Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation

Making development co-operation more effective

HEADLINES OF PARTS I AND II OF THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP 2019 PROGRESS REPORT

OECD

UNDP

Introduction

Effective partnerships are a cornerstone for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires urgent action on effective partnerships, as called for in SDG 17. Realising the ambition of the 2030 Agenda requires a whole-of-society approach; one that builds on the collective actions of all stakeholders to deliver sustainable solutions for people and the planet while leaving no one behind.

The Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (Global Partnership) spurs action for more effective partnerships that can deliver long-lasting development results. Established by the Busan Partnership agreement (2011), the Global Partnership advances the effectiveness of development efforts by all actors as re-affirmed at its 2nd High-Level Meeting in Nairobi (2016). Its biennial global monitoring exercise tracks progress against agreed commitments and actions for promoting effectiveness. The Global Partnership monitoring has two fundamental objectives. First, to assess how effectively governments have established a conducive environment to lead national development efforts, enabling the full participation of the whole of society. Second, to assess how development partners deliver their support in a way that is focused on country-owned development priorities and that draws on existing country systems and capacities to ensure sustainability of results.

The Global Partnership monitoring exercise is country-led, voluntary and aims to strengthen multi-stakeholder dialogue at country, regional and global level. It focuses on the quality of partnering that takes place to deliver development results and outcomes. The Global Partnership reports on progress through ten indicators that capture the essence of the four internationally agreed principles for effective development co-operation: country ownership; focus on results; inclusive partnerships; and transparency and mutual accountability. Data generated from Global Partnership monitoring, building on country-led data collection, also provide evidence for SDG follow-up and review.

This brief presents headlines from Parts I and II of the Global Partnership 2019 Progress Report. It highlights interlinkages between how partner countries (Part I) and development partners (Part II) are promoting effective, country-led partnerships and compiles the Global Partnership's evidence as it relates to informing UN-led SDG follow-up and review.

The 2018 Monitoring Round

...and hundreds of civil society organisations, private sector representatives, foundations, trade unions, parliamentarians and local governments

Global Partnership monitoring collates country-level data to track progress on SDG follow-up and review

Country-level data generated through Global Partnership monitoring contributes to SDG follow-up and review and is the source of data to measure progress on three SDG targets. Partner countries and bilateral development partner obtain results for the indicators of SDG Targets 17.16 and 17.15. Moreover, partner countries can receive results for SDG Target 5.c.

The Global Partnership measures progress on SDG Target 17.16 on enhancing multi-stakeholder partnerships for development in support of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

SDG Indicator 17.16.1

Number of countries reporting progress in multi- stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Global Partnership results show that 45% of the 114 countries (partner countries and bilateral development partners) that undertook multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring reported progress towards inclusive, transparent and accountable multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Global Partnership monitoring informs tracking of progress against SDG Target 17.15 on respecting a country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for the Sustainable Development Goals.

SDG Indicator 17.15.1

Extent of use of country-owned results frameworks and planning tools by providers of development co-operation.

Global Partnership results show that the extent to which development partners rely on country-owned results frameworks and planning tools by aligning to partner country priorities and using results, statistics and monitoring systems dropped from 64% in the 2016 Monitoring Round to 62% in the 2018 round. Use of country-owned results frameworks and planning tools remains higher, on average, among multilateral (66%) than among bilateral (57%) development partners.

Global Partnership monitoring also provides data to measure progress on SDG Target 5.c on adopting and strengthening policies and legislation for the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment.

SDG Indicator 5.c.1

Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment.

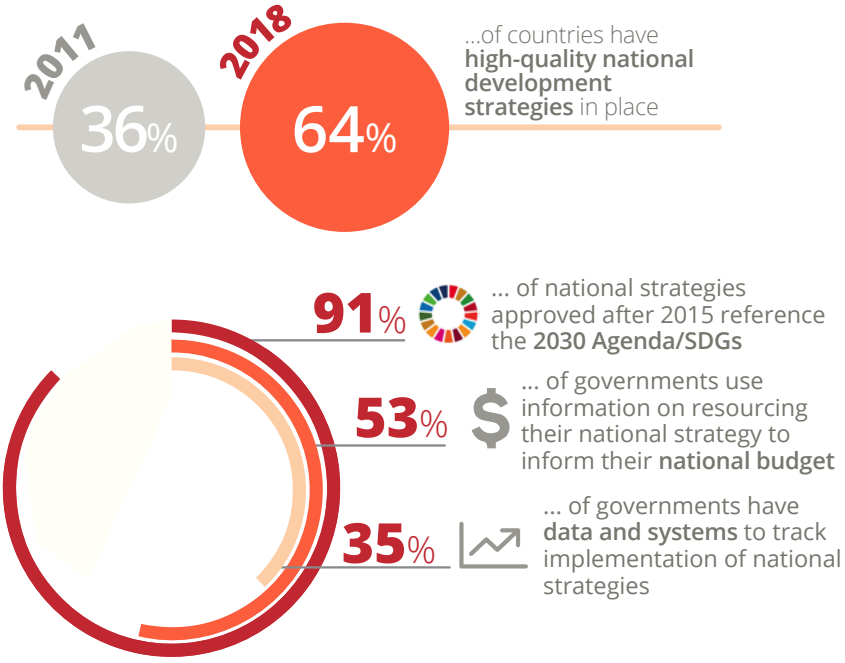
Global Partnership results show that 19% of partner countries have comprehensive tracking systems in place and make gender budget allocations available publicly. An additional 59% have taken steps to establish such systems and have some basic elements of these systems in place.

Leading and supporting development planning efforts

Partner country governments have made significant progress in strengthening national development planning...

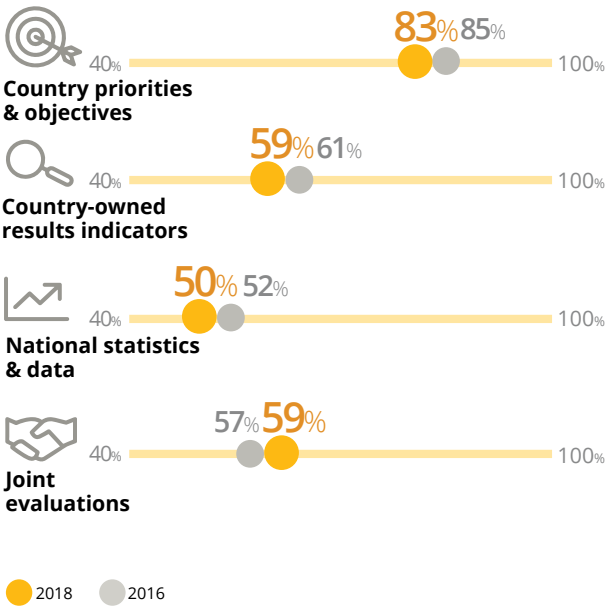
Since 2011, the proportion of partner countries with a high-quality national development strategy has almost doubled. Moreover, partner countries, like their development partners, are embedding the SDGs into their planning, signalling increasing use of the SDGs as a shared framework for results. Nearly all national development strategies approved since 2015 reference the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Still, to reap the full benefits of strengthened development planning, strategies must be better linked to implementation resources and matched with robust monitoring and evaluation.

Partner countries' progress in development planning



...yet development partners' alignment to partner country priorities and country-owned results frameworks is declining.

Use of country-owned results frameworks and planning tools by development partners

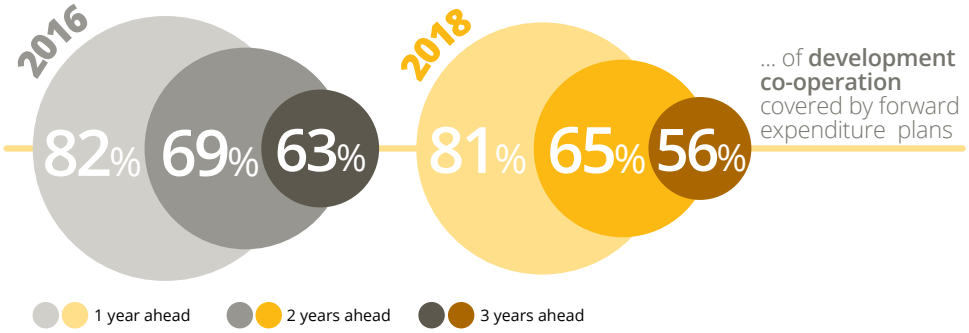


Alignment of project objectives to partner country priorities, as well as reliance on country-defined results, statistics and monitoring systems, has decreased for most development partners since 2016. While multilateral development banks have increased their reliance of country-owned results frameworks, the decline is most pronounced for bilateral development partners. Availability of government data is a shared bottleneck. Only a third of partner country governments indicate that they have adequate data to report on their results frameworks, which also challenges development partners' reliance on it. Concerted efforts are needed from both partner countries and development partners to use and strengthen national statistics and monitoring systems.

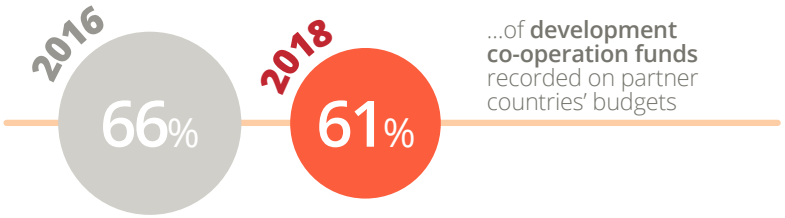
Forward visibility of development co-operation at country level is weakening.

Partner countries report a limited availability of forward expenditure and implementation plans from their development partners. Medium-term predictability is decreasing, particularly for three years ahead. This decline is mirrored in the fall of the share of development co-operation finance recorded on partner countries' budgets subject to parliamentary scrutiny. Together, this trend puts at risk the ability of partner countries to effectively plan and budget for their development efforts, and limits accountability over national development efforts maintained through parliamentary oversight.

Decreasing forward visibility of development co-operation



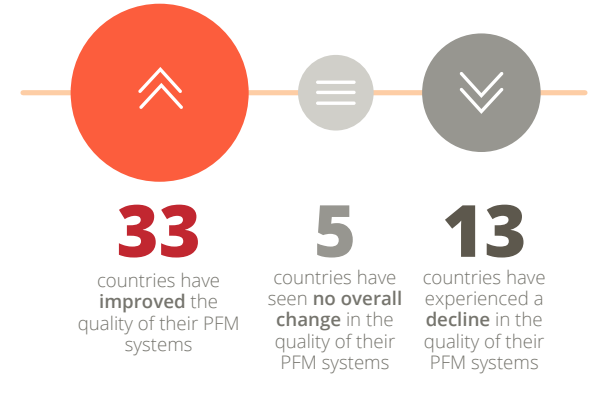
Partner countries' parliaments are overseeing a decreasing share of development co-operation



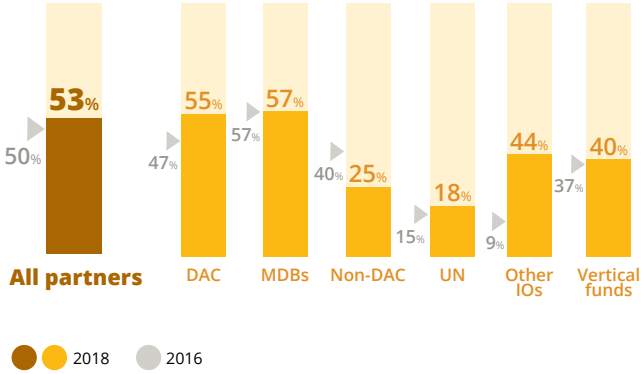
Strengthened public financial management (PFM) systems have not been matched with significantly increased use by development partners.

Partner countries are making steady progress in strengthening PFM systems, with the strongest gains relating to aspects of budget formulation. Continued effort is needed in the areas of auditing and procurement, as well as to ensure PFM systems respond to gender equality goals. Development partners made marginal progress in using country PFM systems, driven by an increase in the use of procurement systems. However, Global Partnership monitoring data show that the quality of PFM systems is not the determining factor for the extent of their use. Rather, the longer development partners engage in partner countries and the larger the share they channel to the public sector, the more they tend to use the public sector's financial management systems.

Partner countries' progress in strengthening public financial management systems



Comparing development partners' use of countries' public financial management systems



Reinforcing a whole-of-society approach to development

More systematic and meaningful consultations with development actors are needed both by partner country governments and development partners.

In designing national development strategies, partner country governments consult a broad range of national stakeholders, such as civil society, the private sector, parliamentarians, subnational governments and development partners. To a lesser extent, development partners also engage partner country stakeholders in the preparation of their country strategies and programmes. Results indicate that these engagement opportunities by both partner country governments and development partners could be more regular, predictable and involve a more diverse set of actors.

Partner country governments & **Development partners**

when designing national development and country strategies engage with...

Legal and regulatory framework for civil society organisations

Effectiveness of development partners' work with civil society organisations

The enabling environment for civil society organisations is deteriorating.

Civil society organisations (CSOs) report that there has been a decline in the legal and regulatory frameworks that provide protection for CSOs. Furthermore, CSOs report limited freedom of expression and inadequate protection from harassment when working with at-risk populations. Furthermore, CSOs do not consider development partners' funding mechanisms to be predictable, transparent or accessible to a diversity of CSOs and report that funding received is primarily driven by the providers' own interests and priorities. Concerted action by partner countries and development partners can support CSOs as equal partners in their own right, bringing knowledge on local development needs and priorities.

Improving the quality of public-private dialogue (PPD) in partner countries requires increased capacity, strengthened relevance and the inclusion of a wide range of private sector actors.

There is consensus among partner country governments and private stakeholders (large firms, small and medium-sized enterprises, and trade unions) that mutual trust and willingness to engage in policy dialogue exist. However, all stakeholders report limited capacity to engage. Additionally, public and private stakeholders report diverging views on relevance and inclusiveness of PPD, weakening its quality. Despite challenges, however, results also show that when the foundations for high-quality dialogue are in place, PPD is geared towards results and leads to joint action.

Quality of public-private dialogue (PPD)

RELEVANCE
Government representative and private sector stakeholders perceive relevance of PPD initiatives differently.

READINESS
All stakeholders perceive the capacity to engage in PPD as low.

INCLUSIVENESS
Governments perceive PPD initiatives as significantly more inclusive than private sector stakeholders.

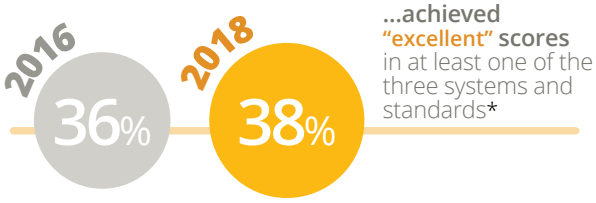
Transparency and mutual accountability in an evolving development landscape

There is mixed progress in making development co-operation more transparent.

More development partners report to global information systems and standards to make information on development co-operation publicly available. Information provided by development partners is also more comprehensive; however, progress on timely and forward-looking information on development co-operation is uneven. In addition, availability of information on development co-operation at a global level complements information provided and collected at country level. Nearly all partner countries have an information management system in place for development co-operation, and most (83%) development partners report to these systems. However, there is room for improvement regarding consistency and quality of reporting at country level.

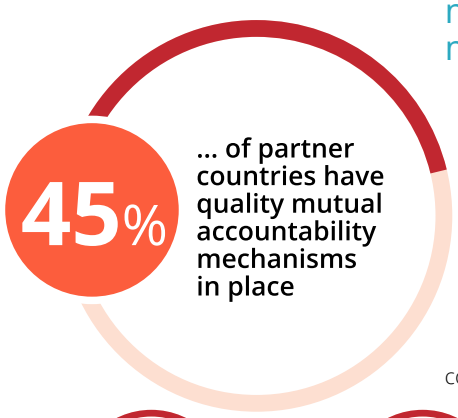
Transparency of development co-operation

Of the 94 development partners assessed...



** The three systems and standards are: the OECD-DAC Creditor Reporting System (CRS), the OECD-DAC Forward Spending Survey (FSS) and the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI).*

Mutual accountability mechanisms



In response to the evolving development landscape and the ambition of the 2030 Agenda, mutual accountability mechanisms are becoming more inclusive.

Countries for which official development asssistance remains important have quality mutual accountability mechanisms in place for development co-operation. Partner countries that are less dependent on development assistance are moving to other, more holistic accountability structures. Confirming the continued importance of mutual accountability at country level, the vast majority of development partners reported that mutual accountability assessments were effective in informing the ways of working in the country. Furthermore, an increasingly diverse set of development partners are engaged in mutual accountability mechanisms at country level. However, fewer partner countries are setting targets for effective development co-operation for these diverse partners.

Shifts in development co-operation structures at country level have implications for the Global Partnership monitoring process.

Government institutions are changing the way they organise themselves to manage development co-operation, including reshaping co-ordination mechanisms and structures in response to the 2030 Agenda. These structural shifts take time, but have already impacted the way the 2018 Monitoring Round was undertaken at country level, meriting further attention from the Global Partnership community ahead of its next monitoring round. Guided by the findings of the 2019 Progress Report, the Global Partnership will carry on adapting its monitoring to reflect the opportunities and challenges of the 2030 Agenda and ensure continued relevance and cutting-edge data in a changing world.

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 represents the views of of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the United Nations Development Programme. For ease 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.*