

THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP MONITORING FRAMEWORK FOR 2030

CONCEPT NOTE

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Rationale

The SDGs and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda recognize the **Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation** (henceforth, the Global Partnership, or GPEDC) as a solid foundation to drive more effective development co-operation. Evidence and data from its country-level monitoring framework play an essential role to uphold accountability and inform policy dialogue on effective development co-operation. In the [renewed mandate](#) of the Global Partnership, the international development community reaffirmed that the existing effectiveness principles remain a valid accountability framework for measuring the progress of development stakeholders in improving the effectiveness of their development co-operation. In the Nairobi Outcome document, the international development community also stressed the need to “update the existing monitoring framework to reflect the challenges of the 2030 Agenda, including the pledge to leave no-one behind”.

As such, there is a need to re-examine how to measure the effectiveness of development co-operation in the context of the three interrelated pillars of the 2030 Agenda: the economic, social and environmental dimensions. A challenge is to move beyond the measurement of effectiveness against financial flows and effectiveness principles, to generate evidence on how effective development co-operation is in supporting countries’ efforts to deliver results for the people and the planet. To meet expectations under the 2030 Agenda, the Global Partnership must deliver evidence and data that address the needs of countries in better monitoring the effectiveness of their development efforts. Against this background, the GPEDC’s Steering Committee at its [7th](#), [10th](#) and [13th](#) meetings delineated an inclusive strategy to refine the monitoring framework. This refinement will follow a three-track approach:

- i. Strengthen the quality and usefulness of the current indicator framework;
- ii. Adapt the scope of the monitoring framework to reflect 2030 Agenda effectiveness issues; and
- iii. Streamline the country-level monitoring process to maximise its usefulness and minimise transactions costs for stakeholders.

The refining of the Global Partnership’s monitoring framework should be guided by the [Nairobi Outcome document](#), the [technical advice](#) of the Monitoring Advisory Group and the OECD-UNDP Joint Support Team, the [lessons learned](#) in the 2016 monitoring round, and the [feedback from participating countries](#).

Track 1: Strengthen the quality and usefulness of the current GPEDC indicators

The objective under this track is to capitalize on the lessons learned from the previous monitoring rounds and the recommendations of the Global Partnership’s Monitoring Advisory Group to strengthen the current data and evidence on the effectiveness of development co-operation. Actions will aim at:

- i. Refining existing indicators to address information gaps;
- ii. Reinforcing the methodologies, guidance and process for data collection at country-level;
- iii. Seeking complementary sources of evidence where needed; and
- iv. Complementing the data with qualitative information to facilitate interpretation of and action on the results at country level.

Under the technical management of the OECD-UNDP Joint Support Team, six reference groups have been established to help strengthen the existing indicators. The reference groups are composed by experts in the effectiveness areas under measurement. These reference groups will help conduct the review of the ten-

indicator framework, in close consultation with all relevant Global Partnership stakeholders in a clustered approach to ensure synergies between related topics¹. Each group has developed a timeframe which includes country piloting, public consultation on the proposed refinements and final endorsement by the Steering Committee ahead of the launch of the 2018 monitoring round, expected for May 2018.

Expected outcome: The updating of existing indicators will respond to the call to the Global Partnership to improve country-level data and evidence to track progress in meeting effectiveness principles. The revised indicators will be rolled out in the 2018 global monitoring round. The monitoring will continue to be country-led, with regional and global-level support, based on updated indicators to measure stakeholders' performance. The table below provides an overview of the improvements that are planned on the current indicators.

Political momentum: The data and evidence generated through the updated framework will be presented at the UN-led follow-up and review of the SDGs at the 2019 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The aim is to position the Global Partnership as a recognised source of data, evidence and analysis on the effectiveness of development co-operation. Its evidence will inform and influence global policy dialogue on effective development co-operation.

Global Partnership monitoring indicators: Overview of proposed improvements

Effectiveness indicators	Current shortcomings	Proposed improvements
PRINCIPLE 1 – FOCUS ON DEVELOPMENT RESULTS		
Governments have set national results framework(s) to define their development priorities and results (1b)	Indicator only assesses existence of national result framework(s)	Assess the quality of national result framework(s)
Development partners use those national results frameworks to align, design and monitor the results of their development co-operation activities (1a)	Assessment of alignment and use of country results frameworks only at <i>project level</i>	Assess partners' alignment at <i>country strategy level</i>
PRINCIPLE 2 – COUNTRY OWNERSHIP OF DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION		
Governments strengthen their public financial management and procurement systems (9a)	Current indicator (World Bank CPIA-13) offers limited country coverage and no disaggregated information	Use selected PEFA indicators to provide an objective, recognised measure of quality of country systems
Development partners use countries' own public financial management systems to implement their co-operation programmes with partner governments (9b)	Reporting quality can improve (interpretation, reporting gaps); No information about actual donor policy	Improve guidance and validation process; Include a qualitative question about donor policy
Development co-operation is predictable (annual and medium term predictability) (5)	No information about donor policy driving predictability, thus no actionable findings	Include a qualitative question about donor practice
Aid is untied (10)	Current focus on <i>formal</i> tied aid (i.e. explicit restrictions)	Complement data with <i>de facto</i> tied aid levels

¹ The reference groups are carrying out the work via online exchanges, conference calls and, where possible, face-to-face meetings. The six groups have been clustered around specific effectiveness themes: Results and mutual accountability (indicators 1, 7); Civil Society's enabling environment and development effectiveness (indicator 2); Private sector engagement (indicator 3); Transparency and predictability (indicators 4a/b, 5a/b, 6); Public financial management (indicators 9a/b and 10) and Gender (indicator 8).

PRINCIPLE 3 – INCLUSIVE PARTNERSHIPS FOR EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT		
Civil society organisations operate within an environment that maximises their engagement in and contribution to development (2)	Capacity constraints for good multi-stakeholder dialogue; Complex questionnaire	Strengthen the multi-stakeholder dialogue process; Streamline the questionnaire
Quality public-private dialogue promotes private sector engagement (PSE) and its contribution to development (3)	Current questionnaire does not provide enough information on related challenges	Refine the questionnaire to address critical issues for PSE through development co-operation
PRINCIPLE 4 - TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT		
Transparent information on development co-operation is publicly available (4)	Difficult interpretation of transparency assessments; Only global transparency	Simplify reporting; Assess country level transparency
Development co-operation is included in budgets subjected to parliamentary oversight (6)	No assessment of quality of parliamentary oversight; Reporting inconsistencies	Use secondary data to assess the quality of parliamentary oversight (secondary data); Improve reporting guidance
Governments have systems to track public expenditure for gender equality and women's empowerment (8)	Criteria do not reflect practice; Weaknesses in questionnaire	Strengthen the criteria; Refine questionnaire and guidance
Mutual accountability among development partners is strengthened through inclusive and transparent reviews at country level (7)	Outdated mutual accountability structures (traditional bilateral); No consideration of SDGs	Move from mutual to collective accountability at country level (new actors); Reflect efforts towards SDGs

Note: A detailed assessment for each indicator can be found in [Technical Note 1](#).

Track 2: Adapt Global Partnership monitoring to the 2030 Agenda challenges

The objective is to enhance the Global Partnership's monitoring with evidence on the effectiveness of development co-operation to help countries address major systemic issues that are critical for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, such as climate change, gender equality, conflict and fragility. To this end, through 2018-19, the Global Partnership aims to develop and pilot an applied methodology to assess the effectiveness of development co-operation in systemic issues and emerging areas. Tracking the effectiveness of development co-operation in relation to systemic issues and beyond traditional Official Development Assistance (ODA) will mean new challenges for the Global Partnership. The adaptation of the monitoring framework to stay *relevant* and *useful* for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda will be based on a prioritisation of issues that will be looked into. Such a prioritisation is critical to develop rigorous methodological and consensual approaches on how to monitor effectiveness in these new areas.

It is proposed that the initial focus will be on:

- *Adapting and mitigating climate change:* Climate change has emerged as the most significant environmental issue in the international development agenda. Its impacts threaten to undo decades of development progress as well as amplify biodiversity loss and desertification. While there is a simple metric to assess effectiveness in mitigation (i.e. tons of CO₂ reduced or avoided), the complexity in adaptation to climate change poses challenges for developing a set of common indicators to track effectiveness in this area. The related policy community is looking at how to measure development co-operation effectiveness and impact on activities related to climate change adaptation. Findings from this work could inform the broader proposal on how to measure effectiveness in the context of the 2030 Agenda that the Global Partnership will develop to inform the 2019 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).

- *Achieving gender equality*: Investing in gender equality and women’s empowerment is one of the most effective paths to sustainable development and peace. Currently, the monitoring framework reflects countries’ efforts to establish systems to track and make public resource allocations for gender equality and women’s empowerment. It is proposed to complement the current measure with in-depth analysis on countries’ efforts to introduce gender-responsive public financial management, an assessment of the effectiveness of development co-operation efforts to empower women economically, and an analysis of the interlinkages between gender, conflict and fragility. These complementary analyses, with contributions from UNWOMEN and OECD DAC GenderNet for different elements, will help inform the monitoring report.
- *Transitioning from fragile and conflict-afflicted situations to resilience*: Some two thirds of the world’s extreme poor live in situations of fragility and are affected by violence, conflict, and population displacement. Substantial and effective support is critical to sustaining peace and bolstering countries’ resilience to fragility in its many forms, thereby addressing an important dimension of the “leaving no one behind” commitment. Over 60 percent of ODA goes to fragile and conflict-afflicted countries, but it is unevenly distributed and the global monitoring shows that progress on effectiveness has been particularly slow in those countries. The combined efforts of the *g7+*, the *International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding*, and the *Global Partnership* will contribute to develop a robust, visible and country led approach to monitoring effectiveness in fragile and conflict-afflicted countries. A module will be developed to more explicitly identify and monitor specific effectiveness issues affecting those particular contexts.

As a second set of priorities, this track will look at improving the relevance of the current set of indicators to:

- *Reflect approaches to assess the effectiveness of South-South co-operation*: Southern partners and networks are currently exploring ways to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of their South-South partnerships², in line with their established principles. The objective for the next round will be to engage on a specialised policy dialogue with the relevant Southern communities, to explore how to reflect effectiveness dimensions of South-South co-operation – as identified by Southern providers, partner countries and other stakeholders.
- *Measure the effectiveness of private sector engagement mobilised through development co-operation*: There is ongoing work under the Global Partnership related to private sector engagement that aims to produce guidance in this area. This, in turn, could inform in the future the development of effectiveness indicator(s) in this area.
- *Measure additional forms of development finance*: In 2018, non-concessional official development co-operation (e.g. IBRD lending to MICs) will be monitored against the four effectiveness principles, with expansion to other forms of co-operation in subsequent years.

In terms of process, to deliver effectively and inclusively on the above-described elements, the Joint Support Team will capitalize the expertise and networks from the OECD and UNDP. The Secretariat will adopt a sequenced approach, to maximise synergies with ongoing work carried out by these organisations and policy communities, and benefit from their expertise and reach. Reliable complementary sources of data will be identified to inform this work. New areas of monitoring will start to be integrated in the upcoming monitoring round, while other areas requiring further work will be piloted for integration in subsequent rounds.

Expected outcome: Building on the monitoring process, and tapping into the data generated in partnership with existing initiatives and networks, the Global Partnership will table a proposal to measure the effectiveness of development co-operation in addressing critical 2030 Agenda challenges. This will offer new evidence to measure development co-operation’s contribution to address critical development challenges,

² Among different proposals being tabled and discussed at the moment, the Network of Southern Think-tanks (NEST) is currently consulting and testing an indicator framework that reflects agreed principles for effective South-South co-operation. See NEST (2017), [A Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for South-South Co-operation](#). Johannesburg: Network of Southern Think-tanks.

identify areas in need of more effective assistance, and encourage policy dialogue, knowledge-sharing and reciprocal learning to enhance development impact.

Political momentum: The 2019 HLPF will present an opportunity to share the enhanced Global Partnership Monitoring Framework with the international development community. It will add to the Global Partnership's work on assessing the progress of development co-operation stakeholders towards more effective development co-operation to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

Track 3. Make the country-level monitoring process more effective, inclusive and action-oriented

The objective under track 3 is to simplify and facilitate the participation of Global Partnership stakeholders, while increasing the value added of country level engagement and action resulting from the process. Actions will aim at:

- **Increasing the demand for the monitoring process**, making explicit the benefits and value added of the exercise for each stakeholder, and **connecting** the Global Partnership monitoring to SDG follow-up and review processes at country level more explicitly.
- **Strengthening the country-led approach** by providing additional guiding materials to better *ground the monitoring process in national systems* and processes; providing *detailed, yet user-friendly technical guidance*, in-person training opportunities and video tutorials³, and streamlining data gathering wherever possible. This also includes **customising the country monitoring approach and support** to account for countries' circumstances and capacities.
- **Enhancing development partners' engagement at HQ and country levels**, with better communications and guidance, targeted training, and a strengthened role for development partners at country level – who can support the national coordinator in the multi-stakeholder dialogue, data collection and validation.
- **Bringing together complementary analysis into the monitoring report** to deepen the assessment of the monitoring results – an effort to be taken forth proactively by Global Partnership stakeholders and platforms.
- **Improving support for use of findings**, with guidance and materials on how to analyse, communicate and use the monitoring findings at country and agency levels, complemented with on-demand support to targeted events.

Expected Outcome: Participating countries and other stakeholders will be better enabled to carry out effective national multi-stakeholder monitoring processes and take action on the results. Thanks to the streamlined process and support provided, the monitoring will produce more reliable, useful and comprehensive data.

Political Momentum: Governments and national stakeholders will benefit from the robust evidence produced by a strengthened country-level monitoring process. This will help inform their Voluntary National Reviews for SDG follow-up and review, and their participation in the 2019 High-Level Political Forum.

Proposed review process: Stakeholder engagement and role of the Steering Committee

The JST proposes to sequence the **review process** as follows:

May 2017 – February 2018: Indicator updating and development.

The JST will draw on technical assistance in the form of informal expert groups related to the thematic areas to develop indicator proposals, paired with iterative consultations with relevant stakeholders and light country-level testing. A dedicated section in the Global Partnership website will facilitate ongoing stakeholder feedback and transparency.

³ Upon availability, communications, guidance, questionnaires and support materials will be provided in other local languages besides English, French, and Spanish, in order to facilitate broad multi-stakeholder engagement (including non-state actors).

March 2018: Open, broad consultation on the proposed updated framework and process.

April 2018: Steering Committee consideration and endorsement.

May 2018-December 2018: Third Monitoring Round

July 2019: High-Level Political Forum – Presentation of results of the monitoring round and results of new monitoring areas being piloted.

Parallel work and pilots on areas that are premature to incorporate in the 2018 monitoring round (particularly new areas described in “track 2”) will continue through 2018 and 2019. These revisions and new indicators will be incorporated in subsequent monitoring exercises.

The **Steering Committee** will be actively engaged in the refinement process. First, Steering Committee members that are active in the four Working Groups will be contributing to the stock-taking and analysis which will inform the revision of the monitoring framework throughout the different analytical activities, events and country pilots that have been planned. Second, Steering Committee members will be invited to contribute with substantive feedback during the broad consultation processes, to take place in the first quarter of 2018. Finally, the Steering Committee, as the main oversight and decision-making body of the Global Partnership, is expected to review and endorse the final refined framework proposal.

Figure. Timeframe for the refinement of the Monitoring Framework



This timeframe will allow for a thorough and inclusive review of the monitoring framework, and will allow feeding the monitoring findings into the main UN reporting processes – in particular the 2019 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

For further details, please consult the following background documents:

- Technical Note 0. [Detailed concept note: Refining the Global Partnership Monitoring Framework for 2030](#)
- Technical Note 1. [Directions to refine the current indicators](#)
- Technical Note 2. [2016 Monitoring Round: Engagement and comprehensiveness of reported information](#)
- Technical Note 3. [2016 Monitoring Round: Lessons learned](#)
- Technical Note 4. [2016 Monitoring Round: Exit Survey - Partner countries' feedback](#)
- Technical Note 5. [Review of the Monitoring Framework: proposed timeline, activities, and working arrangements](#)