

# Revised Proposal: New Global Partnership Monitoring Process

May 2022

## 1. Introduction

An ambitious reform of the Global Partnership monitoring exercise is taking place during 2020-2022. It will culminate with the endorsement of a final proposal for the new monitoring exercise at the [Effective Development Co-operation Summit](#) in December 2022. The scope of the reform includes changes to both the monitoring framework and the monitoring process; this document is focused on the latter. Feedback received from stakeholders throughout the reform's extensive consultations<sup>1</sup>, as well as guidance from the Global Partnership's Steering Committee, indicated support for a monitoring process that improves institutionalisation and synchronicity with other relevant country-level processes, is more flexible and incentivises participation, and systematises the use of monitoring results. A [first proposal](#) of elements of a strengthened monitoring process was released in October 2021 and tested with stakeholders through a [virtual consultation](#) in October-November 2021 ([summary](#) of consultation feedback). In December 2021, there was broad agreement within the Steering Committee on key aspects of the new monitoring process, namely as related to how the monitoring process will be organised at global level, as well as on the strong focus on encouraging dialogue to foster action on monitoring results at country level ([Steering Committee meeting summary](#)).

This document provides a comprehensive revised proposal for a new monitoring process. **Section 2** outlines the challenges identified from previous rounds and through consultations over the course of the reform. The new monitoring process is proposed in **Section 3**, where its key features are explained in detail, indicating how they will help in addressing known challenges. **Section 4** provides a brief overview of the various phases of the new monitoring process at country level, with more details provided in the **annex**. **Section 5** describes the key moments at global level, and proposes how the monitoring can resume in 2023.

The document has been developed with attention to feedback received during the various consultations and previous monitoring rounds. It is intended as the basis for collecting feedback, with a view to reach agreement amongst stakeholders, and with the Steering Committee, so that preparations can be made for the resumption of monitoring in 2023. Feedback is also being collected at a multi-stakeholder in-person technical workshop, taking place from 14-16 June in the Republic of Benin. The plan presented for resuming the monitoring exercise in 2023 is contingent on Steering Committee agreement with the main elements of the revised monitoring proposal (inclusive of framework and process) at its July 2022 meeting.

Considering that the monitoring exercise, including its follow-up actions, is expected to remain as the foundation of country-level Global Partnership activities in the future, this document is also relevant for discussions about future implementation arrangements in the context of the findings and recommendations of the [Global Partnership Review](#). The engagement required of all stakeholders, as well as the support needed by some countries, to implement the proposed monitoring process, with attention as well to the importance of generating country-level ownership, is an important consideration for the Global Partnership leadership in responding to the Review.

## 2. Challenges of the monitoring process

Since 2013, three global monitoring rounds have taken place to track progress and provide evidence on how stakeholders are upholding the effectiveness commitments they made in the 2011 Busan Partnership Agreement. The third Monitoring Round (2018) had a record participation of 86 partner countries and territories, together with over 100 development partners, and hundreds of representatives from civil society organisations and the private sector.

The achievements of these rounds, especially the 2018 exercise, were accompanied by several challenges. First, a **lack of institutionalisation** of the monitoring process at country level – including into country-level

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<sup>1</sup> While this document does not include a full re-cap of all the monitoring reform consultative processes, information on the reform and documentation of stakeholder expectations for the monitoring process is available: a virtual survey in 2020 about the trade-offs related to making changes to the monitoring exercise resulted in 137 responses including 62 from partner countries (summary [here](#)). Later in 2020, there was a series of 9 consultations on the monitoring process (75 participants; summary [here](#)). The first half of 2021 saw a series of 19 consultations (169 participants; summary [here](#)). The recent [virtual consultation on the Knowledge Platform](#) attracted 40 responses to the draft monitoring proposal. All consultations were inclusive of Global Partnership stakeholder and constituency groups.

SDG follow-up and review process – resulted in many countries undertaking this as a stand-alone exercise, de-linked from other relevant systems and processes, in contrast to the original vision of the exercise. Secondly, the global round, with its inflexible timeframe for participation, meant that all countries needed to undertake the exercise at the same time and needed support to do so at the same time, requiring a **heavy remote support structure**. There was, too often, poor responsiveness of development partners and non-executive stakeholders in providing data and support at country level. Capacity constraints of some partner country governments to lead the exercise in their country led to requests for heavy backstopping from the OECD-UNDP Joint Support Team (JST) and headquarters of development partners, which could not be fully met. Thirdly, the short time between the GPEDC's 2<sup>nd</sup> High-Level Meeting (HLM2) in 2016 and the Senior-Level Meeting (SLM) in 2019 (and similarly in previous rounds) created a **tight timeline** for countries to carry out the different phases of the process, leading to many requests for deadline extensions. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the limited time and the lack of institutionalisation resulted in **poor follow-up and action** on monitoring results at country level. The global report and country profiles, which were meant to spur dialogue and action to improve the effectiveness of development co-operation, were actually perceived as the culmination of the monitoring process, rather than as a basis on which to initiate the critical next step of reflection and action.

Consultations undertaken as part of the monitoring reform have also shown that partner country governments would like **more tailored and diversified support** to undertake the exercise and would expect stronger engagement by development partners in the process. There were **requests for more time** to allow adequate implementation of the different phases of the monitoring and for a better use of the country profiles, which were highlighted as fundamental tools to support action and accountability at country level. Development partners also indicated that more time would be needed for them to ensure co-ordination between headquarter and country offices, and to engage in dialogue with their partner governments about the monitoring results. The fact that **the exercise has been, and will continue to be, global in nature and leading to global progress reports** was pointed out as essential for ensuring continued accountability of stakeholder groups, thanks to the evidence-based findings that it generates.

There is consensus that **the monitoring exercise must maintain its place as a globally-recognised source of data to uphold effectiveness commitments**, while at the same time strengthening it to further support behaviour change, both at global and country levels. On the one hand, a **more complete country-level monitoring cycle is needed**, one where the phases for *producing the evidence* are equally complemented by phases to *reflect and take action on it*. On the other, this extended country-level cycle is in line with the GPEDC's extended [four-year] global political cycle, such that results from all participating countries can be brought together in a global report timed to inform global dialogue at High-Level Meetings.

### 3. Global rolling rounds – an improved approach for the monitoring process

Addressing the challenges identified from previous rounds and during the reform requires an extended monitoring cycle, both at country and global levels. Extending the global monitoring round to a **four-year cycle** is in line with the current political cycle of the GPEDC, which foresees a High-level Meeting every four years, and not every two years as envisioned in Busan. This four-year cycle in turn allows partner countries more flexibility for when they participate, how long they wish to take, and to lead a more complete monitoring cycle that is inclusive of a follow-up phase. The flexibility on when to begin this country-level cycle provides the possibility to anchor and institutionalise it within other relevant country processes.

With a four-year cycle, the monitoring would continue to generate global evidence, which will be aggregated to inform global accountability moments such as High-level Meetings. As countries would undertake the exercise at different moments, new data would be generated on an ongoing basis, allowing more regular updates on the state of effectiveness through new accountability tools and products, such as development partner profiles, a dashboard, annual summaries of results, and thematic policy briefs at intervals within the four-year cycle.

The global rolling approach may mean that some countries will not be reporting in the same year, but this is not uncommon in many global reporting exercises, including on SDG indicators and other well-established

global measurements (e.g. Human Development Index<sup>2</sup>, Multi-dimensional Poverty Index<sup>3</sup>). This **will therefore not affect the comparability of the data**<sup>4</sup>. Even in past monitoring rounds, there were variations in terms of fiscal years reported on within a round, as not all countries start and end their fiscal years at the same time. As the Global Partnership monitoring assesses behaviours related to the implementation of commitments rather than co-operation volumes, results will still be comparable over time and across countries or development partners without a loss of meaning, especially since these behaviours typically change over periods of time longer than one year. GPEDC reporting to SDGs will also not be compromised with a global rolling approach, according to the UN Statistics Division.<sup>5</sup>

**Global rolling rounds of four years would address the challenges identified above as a result of the key features** described as follows. It is also important to point out that **many of these key features will not be feasible if the exercise were to continue as one where all countries collect and report data at the same time:**

- **Increased flexibility:** A global rolling approach would **offer partner countries more flexibility** on the frequency, timing and duration of the exercise. **In the past, monitoring rounds took place roughly every two and a half years** (to be more precise, there were two years and eight months between the 2016 and 2018 global reports). With the new process, **global rounds will happen every four years**. Within this period, countries will be encouraged to undertake the monitoring at least once.<sup>6</sup> Countries will be able to begin the monitoring when most suited to them, as long as final data is submitted by the end of the third year (with the fourth year dedicated to global aggregation and reporting), instead of all having to do it at the same time, with limited scope for aligning with national processes and priorities. Finally, instead of having six to seven months from the start of the process until final data submission, countries will now have up to twelve months for these phases of the exercise (should a country wish or need to take longer, they also can). A customised calendar will be developed with every country signing up to ensure each phase can be adequately implemented. The only fixed deadline as part of this process is a yearly cut-off date for countries to submit their final data, in line with global SDG reporting requirements. If a country is not able to submit its final data by the cut-off date in a given year, it can do so in time for the cut-off date in the following year (see *Section 5: Resumption of the monitoring and key moments at global level*).



**Figure 1: Flexible timeline for countries' participation in monitoring – the view from country-level**

<sup>2</sup> For example, the 2019 Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI) uses the HDI indicators that refer to 2019 and measures of inequality that are based on the most recent household surveys available from 2008 to 2020 and life tables that refer to the 2015-2020 period.

<sup>3</sup> The global MPI produced annually by the Oxford Human Development initiative (OPHI) "is updated when new data become available" from multiple sources. More specifically, OPHI's website states that "the estimates for the 109 countries included in the global MPI 2021 are built on the most recent data available for each country using the latest survey data available from 2009–2019/2020".

<sup>4</sup> The proposed approach mimics the most important characteristics of a rotating panel schemes amply used in statistical analysis. Rotating panel designs involve pre-determined proportions of units being updated at each occasion once a cycle is completed. For further information: Nijman, T. E., Verbeek, M. J. C. M., & van Soest, A. H. O. (1988) and Peter Lynn (2012).

<sup>5</sup> The UN Statistics Division has confirmed that there is no concern with the timing of data collection. Other SDG custodian agencies collect data in this manner. The global SDG database, maintained by the UN Statistics Division, accepts data for any country pertaining to any year. Global and regional aggregate data can be updated as data become available as long as adequate standards for accuracy and reliability are maintained (more detail [here](#)).

<sup>6</sup> The rolling approach does not guarantee an increase nor a decrease in the number of countries participating in a round. Past monitoring rounds have been characterised by high pressure to increase the number of countries at the expense of the quality of engagement and data comprehensiveness for both partner countries and development partners. **While the 2018 round saw the record participation of 86 countries, only around half of them undertook a comprehensive monitoring.**

- ▶ **Country-level institutionalisation:** The new monitoring process allows countries to plan their participation in alignment with their own priorities, context, processes and development co-operation architecture. The increased flexibility of the global rolling approach enables partner countries to situate their undertaking of the monitoring exercise within existing national mechanisms that would be fitting with country priorities and to plan their participation accordingly, determining when and how they convene stakeholders to discuss, to collect data and to transition to reflection, dialogue and action for more effective development co-operation. They will also be better able to feed monitoring results into other relevant national processes (e.g. review of national development plans, SDG follow-up and Voluntary National Reviews, national co-ordination mechanisms on development co-operation, and/or dialogues with development partners and other development actors). In addition, countries undertaking the monitoring around a similar time will be advised by the JST of peer-to-peer learning opportunities (for countries in the same region or of similar development context).
- ▶ **Collective and stakeholder-specific accountability through more frequently available data:** The global rolling approach will provide **new monitoring data on an ongoing basis** (with summaries available annually, based on results from the countries which submitted final data within that year). This differs from the previous process, wherein data was made available only at the end of a round that took almost three years to complete. More regular availability of data and evidence on the state of effective development co-operation will enhance the **global visibility and usefulness of the exercise**, and in turn bolster political momentum, strengthen collective accountability, facilitate peer learning, and inform behaviour and policy change. At the same time, this approach will not jeopardise the comparability of monitoring data. In addition to new monitoring data being available every year, other products will be produced with monitoring results:
  - **Country results briefs.** A country results brief for each participating partner country will be made available approximately three months after the country submits its final monitoring data. The brief will provide a more detailed account of the country's results, rather than headline values as was done in the past.<sup>7</sup> This brief can serve as the basis for countries to understand and disseminate their results, and jointly plan and take action with stakeholders.
  - **Development partner profiles.** Similarly, to increase accountability and action at the global level, development partner profiles will be produced to highlight, and drive accountability for, the performance of development partners. These profiles would be made available at the end of a full round (every four years) in order to include aggregate results from the reporting of a maximum number of partner countries. Given the absence of such profiles focused on development partner performance as per the 2018 monitoring round's results, these will already be produced in the lead up to the 2022 Effective Development Co-operation Summit, and could be updated mid-way through the next round, following reporting from a significant number of countries.
  - **Summary of results and thematic policy briefs.** An annual summary of results will outline the key trends and findings that emerged from the data collected in the previous twelve months or in another given period. Results emerging after a certain period could also lead to thematic policy briefs on topics on which the monitoring exercise collects evidence. This differs from the past, where no such interim summaries or analysis of results was produced until the global report was released.
  - **Global progress report.** At the end of a full round, a global report will be produced based on all data collected during the round. This will inform political dialogue at the High-Level Meeting by bringing together results for all participating partner countries and development partners. The use of monitoring results to inform other global reports produced by various Global Partnership stakeholders, as done in the past, will also be encouraged to foster global accountability and constituency-specific engagement.
  - A new **dashboard**, hosted on the Global Partnership website, will be made available for partner countries and development partners<sup>8</sup>, covering the status of their participation in the monitoring exercise and monitoring results. This will be a new and important tool for the accountability of

<sup>7</sup> Examples of country profiles produced after the 2018 round can be found [here](#).

<sup>8</sup> The coverage of development partners on the dashboard will initially be for DAC members; additional development partners will be added depending on resources.

development partner engagement in the monitoring, and focused on the country level in the case of partner countries.

- With the new process, **country-specific data** will be provided, after a country submits its final data, to support its **SDG follow-up and review**. The Global Partnership monitoring exercise generates data on three SDG indicators (5.c.1, 17.15.1 and 17.16.1). OECD and UNDP are the custodian entities<sup>9</sup> of 17.15.1 and 17.16.1, and in collaboration with UN Women, they are the custodians of 5.c.1. This country-specific data is especially valuable for countries submitting Voluntary National Reviews in the year following the Global Partnership monitoring. Additionally, the benefit of data availability on such a rolling basis is that the **global aggregates for SDG reporting** can be consolidated on an annual basis and at the end of a full round. Such an approach will not only allow the Global Partnership to maintain custodianship of these three SDG indicators (as advised by the UN Statistical Division<sup>10</sup>), but also allow reporting of **fresh data to the global SDG process every year**. Such availability of fresh data will be possible more regularly than was the case previously (almost every three years).
- ▶ **Stronger development partner engagement:** The fact that partner countries will carry out the monitoring at different times within the same global round allows development partners at headquarters to better liaise with their counterparts at country-level for reporting requests, as well as to better respond to support-related requests from partner country governments undertaking the exercise. Specific avenues of support from development partners in each phase of the monitoring (see key feature *Tailored and diversified support and engagement structure*, and *Section 4. Phases of the new monitoring process at country level*) will facilitate stronger and longer lasting collaboration. The introduction of products like development partner profiles and the new dashboard will incentivise their engagement in the process in their various partner countries and strengthen collective accountability (see key feature above *Increased collective and stakeholder-specific accountability through more frequently available data*).
- ▶ **Strengthened multi-stakeholder participation:** A wider range of stakeholders have entry points for their participation in the exercise, concerning both what is measured (framework) and how it is measured (process). As in the past, there will be multi-stakeholder reporting on some elements of the framework. In the new monitoring, these entry points are being enhanced to support a more diverse participation in assessing civil society effectiveness and enabling environment, and the implementation of the [Kampala Principles on Effective Private Sector Engagement in Development Co-operation](#), for example. Additionally, the new process also provides much stronger entry points for multi-stakeholder participation, particularly in the inception, dissemination, and dialogue and action phases, as discussed further below.
- ▶ **Leading to dialogue and action:** An integral element of the new process is a scaled-up approach to the use of monitoring results to **drive dialogue, accountability and action** for strengthened national ownership, stronger partnerships, and required behaviour change. This entails a distinct new phase of the monitoring process (see phase 5 of figure 3) focused on the follow-up on monitoring results. Successful execution of this phase will depend on **political leadership at the country level** to involve all relevant actors for an **inclusive and multi-stakeholder process**, recognising there may be a distinction between those actors involved in data collection (technical level) and those who must be engaged in the follow-up phase (decision-making/political level). Countries will need to engage and convene these stakeholders ideally in connection with a relevant existing country-level process, to develop a **continuous process** for more purposeful reflection, action and **implementation**. Such a transition from the data collection phase of the monitoring to the phase of dialogue, action planning and implementation of agreed actions would be part of the commitment a country makes when it decides to do the monitoring exercise.

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<sup>9</sup> Custodian organisations are United Nations entities and other international organisations that are responsible for compiling and verifying country data and metadata, and for submitting the data, along with regional and global aggregates, to the UN Statistics Division.

<sup>10</sup> See section 2.2 on global-level processes in [this paper on monitoring exercise linkages to the 2030 Agenda](#).

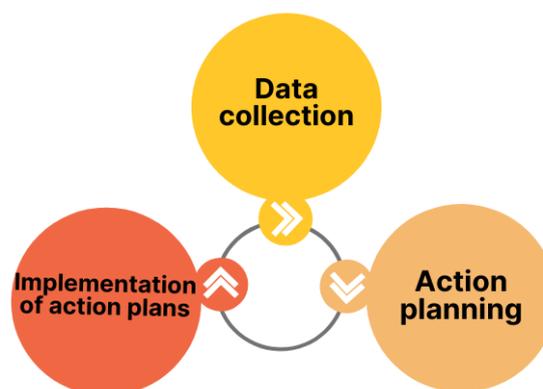


Figure 2: Leading from data collection to dialogue and action

- ▶ **Tailored and diversified support and engagement structure:** A **national co-ordinator**, identified by partner country governments, will lead and co-ordinate the monitoring exercise, as in the past. Partner countries that would like support in undertaking the exercise can request that a **development partner champion** with country-level presence be nominated to provide such support. The role of these development partner champions will differ depending on country context, and more than one champion could be identified as needed. Support from the development partner champion could include co-ordination and mobilisation of peers, capacity building and technical assistance. Development partners may also be requested to provide logistical and/or financial support to the partner country government to lead various phases of the monitoring process and its follow-up at country level. As in the past, for some areas of the framework, the national co-ordinator will be asked to identify **[reporting] focal points** from particular stakeholder groups who will have a direct reporting role (for example, a civil society and a development partner focal point report to the assessment of civil society enabling environment). When planning the monitoring implementation with JST guidance, partner countries can indicate if they would like to receive nominations of potential focal points. Following which, and as in the past, Steering Committee members representing the relevant stakeholder groups may nominate country-level focal points *for the consideration of national co-ordinators*. As appropriate, national co-ordinators could also make use of existing dialogue or co-ordination platforms for the monitoring exercise. Where such platforms are in place and functioning, this could facilitate the process of engagement with development partners and other stakeholders.

The global rolling approach, whereby countries begin the exercise at different times within the same global cycle, will allow the **JST to provide more focused support** to those undertaking the exercise. The JST will support countries for the different phases of the monitoring process (shown in Figure 3), including to establish a customised calendar with adequate time for each country to complete the various phases of the exercise. It is provisionally<sup>11</sup> expected that the JST would provide the following tools, products, and avenues of support:

- Detailed monitoring guide to help participating governments lead their country's participation; and a development partners' guide with relevant information for their role in providing data and supporting the government.
- Terms of reference to guide participation of all stakeholder groups with a reporting role.
- Online tool to simplify reporting of data.
- Training for national co-ordinators (provision of in-person or virtual training package will depend on funding availability, however, JST will provide one-on-one virtual briefings to national co-ordinators as part of core support).
- Virtual helpdesk to respond to questions or requests throughout the monitoring process.
- Dedicated dashboard on the Global Partnership website, for partner countries and development partners, which will cover the status of stakeholder participation in the monitoring exercise and stakeholder monitoring results.
- Guidance for the reflection, dialogue and action phase, in a way that could make use of existing country partnership and co-ordination processes.

<sup>11</sup> Further development and finalisation of the listed tools and avenues of support and guidance for participants will be dependent on core funding support to the JST in the next Global Partnership work program, as well as on the decisions by the Global Partnership's leadership on the future working and implementation arrangements. This includes as related to the role and core functions of the JST, in response to the Global Partnership Review recommendations.

- Country results briefs (on a rolling basis), summaries of results and thematic policy briefs around once a year; global report with aggregate results from all participating countries and development partners, and development partner profiles updated at the mid-point and at the end of each round.

Outside of what the JST can provide, the successful implementation of the new monitoring process and its follow up will require stronger engagement and support from Global Partnership leadership (Steering Committee members) and stakeholders. This particularly applies to political mobilisation at country level (inception phase), as well as to engage in and support partner country governments to lead action dialogues and their follow up.

## 4. Phases of the new monitoring process at country level

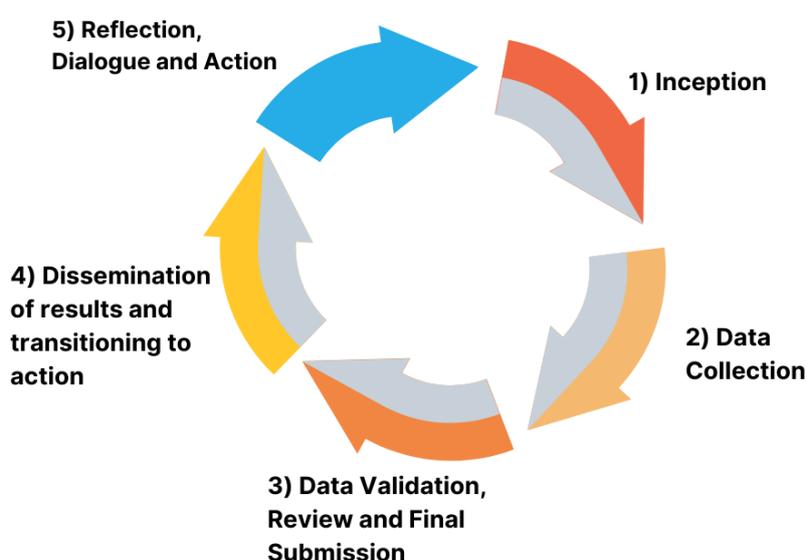


Figure 3. What the monitoring cycle looks like at country level

At the country level, the new monitoring process will focus on mobilisation for multi-stakeholder participation, data collection and dissemination of results, leading to a period of strategic reflection, dialogue and action for more effective development co-operation. This proposed process incorporates a country focus to facilitate participation across different contexts. All participating stakeholders will have specific roles and responsibilities to ensure a successful exercise. The granular details of each phase, including changes proposed from the previous process, and roles for stakeholders are **described in greater detail in the annex**. The following at-a-glance table summarises the process at country level.

Phase	Purpose of the phase	Indicative duration
<b>Inception</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To <b>plan the exercise implementation in a manner which strengthens national ownership</b> and ensures adequate time for each phase, linking with other relevant processes taking place in the country.</li> <li>• To <b>build political momentum at the multi-stakeholder kick-off meeting</b> convening relevant country actors.</li> <li>• For <b>all stakeholders to be engaged</b>, to understand their role through support material, and to be fully prepared for the monitoring exercise.</li> </ul>	Up to 3 months
<b>Data Collection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To <b>collect data from relevant country systems and stakeholders</b>, led by national co-ordinators, using a <b>new online reporting tool</b>.</li> <li>• Development partners at country level to <b>liaise with their headquarter counterparts before reporting their data</b> to national co-ordinators.</li> </ul>	Up to 6 months

<b>Data Review, Validation and Final Submission</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To incorporate feedback from <b>JST to ensure data accuracy</b> and comprehensiveness.</li> <li>To provide engaged stakeholders the opportunity to complement, <b>review and validate relevant data</b> for accuracy and consistency, prior to final data submission.</li> <li>To <b>submit final data</b> to JST [for final JST review if changes have been made during review/validation].</li> </ul>	Up to 3 months
<b>Dissemination of Results and Transitioning to Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For JST to conduct final quality check, results calculations and to share with countries their excel results dataset early on in this phase</li> <li>For stakeholders <b>to begin preparation for their transition to reflection, dialogue, action planning, implementation and follow-up.</b></li> <li>For JST to produce and <b>share the country results brief</b> towards the end of this phase for <b>countries to disseminate</b> at country level (and globally via the dashboard).</li> </ul>	Up to 3 months
<b>Reflection, Dialogue and Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>For government and its stakeholders to engage in a <b>process of reflection, dialogue and action on results</b> at country level following the receipt of results<sup>1</sup>.</i></li> <li><i>The format of this phase will vary but it is championed at high political level, is continuous process, involves multi-stakeholder dialogue, is informed by monitoring results, links to relevant national processes and issues, is focused on action planning and implementation.</i></li> </ul>	Ongoing until the process starts again

## 5. Resumption of the monitoring and key moments at global level

Finalisation and agreement on this proposal for the new monitoring process and key elements of the monitoring framework at the 23rd Steering Committee Meeting in July 2022 will be key to timely resumption of the monitoring exercise in 2023. The endorsement and launch of the reformed monitoring exercise will take place in December 2022, at the Effective Development Co-operation Summit. The Summit will be the occasion to highlight the new and improved monitoring exercise and create political momentum for the resumption of the exercise. Prior to, during, and/or directly after the Summit, partner country governments will be able to express interest to carry out the monitoring exercise and to start the inception phase in the second quarter of 2023. The Summit will also present development partners with the opportunity to signal their commitment to report to and engage in the exercise, as well as to support partner countries to lead the monitoring exercise in their countries.

As countries start the exercise in line with their national processes and priorities, and carry it out at their own pace, the monitoring will become a continuous global process with different countries in different phases of the exercise, undertaking various activities at the same time. For example, while some countries may be finishing their final data submission and preparing their transition to action, other countries may be starting with the inception phase, and so forth.

The only fixed deadline as part of this global rolling process is a **yearly cut-off date (end November)**, which allows the JST to compile all the data collected by then and submit results for **global SDG reporting by the global deadline of February/March** of the following year, maintaining GPEDC custodianship of the three SDG indicators.

Countries that are able to undertake the different phases of the monitoring and submit final data by 30 November 2023 will be encouraged to start the process as soon as materials are ready in the second quarter of 2023, and their results will be included in the summary and SDG aggregates produced in March 2024. Those countries that are unable or choose not to meet this 2023 deadline for their final data submission, can meet the deadline of November 2024, leading to their inclusion in the following summary and aggregates. In practice, countries will undertake the monitoring as done before, with the ability to follow their own calendar for the phases explained in the annex<sup>12</sup>. This approach will ensure fresh global data every year, which will be collated in annual summaries between 2023 and 2025, and will lead to the global progress report, and other products

<sup>12</sup> It should be noted that fewer countries may submit final data by the 2023 cut-off date if compared to subsequent years due to the limited timeframe to complete the exercise; but this first group of implementers is imperative, as the Global Partnership needs to provide data to the SDG reporting in 2024 (using 2023 data).

such as the development partner profiles, to serve as the basis of discussions at the 4<sup>th</sup> High-level Meeting (HLM4) in 2026.

In connection with the 2022 Summit (3<sup>rd</sup> High-level Meeting [HLM3]) and at regular intervals throughout the 2023-2026 monitoring round, a targeted effort led by Co-Chairs will help mobilise political commitment and ensure a good number of countries are regularly signing-up to carry out the monitoring. As part of this global effort, invitations would be sent from Co-Chairs to partner country governments inviting them to enrol in the process and to contact the JST to start implementation. Experience from the 2023-2026 monitoring round will feed into the planning of the 2027-2030 monitoring round and adjustments may be made based on lessons learned.

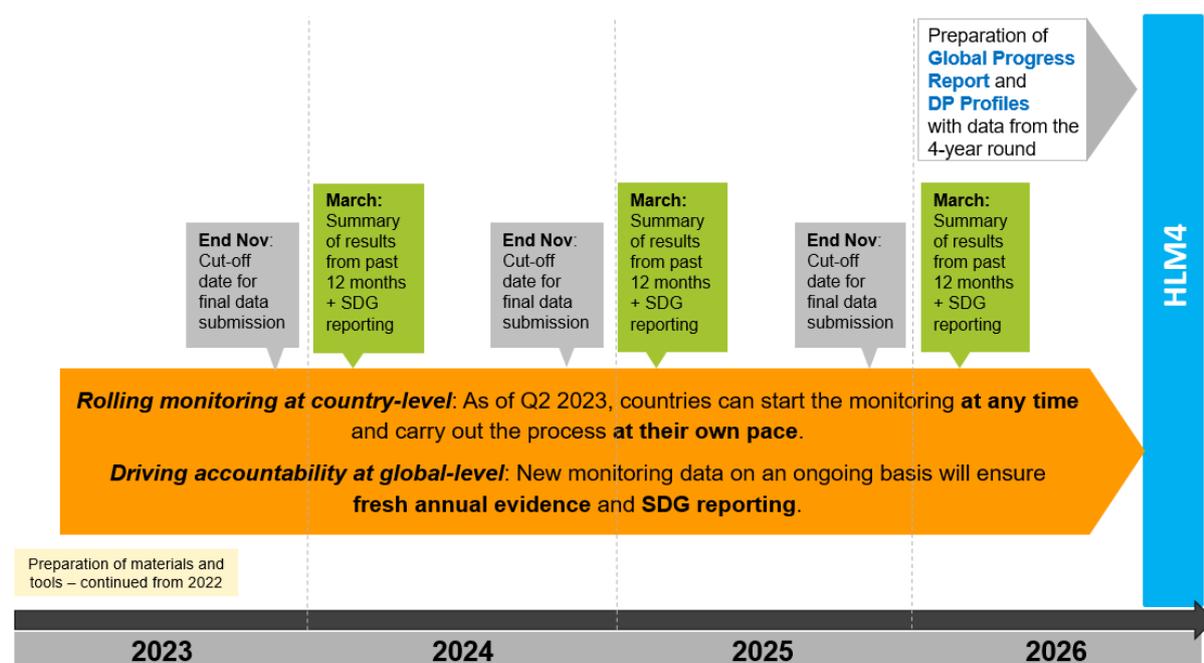


Figure 4. What the monitoring exercise looks like at global level

## Annex: Phases of the monitoring at country level and stakeholders' roles

### 1. Inception

Following the confirmation of participation by a partner country government, the purpose of this phase is for all stakeholders to prepare and convene, at country level, to undertake the monitoring exercise. The JST will guide and support the government in planning the timing of the different phases, ensuring that country needs and priorities are reflected in a country-tailored calendar, and that it is linked to other relevant processes, such as reviews of national development strategies. Similarly, the JST will provide countries with a global overview, including information on the relevant plans of other countries, i.e. if other countries in their region or their country context group are carrying out the exercise around the same time, including other considerations relevant to planning their participation in the monitoring.

In this initial stage, the government undertaking the monitoring will convene all relevant country-level actors in the form of a kick-off meeting [in-person if possible]. This will provide stakeholders an opportunity to engage at the strategic and political level, as well as to build working relationships at the technical level to familiarise themselves with the guidance and tools to carry out the exercise, while also becoming familiar with the calendar milestones. Although partner countries will determine the pace for every phase of the exercise, it is expected that this inception phase will take up to three months.

Stakeholder-specific roles envisioned for this phase are as follows:

#### *Role of partner country governments:*

- Identify the national co-ordinator (NC) who will lead and co-ordinate the implementation of the monitoring with all stakeholders.
- Develop a calendar together with the JST, ensuring adequate time for each phase and linkages with ongoing relevant national processes.
- NC to get familiar with the exercise by reviewing guidance material and tools to understand the framework and the data to be collected.
- NC to organise multi-stakeholder kick-off meeting to build engagement at the strategic and political levels.
- NC to update their country page on the global dashboard with information on the kick-off meeting.

#### *Role of development partners and other stakeholders:*

- Upon request for contacts by NC, development partners (DP) at headquarter level to nominate country-level [reporting] focal points, with the help of the development partners guide and clear terms of reference (ToRs) to guide their engagement. If support is also requested by NC (co-ordination, capacity building, logistics or other), development partners (DP) at headquarter level to nominate a DP champion (on behalf of all DPs). Development partner champion(s) will support NC in undertaking the exercise. Their role will differ depending on country context, but could include technical capacity building, technical assistance, stakeholder co-ordination and/or logistical support.
- For the consideration of NC, other stakeholders at headquarter level to mobilise their country-level [reporting] focal points with the help of terms of reference (ToRs) to guide their engagement. It is important to note that mobilising these contacts does not guarantee that they will be invited to act as [reporting] focal points to provide data, as NCs may reach out to other networks to nominate such focal points, or use dialogue platforms.
- Focal points are to consult the development partners guide and ToRs in order to understand their role and to familiarise themselves with the revised framework and data to be collected, as well as the opportunities and entry points for overall engagement in the exercise, not limited to reporting and data collection.
- All relevant stakeholders to participate in the kick-off meeting, and engage their political level counterparts when appropriate.

### 2. Data collection

This phase, led by the national co-ordinator, will require all relevant stakeholders to report accurate and timely data as part of the revised monitoring framework. Data collection is known to be a demanding process. However, with adequate preparation in the inception phase, the addition of development partner champion(s), and the use of an online reporting tool, this phase is expected to be more streamlined and coherent for all. Based on past experience, it is anticipated that this phase will take up to six months. The specific roles for stakeholders:

#### *Role of partner country governments:*

- NC to co-ordinate reporting on the government-related questions, from within own department/ministry/systems and by reaching out to other relevant departments or ministries.
- NC to reach out to all its development partners' focal points for data and information that require their input.
- NC to co-ordinate and identify reporting focal points that will participate in answering the multi-stakeholder questions.
- NC to collect and report the data in the new online reporting tool. Note that a hybrid option (offline excel) will be made available for NCs with connectivity constraints.

*Role of development partners and other stakeholders:*

- Development partner champion(s) to support the national co-ordinator in the data collection phase. This could include effective liaison and co-ordination of DP stakeholder group, or logistical and organisational support.
- Prior to submission to NC, DP country-level focal points have the responsibility to liaise with their headquarters to ensure data and information they provide are accurate, comprehensive and coherent. Data is reported in the new online reporting tool.
- Reporting focal points of other stakeholders are to provide inputs for the relevant elements of the framework.

### 3. Data review, validation and submission

Following the data collection phase, the JST will review the data to ensure comprehensive and accurate reporting and may request additional information from the NC. NC and engaged stakeholders will have the opportunity to review and make final adjustments to the data, prior to final data submission. Submission of the final data is the only fixed deadline in the new monitoring process (end November). Countries that are able to adhere to this cut-off date will be included in the respective year's SDG global reporting. Countries that require more time for data submission can do so by abiding by the same deadline for the following year (see *section 4 Key monitoring moments at global level* for more information). Countries are expected to take up to three months to complete the data review, validation and submission phase. Specific roles for stakeholders are:

*Role of partner country governments:*

- NC submits preliminary data to the JST, who reviews and provides feedback.
- NC addresses feedback from JST and liaises with relevant stakeholders to collect missing information or clarify open issues, while providing an opportunity for them to review and make final adjustments to the data. A checklist helps ensuring this validation process is inclusive and provides adequate time for feedback.
- NC consolidates and addresses feedback from development partners, other stakeholders and JST, and submits final dataset to the JST.

*Role of development partners and other stakeholders:*

- Development partners and other stakeholders participate and engage in the data review and validation process, to provide clarifications and additional information where necessary, with DPs ensuring data validity and liaising with their HQs as needed.

### 4. Dissemination of results and transitioning to action

Data analysis and disseminating results' outputs comprise the main elements of this phase. Following final data submission by a country, the JST will proceed with further review, quality checks and calculations of results to produce the country's results excel dataset early on in this phase, which can be the basis for countries to begin preparation for reflection, dialogue and action. This phase will also include data analysis for the preparation of country results briefs (CRBs) that will be featured on the Global Partnership dashboard, and which can be used as a basis for dissemination and discussions on country results with all stakeholders at country level. Countries can also use their results to inform SDG follow-up and review (for a Voluntary National Review for example). Following analysis of the data and evidence collected from all countries that submitted by the annual cut-off date, SDG indicator aggregates will be calculated and results submitted for global SDG reporting.

An integral element of the proposed monitoring process is the increased focus on using and implementing action in response to the results of the monitoring exercise, with the ultimate aim to change policy practices and encourage behaviour change at the country level to make development co-operation more effective. This phase of the monitoring marks the stage wherein countries can begin preparation for their transition to action. Such a transition would entail dissemination of the monitoring results, with the aim of furthering reflection and dialogue at the strategic and political levels, leading to action plans and implementation strategies to enable behaviour change as well as learning opportunities at country level (see *Reflection, Dialogue and Action phase* below). Accounting for data analysis, creation of results' outputs, and partner country preparation to focus on

reflection, dialogue and action, this phase is expected to take approximately three months. However, the time needed for dissemination of results and to transition to action can be determined by countries in line with their capacities and national processes.

It is recommended that soon after receiving their country results brief at the end of this phase, national co-ordinators and all engaged stakeholders participate in a short exit survey to assess certain attributes of the exercise. (E.g., inclusivity of the process; what needs further improvement; how countries have planned to use their results, and how and what action-related implementation is planned, following receipt of their results).

The specific roles for stakeholders are:

*Role of partner country governments:*

- Following receipt of country's results excel dataset early on in this phase, NC to begin preparation for reflection, dialogue and action.
- Following receipt of CRB towards the end of this phase, NC to disseminate country's' monitoring results widely (which will also be made available on the Global Partnership dashboard) and encourage political buy-in for reflection, dialogue and action.
- NC to update the Global Partnership dashboard with information on what is planned concerning action dialogues.
- NCs to undertake the exit survey, which will include questions to better understand where and how results are planned to be used.

*Role of development partners and other stakeholders:*

- To disseminate CRB widely in their groups and encourage political buy-in for reflection, dialogue and action on results.
- To undertake the exit survey, which will include questions to better understand where and how results are planned to be used.

## 5. Reflection, Dialogue and Action

Following the dissemination of results, as presented above, a process of reflection, dialogue and action on results will follow. Within the monitoring process, this marks the shift from phases focused on producing monitoring results to a continuous process focused on action planning and implementation for more effective development co-operation. While this typically happens at country level, some plans may involve engagement at global level. The duration and exact format of this action-oriented phase will vary depending on different aspects (the existence of similar processes already taking place in the country, the level of political commitment to the agenda, etc.). This phase is broadly characterised by the following elements:

- **Championed at high political level:** The behaviour change needed to scale up development co-operation results and make development co-operation more effective depends on political leadership. While the monitoring process is more technical in nature - except for some political moments highlighted above - the reflection, the action planning and implementation process is driven and permeated by strong government leadership and multi-stakeholder engagement. This political championing at country level will be needed in order to mainstream effectiveness principles into development co-operation policies and practices, strengthen systems and support multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms.
- **Continuous process:** Using results for dialogue and action is most effective when it is an ongoing process rather than a one-off discussion. There may be punctual deliverables or milestones such as a dialogue or a plan of action, but this action-oriented phase requires continuous engagement, purposeful reflection and persistent action. In order to streamline processes and reduce transaction costs, this continuous process will ideally be integrated with existing nationally led development processes and systems.
- **Inclusive and multi-stakeholder in nature:** Behaviour change also entails collective planning and action, so the multi-stakeholder element of this action-oriented phase is critical to its success. The in-country stakeholders to be engaged include parliaments, local governments, civil society, the business sector, philanthropy, trade unions and other actors as determined by the national context. As development co-operation has elements that relate to various areas and sectors, the relevant government institutions should also be encouraged to engage in this process.
- **Involves dialogue:** Although this process goes beyond action dialogues, these are a key component of it. These could typically involve consultations with relevant in-country stakeholders and can also be intra-governmental. Dialogues can include discussions and reflections around the monitoring results and other relevant information, identification of key effectiveness challenges and mechanisms currently in place, and definition of specific priority areas where progress is lacking or where challenges

persist. The development of a joint action plan can also benefit from a multi-stakeholder dialogue. In the process of moving to planning action, implementation and follow-up, several dialogues at varying levels may be needed. While this happens mostly at country level, global dialogues also serve to exchange practices, share lessons and learn from peers, in addition to being important accountability tools.

- **Substantiated by monitoring results:** Sound evidence is the basis of dialogue and action planning. Monitoring results (in the form of country results briefs or raw data) are one of the main inputs to this process, but other information and processes relevant for the country can also inform discussions, drive political decisions and strengthen commitments. In this regard and in order to optimise the use of the monitoring results, partner countries and other relevant stakeholders at country level will be invited to provide periodic updates on how they have been using their results. These updates, including on the progress of action plans, will be featured on the Global Partnership website's dashboard. This will further encourage collective accountability, policy change and peer learning.
- **Linked to relevant national processes and issues:** Rather than being a stand-alone process, this effort is most effective when connected to other national processes and effectiveness issues with wide traction. When a country government signs up to undertake the monitoring, it is encouraged to plan the timing of the exercise in a way that enables the strengthening of existing mechanisms as well as allows for the results to inform national processes. In this action-oriented phase, this cycle can be closed and the results can effectively feed back to the relevant mechanisms, especially during the action planning activities.
- **Focused on action planning:** Although discussions are a key component of this process, it is imperative to move from dialogue to action. This involves identifying priorities, defining scope and drawing up action plans in a multi-stakeholder setting with political engagement. A joint plan of actions can renew efforts to improve the quality of development co-operation and innovate if needed. While this typically happens at country level, some plans may involve engagement at global level, such as from development partners' headquarters. To ensure that this reaches all the relevant audiences, development partners need to engage in the process happening at country level and liaise with their global offices during implementation.
- **Targeted to implementation:** Implementation of action plans is the final driver of behaviour change. Follow-up activities can help ensuring that plans are being implemented and that the expectations set at the start are being achieved. Establishing co-ordination mechanisms to track the implementation of action plans, or identifying existing ones, is crucial for the advancement of this agenda and for collective accountability.

This action-oriented phase will require strong country leadership and investment by development partners and other stakeholders at the country level. The JST will provide light virtual advisory support to help countries reflect on the results and conceptualise dialogue and plan action in a way that builds on existing national process and development co-operation/partnership architecture, including through working closely with the UN development system.