

Background Paper and Synthesis of Proposals on Strengthening Global Partnership Initiative Engagement



Prepared by the Global Partnership Working Group on Knowledge-Sharing for Increased Development Effectiveness

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1. Background

Global Partnership Initiatives (GPIs) are voluntary initiatives led by different types of development actors (e.g. national governments, international organisations, CSOs, the private sector, etc.) under the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC) umbrella. As the ‘think tanks’ of the Global Partnership, GPIs bring together vibrant, substantive communities on issues either closely linked to the GPEDC or contributing in specific areas to development effectiveness. The 29 current GPIs are diverse, working on areas from results and accountability to climate finance. In many cases, GPIs also act as engines for implementation, helping to directly operationalise the development effectiveness principles and commitments agreed through the [Busan Partnership Agreement \(2011\)](#), the [Mexico High Level Meeting Communiqué \(2014\)](#) and the [Nairobi Outcome Document \(2016\)](#).

GPIs directly contribute to two of the Global Partnership’s core functions: they offer catalytic support to implementation of the Busan commitments at the country level, and they are a mechanism for exchanging knowledge and lessons learned on implementation of the development effectiveness principles. As such, GPIs contribute to the Global Partnership’s [vision](#) by directly implementing commitments and by generating evidence, policy-relevant lessons and innovative solutions that can feed mutual accountability and learning into the Global Partnership’s core DNA.

Both prior to and post the [Second High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership](#), GPEDC stakeholders called for better integration of GPIs into the institutional mechanisms of the Global Partnership in order to support implementation of the Busan principles at the country level and greater knowledge-sharing around development effectiveness. As such, in its [13th](#) and [14th](#) meetings (2017, Washington and Dhaka respectively), the Steering Committee underscored the need to increase the Global Partnership’s systematic engagement with GPIs.



2. Purpose

This short paper has been prepared by the Working Group on Knowledge-Sharing for Increased Development Effectiveness. It attempts to provide a foundation for the Steering Committee and Co-Chairs’ further consideration on how to capitalise on GPIs’ comparative advantages in sharing knowledge and supporting implementation of development effectiveness principles at the country

level; to identify linkages between the GPIs and the ongoing work to operationalise [the 2017-2018 programme of work](#); and to create more space for GPIs in the institutional architecture of the Global Partnership. These proposals should be further considered, refined and prioritised by the Co-Chairs and Steering Committee in accordance with relevant capacity and / or resource constraints.

Proposals presented in section four of this paper on how to better make use of the Global Partnership Initiatives are grouped around the following themes:

- Clarifying the role of GPIs in reference to the Global Partnership.
- Encouraging GPIs to practically support implementation of the [2017-2018 work programme](#), ensuring that GPIs inform the work of the Global Partnership as a whole.
- Encouraging GPIs to organise events and ensure cross-fertilisation of their work.
- Improving communication and the sharing of knowledge between GPIs and the wider Global Partnership community.

3. Recommendations from GPIs

The following are recommendations and insights from GPIs on strengthening their own engagement with the GPEDC, which emerged as a result of the [GPI Acceleration Workshop](#) held in Barcelona in June, 2016. Representatives from 27 GPIs, Co-Chairs and several Steering Committee members met to exchange GPIs' experiences; identify opportunities for collaboration; and discuss how GPIs can inform the wider work of the Global Partnership.

Institutional Arrangements

- The diversity among GPIs was highlighted positively, but stronger collaboration – and, if possible, some streamlining – was considered necessary. Participants saw potential for GPIs to work closely and effectively together (see Annex 1 for a mapping of existing GPIs). Several participants suggested that some consolidation of GPIs could be considered where relevant, to avoid duplication and strengthen synergies in GPIs' work. However, such streamlining should not be forced and the voluntary nature of GPIs should be respected.
- There was agreement that more clarity is needed on how GPIs relate to the Global Partnership in practice, and suggestion that new working arrangements could be put in place to facilitate interaction, promote exchange and foster collaboration among GPIs. Participants suggested the following for consideration:
 - GPIs could be grouped around sectors, themes or principles.
 - A focal point could be identified to promote regular communication, collaboration and learning within each group of GPIs and across groups.
 - Regular face-to-face meetings between GPIs could be organised in a synchronised way, helping to inform Global Partnership meetings (e.g. Steering Committee meetings, the Busan Global Partnership Forum, etc.) and the monitoring process.

Country-Level Implementation and Learning

- It was noted that GPIs have the potential to help translate global commitments into country-level action and vice-versa, however they struggle to avoid overlap with other initiatives and forge genuine multi-stakeholder partnerships.
- Participants highlighted that GPIs could be more regularly featured in international and regional dialogues organised by the Global Partnership (e.g. the Busan Global Partnership Forum, regional platforms' meetings and activities, monitoring workshops, etc.).

- The importance of distilling GPIs' and countries' experiences into lessons that can be effectively shared and inform policy dialogue and decision-making was underscored.

4. Synthesis of Proposals for Consideration

Building on the above recommendations and the views of Steering Committee members expressed at their 13th and 14th meetings, increasing the engagement of GPIs may be considered by the Steering Committee and Co-Chairs along four lines:

A. Clarifying the role of GPIs in reference to the Global Partnership.

- The Global Partnership could prepare a terms of reference for GPIs, outlining the envisaged scope of their engagement with the GPEDC and opportunities for engaging in knowledge-sharing, while respecting their voluntary nature.
- The Global Partnership could review, update and recirculate [guidelines for becoming or discontinuing a GPI](#) in light of its renewed mandate and focus areas outlined in the Nairobi Outcome Document.

B. Encouraging GPIs to practically support implementation of the [2017-2018 work programme](#), ensuring that GPIs inform the work of the Global Partnership as a whole.

- Substantive Working Group leads may wish to review the mapping of GPIs undertaken in Annex 1 to consider whether strategic invitations to relevant GPIs could be made to join or inform their Working Group.
- The [annual voluntary call for reporting from GPIs](#) could be revised to focus on how GPIs are concretely contributing to the implementation of the substantive work streams (or the Nairobi Outcome Document) and how they are / plan to interact with other GPIs working in similar sectors. This information could be analysed and showcased in special reports to be published alongside other Global Partnership knowledge products, including possibly the results of the next Monitoring Report.
- Based on the mapping undertaken in Annex 1, Steering Committee members and their constituencies could consider featuring or inviting GPIs to relevant national, regional or international dialogues / events on implementing the development effectiveness principles, as well as meetings organised by the Global Partnership itself (e.g. the Busan Global Partnership Forum, regional platforms' meetings and activities, monitoring workshops, etc.).
- Global Partnership Initiatives could be encouraged to contribute to and support execution of the forthcoming Global Advocacy and Outreach Strategy, which was requested by the Steering Committee at its 14th meeting in October 2017 (Dhaka).

C. Encouraging GPIs to organise events and ensure cross-fertilisation of their work.

- Contingent on resource availability (as this activity is not currently budgeted), targeted exchanges among GPIs with similar objectives, or working on similar issues / in similar sectors could be organised, to cross-fertilise their work. Ideally, these should be held in the margins of already-planned meetings or online. The forthcoming Knowledge-Sharing Platform could also be explored as a space to facilitate such targeted exchanges online / virtually.
- Contingent on resource availability (as this activity is not currently budgeted), regular face-to-face meetings between GPIs could be organised in a way that is synchronised and helps to inform Global Partnership meetings (e.g. Steering Committee, Busan Global Partnership Forum) and the monitoring process.

- The proposed Knowledge-Sharing Platform platform could be an enabler for knowledge-sharing among GPIs, allowing for better communications between the initiatives, the Global Partnership and key stakeholders. Facilitative functions to allow for collaboration within and between GPIs could be built into the architecture of the proposed platform.

D. Improving communication and the sharing of knowledge between GPIs and the wider Global Partnership community.

- GPI leads may be invited to participate in meetings of the Steering Committee (according to the meeting's relevant substantive content) to present their work and explore how they can further contribute to the work programme (dependent on resource availability as this is currently not accounted for in the 2018 budget).
- Along with Steering Committee members, GPIs could receive the draft Steering Committee agenda in advance of its agreement, to encourage them to contribute content, ideas, questions or otherwise.
- The Steering Committee may wish to include a 30-minute standing agenda item for GPIs at its biannual meetings, to discuss progress made by GPIs and ways to further engage them in the work of the Global Partnership.
- The Joint Support Team could intensify their efforts to distil GPIs' experiences into lessons that can be effectively shared and inform policy dialogue and decision-making, especially through the use of findings produced by the annual call for reporting.
- A focal point could be identified from each GPI to promote regular communication, collaboration and learning across GPIs.
- GPI events could be included in the Global Partnership's online [event calendar](#).
- Production of a quarterly GPI newsletter to highlight ongoing work and support exploration of synergies could be considered.

Annex 1 Mapping of GPIs Against the Global Partnership's Substantive Work Streams (see attachment)

Annex 2 Proposed Annual GPI Call for Reporting Questionnaire

Background:

The Global Partnership issues an [annual, voluntary call for reporting](#) to all Global Partnership Initiatives, in order for GPIs to provide information on their progress, events, results and activities, and to allow for consolidation of evidence-based results of on-the-ground efforts to drive implementation of the Busan principles. The [results from this call for reporting](#) are also featured on the Global Partnership website and blog, and are showcased at Steering Committee meetings and other Global Partnership events.

In light of its renewed mandate and 2018 work programme, it is proposed that the annual call for reporting be revised to focus on how GPIs are concretely contributing to the implementation of the substantive work streams and how they are / plan to interact with other GPIs working in similar sectors. Based on inputs received from GPIs, the report compiled by the UNDP-OECD Joint Support Team will emphasise the progress made by GPIs in supporting the substantive work of the Global Partnership, and also identify areas for partnership and synergies with other GPIs. Rather than

producing an exhaustive list of activities, the Joint Support Team will focus on creating a compelling narrative and producing useful knowledge products on innovations and successes from this exercise.

Proposed Structure of the Annual Call for Reporting (online survey format):

1. What is the name of your GPI?
2. Who are the current members of your GPI?
3. In which country(ies) does your GPI currently engage?
4. Which of the [2017-2018 Global Partnership work programme](#) output(s) does your GPI most closely support, if any?
5. Please describe the top three results or deliverables achieved by your GPI in the previous year.
6. How is your GPI contributing to country-level implementation of the [development effectiveness principles](#) (e.g. what progress has your GPI made at the country level in supporting country ownership, a focus on results, inclusive partnerships or transparency and mutual accountability)?
7. How is your GPI contributing to knowledge-sharing for increased development impact?
8. What are your GPI's top priorities for 2018 (e.g. any overarching strategic goals, events, new partnerships and / or planned deliverables)? Would you be interested in showcasing this information (as applicable) on the Global Partnership website? If so, please note this in your response below.
9. Are you currently partnering with (or planning to partner with) another Global Partnership Initiative or Global Partnership stakeholder (e.g. government, civil society entity, the private sector etc.)? If yes, please describe the nature of the project.
10. Is your GPI helping to highlight development effectiveness at the regional or international level? If yes, please briefly explain.
11. What are your GPI's main needs and priorities with regard to sharing results and / or participating in GPEDC events and work streams?
12. How can the GPEDC community support the work of your GPI? Please note any particular suggestions relating to the GPEDC Co-Chairs, the Steering Committee, GPEDC communications products or other GPIs.
13. Please provide updated contact information of the focal point(s) for your initiative.
14. Please review this document to ensure that the description of your GPI, its title and membership to be featured on the Global Partnership website is accurate and up to date. If you would like to submit new information, please enter it here.