

El Salvador

Leadership in the establishment of a national integrated system of development cooperation

Disclaimer The present document contains some brief preliminary inputs related to the Salvadorian experience on the establishment of a national integrated system of development cooperation within the framework of the establishment of the Vice-Ministry of Development Cooperation. A formal and broader systematization process is being carried out to document such experience, which will provide a systematization document that will replace the present document. Expected publication date: early September 2013.

Context

In 2009, the Vice-Ministry of Development Cooperation was established and since then, there has been a transformation of the management of development cooperation in response to the new global development cooperation architecture. This transformation fosters an inclusive development cooperation approach through dialogue between the government, civil society and development partners in El Salvador.

Objective

The development cooperation policy of El Salvador is now more focused on national priorities while promoting alignment to, and ownership of, national development plans (particularly the National Development Plan 2009-2014). The objectives are to improve the current framework of dialogue between government and development cooperation partners and to foster transparency and information systematization.

Approach

Key approaches which reflect progress in the fulfillment of the Paris Principles and further international commitments on aid effectiveness are:

- Restructuring of the institutional framework for the management of development cooperation - Shift from a Directorate General of External Cooperation structured with a geographic approach towards a Directorate General of Development Cooperation structured by development cooperation sectors and modalities (South-South Cooperation, North-South Cooperation, Multilateral and Regional Cooperation, Decentralized and Non-official development cooperation).
- Leadership of the Salvadorian government to implement a more horizontal dialogue with development cooperation partners, shifting from the traditional donor-recipient relationship towards a *Partners for Development* schema. Crucial to this process are the:
 - a. Reactivation of the main inter-institutional mechanism in charge of development cooperation, integrated by the Presidency's Technical Secretariat, the Vice-Ministry of Development Cooperation and the Ministry of Finance.
 - b. Establishment of a permanent dialogue space between the government and donors/development partners for the fulfillment of the Aid Effectiveness principles.
 - c. Several coordination spaces have been developed such as: a group of donors/development partners in the fiscal area bringing together the Vice-Ministry of Development Cooperation,



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Ministry of Finance and the donor community, and also in the area of universal social protection where the Vice-Ministry of Development Cooperation facilitates the coordination between a group of donors/development partners and the Ministries of States that are involved in the thematic.

- Commitments to a National Aid Effectiveness Agenda: Roadmap for greater effectiveness and impact of development cooperation -Promotion of the *National Aid Effectiveness Agenda* among all national development stakeholders, which led to the preparation of the document “Commitments to a *National Aid Effectiveness Agenda*” endorsed by 83 national entities including government institutions, donors and development cooperation partners, national and international NGOs. Development of the National Plan of Development Cooperation Effectiveness - Based on the results from the Paris Declaration Monitoring Survey in El Salvador, the National Plan of Development Cooperation Effectiveness was launched at the end 2012. The plan includes the principles and indicators established by the Busan GPEDC and others established in the Paris declaration, which have been adjusted to the national context of El Salvador.
- Transparency and Accountability: through several mechanisms such as annual reports and the Development Cooperation Information System of El Salvador (SICDES) with the aim of positioning institutional activities and management of aid.

Results achieved so far



- The results of the management and transparency of cooperation in the 2009-2012 period, allowed reaching a record number of US\$1,193.34 million in committed cooperation that are destined in favor of the national priorities. The 43.6% of that total, will be focused in the area of Equity, Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction equivalent to US\$520.30 million.
- The [Catalogue of South / South Cooperation of El Salvador](#), which promote the South-South technical cooperation from El Salvador, positioning our country

in a dual role as offerer / receiver actor.

- Implementation of the program "Delivering as One", in order to coordinate and work more coherently and effectively in the cooperation provided by the United Nations in El Salvador, as part of the Aid Effectiveness.
- The Vice-Ministry of Development Cooperation has endorsed a work plan aimed at facilitating the articulation and coordination with civil society on issues of effective development cooperation. The implementation of this effort includes the establishment of a regular dialogue space between the Vice – Ministry of Development Cooperation, and two platforms of a significant number of national and international NGOs that work on development issues in El Salvador.
- Launched in 2010, the Development Cooperation Information System of El Salvador (SICDES) is a platform that facilitates the registration and dissemination of information related to projects executed

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in El Salvador through development financing. The SICDES constitutes of a strategic tool contributing to development cooperation effectiveness as it provides development cooperation stakeholders in El Salvador with inputs to improve coordination and articulation across sectors and territories reducing fragmentation and duplication of efforts. The system also contributes to the construction of a government culture towards people, and transparency as it provides citizens and stakeholders with public access to information on the development cooperation flows received and provided by El Salvador.

- The Salvadorian government is currently propelling the participatory elaboration of a national decentralized cooperation strategy. This strategy is aimed at promoting the articulation of efforts in development cooperation between the national and local governments, based on the development of capacities at the local level, advisory and political support which will reinforce the municipal autonomy. This initiative is being implemented with support from UNDP through technical assistance of the ART Program (Articulation of Territorial and Thematic Networks for Human Development).
- Creation of a Climate Change Financial Management Department within the Directorate General of Development Cooperation and the establishment of an inter-sectoral Committee for Climate Change financing.

Success factors/value addition to the implementation of Busan

- Leadership of the Salvadorian government in the search for a more horizontal dialogue with development cooperation partners, shifting from the traditional donor-recipient relationship towards a *Partners for Development* schema.
- A participative process to promote ownership of the *National Aid Effectiveness Agenda, Roadmap for greater effectiveness and impact of development cooperation* among all national development stakeholders.
- Change of focus from *Aid effectiveness* to *Development effectiveness*, where South-South Cooperation (and Triangular) are an additional contribution to the financial cooperation, bringing appropriate solutions to specific contexts and aligned to the necessities of the partner country.

Further information

<http://cooperacion.rree.gob.sv/portal/main.php>

<http://www.rree.gob.sv/>

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