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DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION RESULTS FOR THE 2030 AGENDA

A Guide for Applying the Sustainable Development Goals, Targets and Indicators in Results Frameworks

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WHY LINK RESULTS TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is about results to be achieved by 2030. The Results Community of the OECD-DAC (Development Assistance Committee) has discussed a menu of SDG targets and indicators to strengthen their results frameworks.

An OECD Policy Paper on "The 2030 Agenda and Development Co-operation Results" lists relevant SDG targets and indicators. Clear links between the 2030 Agenda and providers' results frameworks can enhance results monitoring and strengthen policy and results dialogues between providers and partners in developing countries.

Several providers already include references to the SDGs, targets and indicators in their development policies and results frameworks. The Results Community has requested guidance on how best to link SDG targets and indicators to existing results frameworks for development co-operation; or, for some, how best to establish a results framework that is easily linked to the goals, targets, indicators and timelines of the 2030 Agenda.

Providers typically organise results information in three tiers, for development results, development co-operation results, and performance, respectively (see graph on pg. 7). Providers apply results frameworks at corporate, thematic, partner country and project levels, with the latter feeding results information into corporate reporting.

This note aims to support the incorporation of SDG targets and indicators into providers' results frameworks. The note is built around twelve steps in applying SDG targets and indicators in results frameworks. However, the process is often non-linear because SDG links already permeate the policy, planning and results reporting by many providers.

The guidance note is aimed at managers of results frameworks in provider agencies at headquarters and delegated offices, and at the users of results information, including policy makers and partners in development co-operation.

12 STEPS OF LINKING SDG TARGETS AND SDG INDICATORS WITH PROVIDERS' RESULTS FRAMEWORKS

(1) Recognise development co-operation links to the 2030 Agenda. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes 17 goals and 169 targets and is "a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity." The SDGs cover most goals and objectives set by development co-operation providers, except for some geo-political, commercial and security objectives.

(2) Identify most relevant SDGs and targets.
While the goals and targets are indivisible, most provider and partner governments prioritise some of the SDGs in their development policies and strategies. Aligning development co-operation portfolios to the SDGs shows a provider's engagement and priority for certain dimensions of sustainable development. The 169 SDG targets enable mapping of current development co-operation efforts to the 2030 Agenda, though limited to provider inputs. Analyses of political leverage, synergies and non-quantifiable results are needed as well.

(3) Prioritise SDG outcome targets & indicators. Approximately half of the 169 SDG targets provide information on development change. In results frameworks, providers should consider those SDG targets that are about outcome change and are relevant to their development co-operation objectives. They should incorporate SDG targets that are supported by robust SDG indicators, with adequate data coverage (i.e. tier one indicators approved by the UN Statistical Commission). As better data become available, more SDG indicators may be approved as tier one indicators.

(4) Develop corporate results frameworks.
A provider needs results information from multiple sources to assess achievement of its development co-operation objectives. Aggregated project results information should be combined with SDG progress information for countries, themes and sectors of co-operation. Information

is needed to assess the provider's contribution, without claiming attribution of results to specific interventions.

(5) Incorporate performance targets & indicators. Assessing the organisational and operational performance of provider agencies requires information on adherence to development effectiveness principles, provider specific performance requirements (e.g. use of domestic resources), and contributions to common goals. Some of the "means of implementation" targets and indicators of the SDGs yield information on allocation and "reach" of development co-operation, e.g. number of people provided with improved access to services or with social protection. These SDG targets and indicators yield information to strengthen providers' results frameworks.

EXAMPLES OF SDG TARGETS AND INDICATORS FROM THE WATER SECTOR

Outcome-focused SDG target 6.1: By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Robust SDG indicator 6.1.1: Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water service

Performance SDG indicator: Amount of water and sanitation related official development assistance that is part of a government co-ordinated spending plan

12 STEPS

OF LINKING SDG TARGETS & SDG INDICATORS...

1

RECOGNISE DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION LINKS TO 2030 AGENDA

2

IDENTIFY MOST RELEVANT SDGS & TARGETS

3

PRIORITISE SDG OUTCOME TARGETS & INDICATORS

4

DEVELOP CORPORATE RESULTS FRAMEWORKS

5

INCORPORATE PERFORMANCE TARGETS & INDICATORS

6

DEVELOP COUNTRY LEVEL RESULTS FRAMEWORKS

... WITH PROVIDERS' RESULTS FRAMEWORKS

7 INTEGRATE DATA ON PROGRESS ON SDG TARGETS

8 ENGAGE IN DIALOGUE WITH PARTNER STAKEHOLDERS

9 DEVELOP CAPACITY FOR RESULTS-BASED MANAGEMENT

10 IDENTIFY RESULTS FOR MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY

11 ADD PROVIDER-SPECIFIC RESULTS DATA

12 USE SDG-LINKS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY COMMUNICATION, DIRECTION & LEARNING

DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION RESULTS FOR THE 2030 AGENDA: A GUIDE FOR APPLYING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, TARGETS AND INDICATORS IN RESULTS FRAMEWORKS

(6) Develop country level results frameworks.
Providers have specific objectives for their efforts in their partner countries. The country level is typically the first level of aggregating project results information. While providers may have country results frameworks, they have committed to support the results frameworks of partner countries and to minimise provider-specific results information. SDG indicators provide a strong opportunity for common evidence for dialogues and decisions. For providers such as the EU, joint programming may lead to common results data analysis with partner authorities and multiple providers.

(7) Integrate data on progress on SDG targets.
All countries commit to monitoring and reporting progress on the 169 SDG targets, using the SDG indicators that have data. Individual providers can collect progress information for the SDG targets and indicators that are part of their results frameworks, and which cover their primary partner countries. This yields information on development results, to which development co-operation contributes in the sectors and themes prioritised by the provider.

(8) Engage in dialogue with partner stakeholders. Evidence on change regarding the prioritised SDG targets will be available to the provider, partner authorities and other stakeholders in country-focused development co-operation. Information on the SDG targets of mutual interest should be a foundation for strategic dialogues with partners at country level, and then be collated for the provider's results monitoring and reporting at corporate level.

(9) Develop capacity for results-based management. Applying results-based management in development co-operation is a capacity development effort. Partner countries have mixed experience with and capacity for results-based management. Many countries with high dependence on development co-operation lack incentives to build results frameworks if providers do not support and use these. Moving away from provider-specific results data collection and reporting leads to capacity development for results-based management.
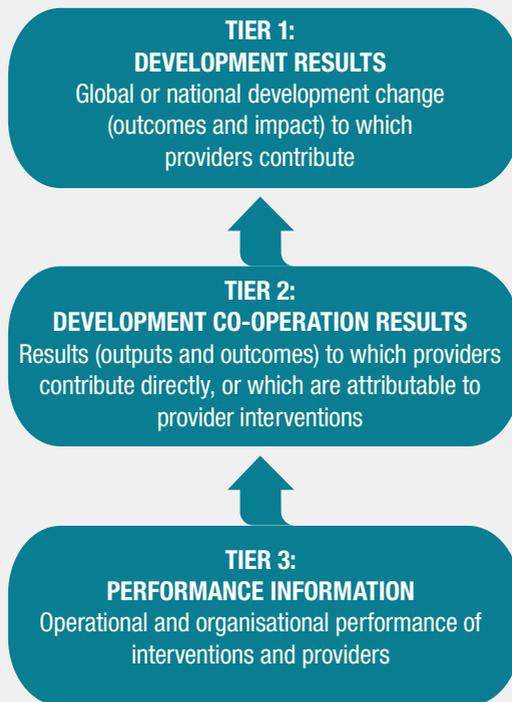
(10) Identify results for mutual accountability.
Monitoring and reporting on results achieved shows mutual accountability for development co-peration. The chosen SDG indicators can demonstrate common ambitions and achievements. The use of results information will differ among the parties involved, yet providers and partners share information needs for development and development co-operation results reporting.

(11) Add provider-specific results data.
Aggregated results information from partner countries, which includes project results, must be supplemented with provider-specific results data. For example, a provider needs additional information on development results prioritised by itself; on results of global projects and thematic priorities, which can still be captured by SDG indicators; and on performance in reach and delivery of its portfolios. A clear starting point in the use of the results information brings added value.

(12) Use SDG-links for accountability, communication, direction & learning. These four uses of results information all benefit from SDG-links. Providers use results information mainly for accountability and communication. A success criterion for a provider's results framework is that it also supports direction setting and learning by the provider at all levels. Use of results information is enhanced by SDG-links that provide objective and comprehensive evidence.

RESULTS FRAMEWORKS

TIER 1:
DEVELOPMENT RESULTS
Global or national development change
(outcomes and impact) to which
providers contribute

TIER 2:
DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION RESULTS
Results (outputs and outcomes) to which providers
contribute directly, or which are attributable to
provider interventions

TIER 3:
PERFORMANCE INFORMATION
Operational and organisational performance of
interventions and providers

FURTHER READING

The Results in Development Co-operation website (*www.oecd.org/dac/results-development*) includes the latest papers and resources on results in development co-operation from the OECD and other sources.

The website is also a home for the OECD-DAC/DCD Results Community, which is an informal network dedicated to results-based management for effective development co-operation. It is supported by the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD) on behalf of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC). The Results website enables members to share and exchange good practice and views on results in development co-operation.

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