

Update on the 3rd Global Partnership Monitoring round

17th Steering Committee Meeting
26-27 March 2019 – Kampala, Uganda

This document provides an update on progress in carrying out the 3rd Monitoring Round of the Global Partnership, and is shared with the members of the Steering Committee for information and discussion on:

- Taking stock and lessons learned from the 2018 Monitoring Round; and,
- Leveraging the results of the monitoring round for maximum impact at the Senior-Level Meeting, and at global and country level.

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1. Status Update

- a) **Final validation and review of the data collected for the Global Partnership’s 3rd Monitoring Round is drawing to a close.** In parallel, initial aggregation and preparation for analysis of the dataset has kicked off due to the complex nature of engaging a vast number of countries during a fixed timeframe. These are the near final phases in a six phase process (see table below).
- b) **Strong engagement in the 3rd Monitoring Round demonstrates the continued relevance and value of the exercise.** While the final figures are not confirmed at the time of writing, the number of participating countries that have completed the exercise is more or less consistent with the 81 countries that led the exercise in 2016, alongside hundreds of development partners, civil society organisations, representatives from the private sector, trade unions and other actors. Around half of the participating countries, through embedding the process in national mechanisms, as well as strong government capacity, leadership and adequate resources, have carried out the monitoring exercise to the fullest extent through a comprehensive multi-stakeholder process at country level. Other countries, while eager to participate, carried out the multi-stakeholder process to varying degrees depending on country context and context specific challenges.

Table 1. Timeline of the 3rd Monitoring Round

April-July 2018	July-August 2018	August 2018 – January 2019	November 2018 – March 2019	March 2019 – June 2019	April 2019 onwards
Phase 1: Launch of the monitoring round		Phase 4: Final validation & review (HQ & country level)			
Phase 2: Country-level preparation			Phase 5: Aggregation & analysis of the dataset		
Phase 3: Data collection & validation at country level				Phase 6: Dissemination, dialogue action on the results	

2. Emerging lessons

- a) **The monitoring exercise, particularly data collection and validation at country level, continues to evolve, with both expected and new challenges that have surfaced in the 3rd Monitoring Round.**
 - i. Anticipated challenges that were also present in the 1st and 2nd Monitoring Rounds include timing, context and capacity issues. With regards to timing, the challenge lies with conducting a biennial exercise within a tight timeframe that accounts for participating countries starting the exercise once the financial accounts/budget for the fiscal year are finalised and concluding in time to meet UN reporting deadlines. Context specific challenges include elections, government restructures, staff/ focal point turnover and technical limitations in country. In addition, limited government staff capacity, often exacerbated by competing priorities and

context specific challenges, presents a continued challenge for conducting a multi-stakeholder process in several countries.

- ii. New challenges emerged during the 3rd Monitoring Round in addition to those that were anticipated. Structural shifts in institutional frameworks – presumably connected to a general trend towards supporting a whole-of-government/society approach necessary for SDG implementation – appeared to be a contributing factor in this regard. Institutional reform requires time for implementation as demonstrated by engagement with development actors throughout the monitoring round, which suggests that development co-operation structures are in flux. The governments’ “centralised aid units” often situated in a ministry in charge of development co-operation have in the past typically been the traditional bilateral channel between development partners and partner country governments. This ‘unit’ seems to be evolving as development co-operation structures move toward more fluid, whole-of-government/society engagement. This has implications for the monitoring exercise, as the centralised co-ordination structures have represented the mechanism through which the monitoring exercise has been coordinated across all contributing stakeholders. This has led to an increased demand for support to conduct the exercise compared with previous rounds.
- b) **Similar to the 2016 Monitoring Round, preparations are underway to take stock and evaluate the lessons learned from the 3rd Monitoring Round.** A post-monitoring survey, to be sent to each participating country, is underway with results expected to be available in end-April/May. In addition, several development partners have flagged that they are undergoing internal reviews of their engagement in the monitoring process. The successes and challenges of the 3rd Monitoring Round, together with the experiences of National Co-ordinators that led the process in country and other development actors that engaged in the process, will be on the table for discussion at the post-monitoring workshop planned for early May 2019. Thinking ahead, a comprehensive review of the monitoring process is anticipated following the Senior-Level Meeting in order to adequately discuss, prepare for and implement any necessary improvements to the monitoring process prior to the next monitoring round of the Global Partnership, planned to take place in 2020/21.

3. Leveraging the Monitoring Results

- a) **Preparation for the 2019 Global Partnership Monitoring Report that presents the results of the 3rd Monitoring Round is underway.** As agreed at the 16th Steering Committee meeting in New York, the report will be structured around four chapters, including targeted messages for constituencies throughout. The first chapter will focus on partner country governments: their progress made in leading a whole of society approach to development by strengthening their systems and results frameworks, improving accountability mechanisms and transparency, and engaging in inclusive dialogue with development partners, civil society, the private sector and other actors. The second will address development partners’ support to governments to strengthen ownership and whole-of-government approaches, including an assessment on upholding the effectiveness principles at country level. The third chapter will set out a compilation of results from the monitoring exercise, capturing the latest global evidence for SDG 17.16 on multi-stakeholder partnerships: providing aggregate figures on each indicator to highlight key issues and provide an overview of progress across countries and over time where possible. The fourth chapter will pick up on the key messages from the Senior-Level Meeting that will shape the future of the effectiveness agenda and propel the Global Partnership into its next work programme.

- b) **An innovative approach to delivering the Monitoring Report will be used to build political momentum both for the release of the results and the Senior-Level Meeting in July.** The chapters of the report will be made available sequentially in the lead up to the SLM as discussed at the 16th Steering Committee meeting. The first three chapters and a dashboard containing the monitoring data will be released ahead of the SLM. The fourth chapter, and official launch of the full report with all four chapters, will be delivered in September 2019.
- c) The following **guiding questions are for Steering Committee consideration** on the dissemination and use of the monitoring results. Following substantial efforts to carry out the monitoring exercise, harnessing the monitoring results to their fullest potential will be critical to achieve maximum impact at global and country level.
- i. **Restating the crucial role of effectiveness at the Senior-Level Meeting:** What additional considerations need to be taken into account to harness the monitoring results in shaping the content and substantive direction of the Senior-Level Meeting? How can the Steering Committee leverage the monitoring results to serve as a critical input for developing the next Global Partnership work programme that will commence after the SLM?
 - ii. **Informing SDG follow-up and review:** How can Steering Committee members maximise the visibility and impact of the monitoring results, which facilitate the collection of information for SDG targets¹ and Financing for Development processes? Around half of the countries that will be presenting a Voluntary National Review at the 2019 UN High-Level Political Forum have participated in the Monitoring Round. What will Steering Committee members do to ensure that these countries feature effective development co-operation and draw on the monitoring process and results in their VNR?
 - iii. **Spurring collective action at country level:** Perhaps most importantly, and continuing beyond the SLM and SDG follow-up and review, it is imperative that the monitoring results are taken up at country level by governments, development partners, civil society and other key stakeholders to act on the challenges and bottlenecks that need to be addressed for more effective partnerships. One of the tools to spur collective action is the production of country profiles that feature country specific monitoring results. While these are an important tool, due to resource constraints, the profiles may not be produced/made available in the lead up to the SLM. However, a post-monitoring workshop, planned to take place in early May 2019, will kick-off country-level follow-up and action. What will Steering Committee members do to ensure that the monitoring results are acted on at country level?

¹ GPEDC monitoring results facilitate the collection of information for **SDG targets 17.16** (enhance the global partnership for sustainable development), which tracks overall progress on effective multi-stakeholder partnerships captured by the Global Partnership monitoring framework through all its 10 indicators, and **17.15** (respect for national policy space and leadership), which reports on the status of development partner alignment to country results frameworks. Both of these targets are critical to the means of implementation (SDG 17) in achieving all other Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, the monitoring exercise provides official data for **SDG target 5.c.** (adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality), which reports on the status of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality.