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# UNDP'S SUPPORT TO MORE EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL

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The international development landscape is rapidly changing. While Official Development Assistance remains an important source of development funding, development finance flows are increasingly diverse and multi-directional. At the country level, this has resulted in the presence of an increased number of partners and modalities of development co-operation. Consequently, there is a shift in partnerships on the ground from that of a provider-recipient relationship to a multi-stakeholder development relationship that continues to diversify and evolve.

In this context, country leadership is essential to achieving the global effectiveness agenda and provides the foundation for the work of the [Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation](#). Internationally-agreed effectiveness principles and commitments provide the basis for strengthened multi-stakeholder partnerships to implement the SDGs. However, country needs vary depending on context, mix of development partners and resource outlook. Therefore, data and evidence, as well as focus on development co-operation policies and instruments, must be grounded in countries' needs and perspectives with the overall aim to support country leadership in managing complex partnership architectures and resources.

To this end, scoping studies are a commonly used method to assess a country's needs and prioritise actions. As the international development partner with the strongest on-the-ground presence, UNDP is often called upon to support these actions.

With financial contribution from the EU, UNDP supported scoping of opportunities and challenges and contributed to the preparation of medium-term capacity building and institutional strengthening programs related to effective development co-operation in Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia and Myanmar.

In **Côte d'Ivoire**, the Government recently adopted a new National Development Plan and has committed itself to the majority of international and regional initiatives in the area of development finance and effectiveness. However, the lack of an aid management framework and effective system for dialogue and implementation are weakening the impact of aid resources.

Using the financial contribution provided by the EU, a joint mission between UNDP's Regional Service Centre for Africa (RSCA) and the Pôle Dakar travelled to Abidjan to meet with government officials, parliamentarians, and representatives of civil society, the private sector and development organisations. The goal of these meetings was to assess country planning and monitoring systems and to develop recommendations for improvement. Recommendations included the creation of a system to co-ordinate interventions between government institutions and development partners, aligned to the National Development Plan and the creation of a South-South Co-operation Unit within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The mission also made a presentation on Development Finance Assessments (DFAs). A DFA is a diagnostic tool that facilitates review of a country's policy and institutional framework, assesses opportunities and constraints in mobilising development finance and aligns and integrates financial flows within the development planning processes and national budgeting. A key outcome of the EU-funded mission to Côte d'Ivoire was the development of a DFA concept note which is currently being taken forward by the government.

In **the Gambia**, which already has an Aid Policy that provides the institutional, regulatory, operational and accountability framework for sourcing and managing external aid resources, as well as an Aid Coordination Department within the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs.



UNDP's RSCA provided support as the Gambia prepared a DFA concept note and then Terms of Reference for a national consultant who then led the assessment. The assessment began with a series of meetings and technical discussions with key stakeholders in the country, after which the consultant compiled findings in a draft DFA Report. The draft is now with stakeholders for review. Once finalized, a validation meeting will be scheduled, at which point the report will be approved and an action plan on development finance, based on the recommendations of the assessment, will be designed.

In **Myanmar**, Advisory support and technical guidance was provided on the Global Partnership monitoring framework at a workshop held in Yangon. Specifically, the workshop provided an opportunity to highlight the benefits of participating in global monitoring efforts and to mobilize interest in the process from a broader range of stakeholders.

Key outcomes of the workshop included strengthened country ownership of effective development cooperation principles, strengthened country resolve to align development cooperation with national development priorities and to ground monitoring in existing country systems, a recognition of the value of enhancing inclusive partnerships involving all national stakeholders, as demonstrated by the participation of civil society and private sector stakeholders, and the recognition of the value of South-South exchanges.

UNDP through its Bangkok regional hub provided additional catalytic support to on-going work carried out by the UNDP country office, working closely with the Foreign Economic Relations in the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development.