Cook Islands

Cook Islands is a high-income country and a Small Island Development State (SIDS). In the 2018 Monitoring Round, Cook Islands reported on 50 million USD in development co-operation flows.

1. National development planning and results orientation

Overall quality of national results framework
High-quality, inclusive and results-oriented development strategies are critical for countries’ ownership over their development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The quality of national development planning in Cook Islands is high (89%).

- The national development strategy and results framework...
  - defines priorities, targets and indicators
    - Government representatives perceive the strategy as emerging
  - includes budget or costing information
    - Government representatives perceive the budget as emerging
  - aligns to SDGs
    - Government representatives perceive the alignment to SDGs as emerging
  - Regular progress reports are available
    - Government representatives perceive the availability of progress reports as emerging

Extent of use of country-owned results frameworks by development partners
Development partner alignment to country-led development priorities is at the heart of country ownership. Global Partnership monitoring assesses whether interventions: draw objectives from national development strategies; draw indicators from country results frameworks; use government data and statistics for monitoring; and involve government in evaluations. The first three elements provide the official data to report on SDG indicator 17.15.1. In Cook Islands, development partners align to country priorities to a high extent (74% - SDG indicator 17.15.1).

2. Multi-stakeholder engagement

Recognising that successful development efforts require the inclusive and equitable participation of all actors, the 2030 Agenda calls for collective action by the whole of society. Global Partnership monitoring examines the engagement of civil society and the private sector from both the perspective of the government and representatives of these stakeholder groups.

Quality of public-private dialogue
Government representatives perceive the quality of public-private dialogue as emerging, SMEs as emerging, large private sector firms as weak and trade unions as emerging.
3. Quality and use of public financial management systems

Strong public financial management (PFM) systems are an essential element of good governance and vital to achieving development goals. Cook Islands experienced progress in the quality of its PFM systems.

Development partners’ use of country systems

Development partners’ use of these systems to deliver co-operation both lowers transaction costs but also helps to accelerate their strengthening. In Cook Islands, use of country PFM systems decreased from 75% in 2016 to 60% in 2018. Further, legislative oversight of the budget has improved. The share of development co-operation recorded on budgets subject to parliamentary scrutiny increased from 98% in 2016 to 100% in 2018.

Systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women’s empowerment

Adequate and effective financing is essential to achieve gender equality and to empower all women and girls. Cook Islands has some elements of a system in place to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women’s empowerment, approaching the requirements of SDG indicator 5.c.1.

5. Mutual accountability mechanisms

Mutual accountability underpins the efforts of development actors to meet joint commitments, improve how they work together and increase their development effectiveness. Mutual accountability mechanisms are made up of multiple, reinforcing components that can help enhance transparency and accountability at country level. Global Partnership monitoring defines and assesses mutual accountability against five components. Cook Islands has four out of five components in place.

Disclaimer: This document was prepared based on data collected from voluntary reporting to the 2018 Monitoring Round of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation. The information provided does not necessarily represent the views of OECD, UNDP or the Government of Cook Islands. For sake of reference, the term ‘country’ is used to refer to developing countries and territories that reported to the 2018 Monitoring Round. Participation in this process and mention of any participant in this document is without prejudice to the status or international recognition of a given country or territory.