that needs to be satisfied according to their national policies. These policies may or may not coincide with the partner country’s priorities, choice of indicators or development speed.
- At partner country level, how to forge bridges between the political and the policy/technical levels? The PC policy makers may design a valid CRF that is based

on the country's development plan. At the same time, it is the political elite at national and sub-national level that makes the funding decisions.

These topics will be discussed within and among countries and arrive at solutions useful for the wider regional and global development partnership. Answers will be sought on three topics:

- *Developing and monitoring partner country results frameworks*  
CRF development is becoming more inclusive; non-state actors are getting more involved in country priority setting; involvement of parliaments and local/ sub-national government agencies is increasing.  
*Questions for the pilot:* what are good practices in CRF development, what are adequate web-based applications, which capacities are needed and what is the role of the country's political leadership?
- *Aligning DP result frameworks with partner CRFs*  
In Busan, DPs committed to align with country results frameworks as much as possible. In recent years, as a consequence of accountability pressures in DP countries, donor agencies are increasingly developing their own results frameworks, allowing them to aggregate information across partner countries. There is a risk that these results framework will become parallel systems putting more emphasis on donor priorities than partner country priorities.  
*Questions for the pilot:* How can the DP results frameworks be aligned and made compatible with country results frameworks? How can partner countries and DPs be held mutually accountable for development results?
- *Cross-country comparisons for mutual learning and inclusion in global policy making.*  
The BB R&MA has expressed the need to organise mutual learning on the contents and process of the CRF, including which indicators to select. These comparisons are more practical if they take place at regional level. Existing regional support structures – like the UN structure, the Regional Platforms for Development Effectiveness or the "Managing for Development Results –Communities of Practise" – can facilitate the cross-country exchanges.  
*Questions for the pilot:* To what extent is mutual learning at regional level practical and useful? What should be the topics (National results frameworks, Sector results frameworks, Monitoring practices, Indicator development, Accountability mechanisms for results, DP alignment, Online results monitoring through aid information management systems, etc.)? How to link the regional discussions with the Global post-2015 agenda?

The main results of the pilot will be contributions to an improved functioning of the results agenda. More specifically:

- Good practice models on capacity development for strengthening country results frameworks
- Practical recommendations on how to integrate accountability for results at the country level into the post-2015 development agenda.

### 3. Pilot programme participants

The pilot starts at the partner country level. Each PC will invite one or two DPs to join the discussions to ensure operationally feasible solutions. Until now the following partner countries have accepted the invitation to join, more are being approached.

Latin America:  
Peru

Africa  
Benin  
Madagascar

Asia:  
Bangladesh

Funding agencies for the pilot:  
Switzerland (this list needs to be expanded)

#### 4. Methodology

The overall aim of the pilot programme is to find ways how to improve the partner country's results framework and to ensure optimum alignment with the needs of development partners. In working towards this aim, the programme will follow a learning approach emphasising:

- The specific context of each participating country
- Regional experience exchange
- Applicability of lessons learned, also by non-pilot countries
- The importance of donor-partner country relationships

The methodology will consist of the following elements:

Each pilot country will form a '*CRF task force*' to develop its country programme for improving the CRF: its priority questions (see above) and the core activities to address these questions. This task force will ideally comprise of technical/policy and political staff already involved in the national aid architecture. Representatives of one or two DPs will supplement this group; this will likely require DP-HQ approval. The joint in-country activity schedules will be the basis for this pilot programme. Each task force will appoint a coordinator to liaise with the other pilot countries.

Per region (Africa, Asia and Latin-America) two or three partner countries will participate. The country task forces will prepare how they can assist in each other's programme, based on the questions raised by each country. They will have quarterly face-to-face meetings in which relevant country stakeholders will participate. These inter-country exchanges are specifically important to widen the discussions on:

- Bridging the gap between the technical/policy and political levels in creating an effective CRF.
- Resolving PC-DP issues in working with a country CRF, e.g. what are incentives for DPs to align to the CRF
- Identifying the main capacity development needs; institutional set-up, linkages between levels, organisational qualities

The two-three countries per region will ensure that linkages with a recognised regional agency will be established. The regional agency (could be UN agency, MfDR CoP or otherwise) will facilitate the discussions between pilot countries and other countries in the region. Preferably this will be done via the regular regional events and meetings. A part-time regional moderator, attached to the selected regional organisation, will be needed.

For communication among the regions and with the global level, this pilot programme is designed to be a 'light' exercise, trying to use as little staff time as possible. For this

reason, the already existing regional and global coordination and discussion platforms /meetings will be used (UN, GP, others). This will limit the time that political and technical staff will spend on (international) coordination; *not another meeting structure*.

The regional and global meetings will be used in an iterative way: experiences presented in one meeting can immediately feed into improved practices of those (pilot-) countries wishing to incorporate these lessons learned. Special monitoring requirements for the pilot will be needed to capture all initiatives and experiences.

The pilot programme will ensure that synergy will be sought with similar initiatives in the area of results frameworks, like the survey on Busan Indicaor 1, the Collaborative Partner-Donor evaluation initiative, the MfDR Communities of Practice, etc. These initiatives may bring valuable information for improving the pilot programme and at the same time this pilot programme may provide valuable information to the other initiatives.

The programme intends to run for two years. During this period the annual GP meetings will be used to present progress on the two pilot outputs:

- Effective capacity development programmes to support CRF improvement and mutual accountability for results
- Suggestions for global policy making

## 5. Budget items

The programme looks for synergy, also in costs. Costs can be minimised if some of the cross-country and most of the regional discussions can take place in meetings that are planned anyway and already budgeted for. If needed, the pilot participants may remain one or two days after the meeting. Only if additional meetings are to be organised or additional staff need to attend, then a special budget would be required. How much budget will be saved in this way is difficult to predict at this moment in time.

Budget items	€
Organisation of in-country meetings and events	
Organisation of country exchange events per region	
Regional facilitation	
Regional meetings	
Taking part in global meetings	
Overall pilot coordination	
Miscellaneous	