



Executive summary

Main changes since Busan Forum: impact / effects / products

Organization: Implementation of the *Busan Partnership Framework* was guided by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan's (GRSS) signing of the *New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States* at the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Busan, South Korea – 2011). The Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MoFEP), as per its mandate, continues to lead efforts in strengthening existing frameworks for dialogue between the Government, Development Partners (DPs), and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

Appropriation: The Government revised its *Aid Strategy* in November 2011, which outlined stronger and more effective principles intended to better guide its engagement with DPs and CSOs. Furthermore, it began the process of developing a *New Deal Compact for South Sudan* in order to define an effective framework for GRSS-DP engagement within the context of a country in fragility. The primary objective of this *Compact* is to help guide South Sudan out of fragility.

Results: An extensively inclusive consultation process was launched in August 2012 to develop a *New Deal Compact for South Sudan*. Initially, a *Fragility Assessment* was conducted to better understand the root causes of fragility in South Sudan. Unfortunately, the unforeseen political crisis in December 2013 prematurely ended the conclusion of the *New Deal Compact* process, which has since been suspended until all sides agree that the environment is conducive. Without political stability and the absence of a *New Deal Compact*, the Government faces challenges in having effective dialogue with DPs in addressing humanitarian and development-related engagement. Several DPs have unilaterally decided to re-channel assistance that was initially allocated for development-related activities, to address the humanitarian crisis. This disrupted much of the previous development-related discourse.

Inclusiveness: Gains made before the December 2013 crisis have been lost, and the political impasse that ensued presents a challenge for bringing back an inclusive development coordination mechanism. However, with hopes of a peace agreement in the not-too-distant future, there is growing optimism amongst many DPs that a sense of normalcy will allow a resumption of effective Government-DP dialogue.

Transparency and accountability: The launch of an Aid Management Platform (AMP) for South Sudan, boosted transparency and accountability. DPs were, for the most part, receptive and cooperative in using the AMP to report on their activities in support of the Government, and those supporting the people of South Sudan. Efforts are now under way to upgrade the AMP to better facilitate reporting for DPs, and capture data on Aid Effectiveness indicators from both the Government and DPs. This will facilitate the Government's monitoring of progress in the implementation of the *Global Partnership* agenda, as contextualized in the *Aid Strategy*. The Government hopes to have initial data for all bilateral DPs, and multilateral agencies in the South Sudan AMP by the end of 2014. Part of the upgrade work being currently undertaken is the development of an interface between the AMP and IATI DataStore, to ensure automatic data exchange between DP databases and the South Sudan AMP.

Next steps: Development Effectiveness Agenda

- Revive the dialogue between Government and DPs with a view to re-instate the coordination fora for effective development cooperation;

- Re-start the process of developing the *New Deal Compact*
- Conclude the upgrade of the South Sudan AMP, and provide the requisite trainings for the DP Focal Points, the primary data providers in the AMP.
- Resume the productions of *Donor Book* and/or reports on status of development cooperation/effectiveness in South Sudan, with analysis drawn from data provided in the AMP.
- Conduct national surveys to monitor the progresses in the implementation of the *Global Partnership*.
- Some efforts to resume designing of innovative instruments of aid delivery (e.g. Multi-Donor Trust Funds).

Recommendations: for other countries and support to your country

The recommendations of South Sudan are the following:

At national level:

- Continue to seek support to strengthen the functions of the Government in implementing the development cooperation/effectiveness agenda.
- Have clear guidelines or Terms of Reference (agreed upon by both Government and DPs) that define the functioning of the different coordination fora.
- Look for solutions / experiences in other countries (South – South and triangular cooperation)
- Engage more with other relevant initiatives (gender mainstreaming in development planning, private sector development, public financial management, etc.).

At international level:

- Joint support team (OECD – UNDP) has to relate problems of some countries with solutions of others, and facilitate the exchanges (including the funding of missions).
- Joint support provides access to a “resource bank” on the best practices or country experiences in implementing various initiatives (e.g. New Deal implementation, national aid policies, etc.).
- Relevant international events have to be planned and organized well in advance in order to ensure that there will be useful participation from relevant stakeholders.
- Create better-coordinated space for interactions between international initiatives (IATI, Building Blocks, etc.) and avoid duplications (UNDCF is legitimate but not necessary).

Key experiences to share:

- Transparency: Donor Books
- New Deal implementation: Fragility Assessment
- New modalities: Multi-Donor Trust Funds (MDTFs) in fragile situations