



DCF Survey Study 2020:

Toward effective development
cooperation in the COVID-19
period

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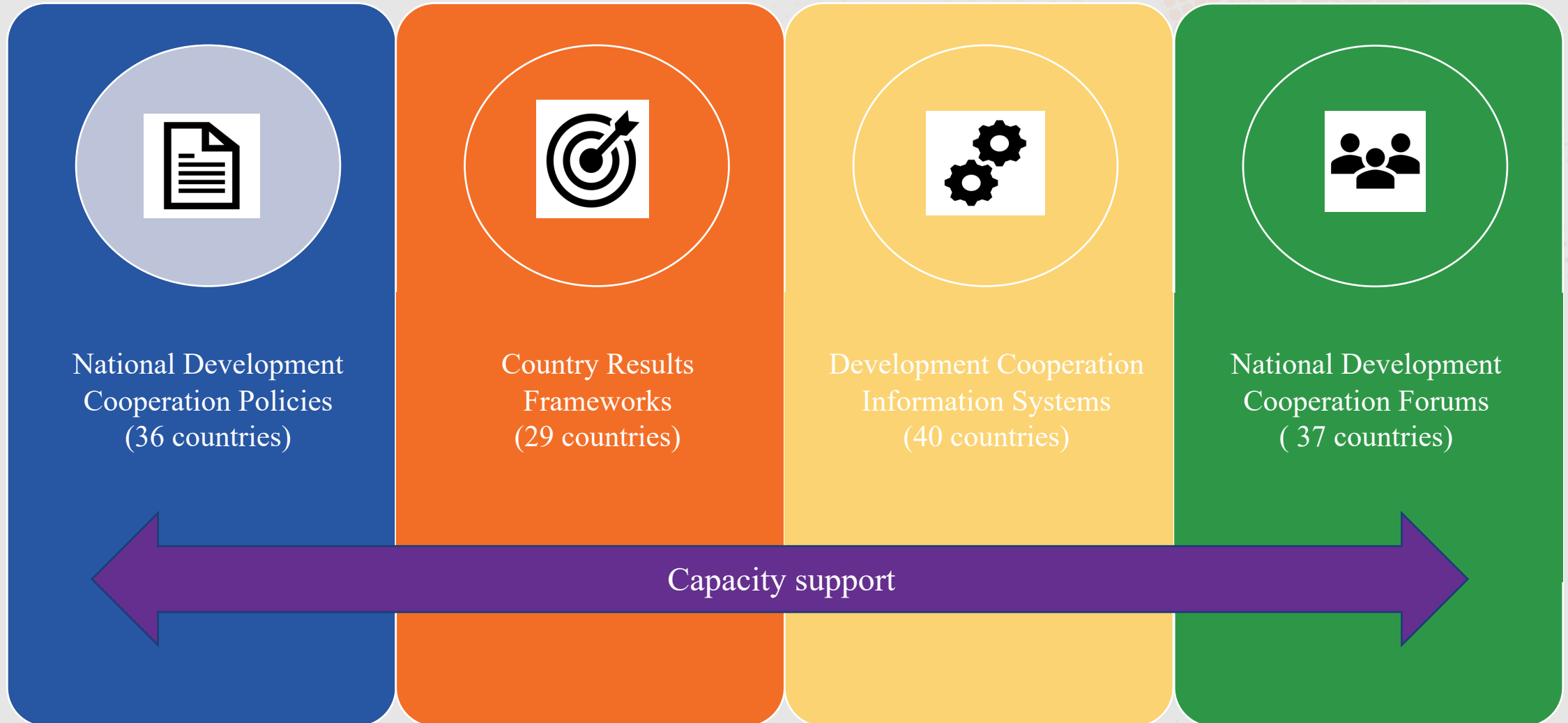


**United
Nations**

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

Key enablers of effective development cooperation

* 55 country responses * LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS, Africa and all income groupings included * 10 countries interviewed



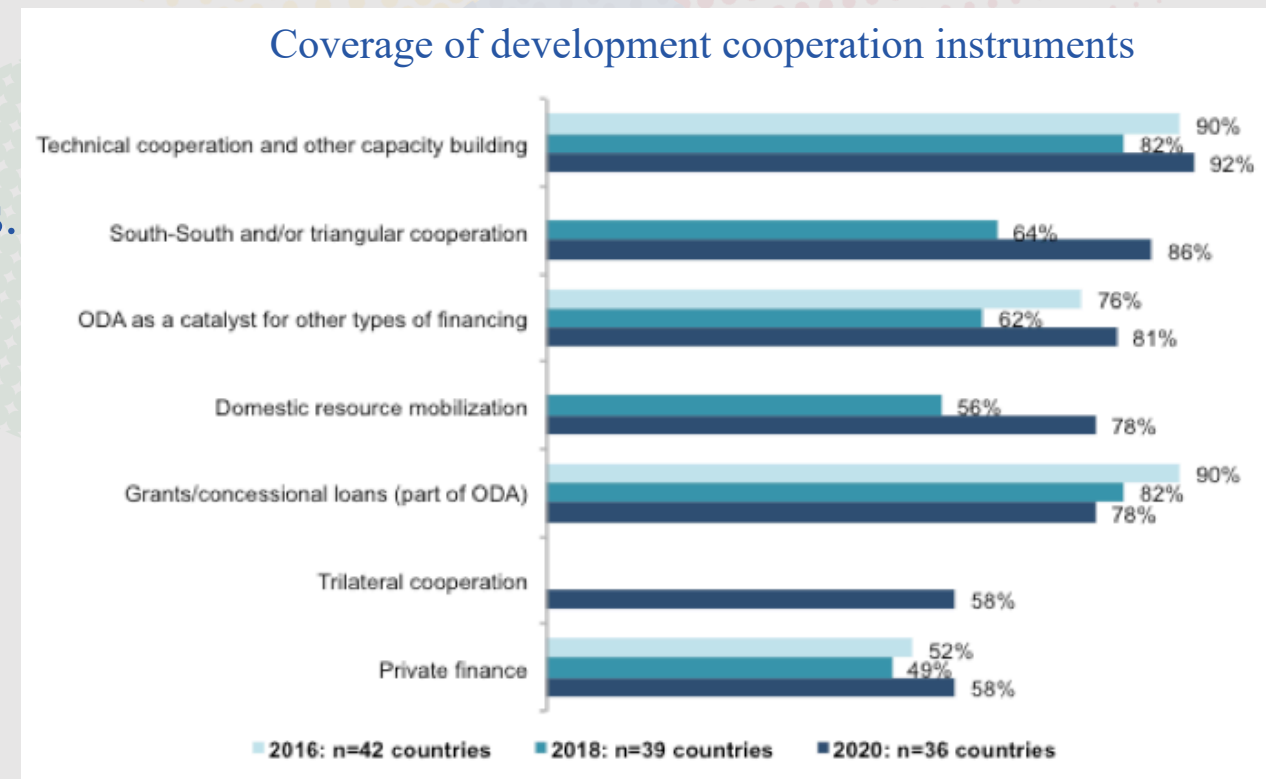
COVID-19 and its implications on development cooperation

- The pandemic has raised uncertainty in the short and long-term, and increased concerns over competing priorities for limited resources.
- Development cooperation enablers are supporting response and recovery.
- Countries interviewed are:
 - Negotiating redirection of existing finance.
 - Engaging development finance institutions.
 - Using NDCF to leverage partnerships with private sector.
 - Using DCIS to track COVID-19 related expenditures.



Trends in National Development Cooperation Policies (NDCPs)

- NDCPs are an important part of development cooperation ecosystems;
 - 2/3 of responding countries have NDCPs- most developed since adoption of the 2030 Agenda.
- Include diverse sources of finance and means of implementation.
- Good coverage of diversity of actors, beyond governments and international partners.
- Few cover disaster risk reduction and preparedness.
- Limited involvement of parliaments in oversight of NDCPs.

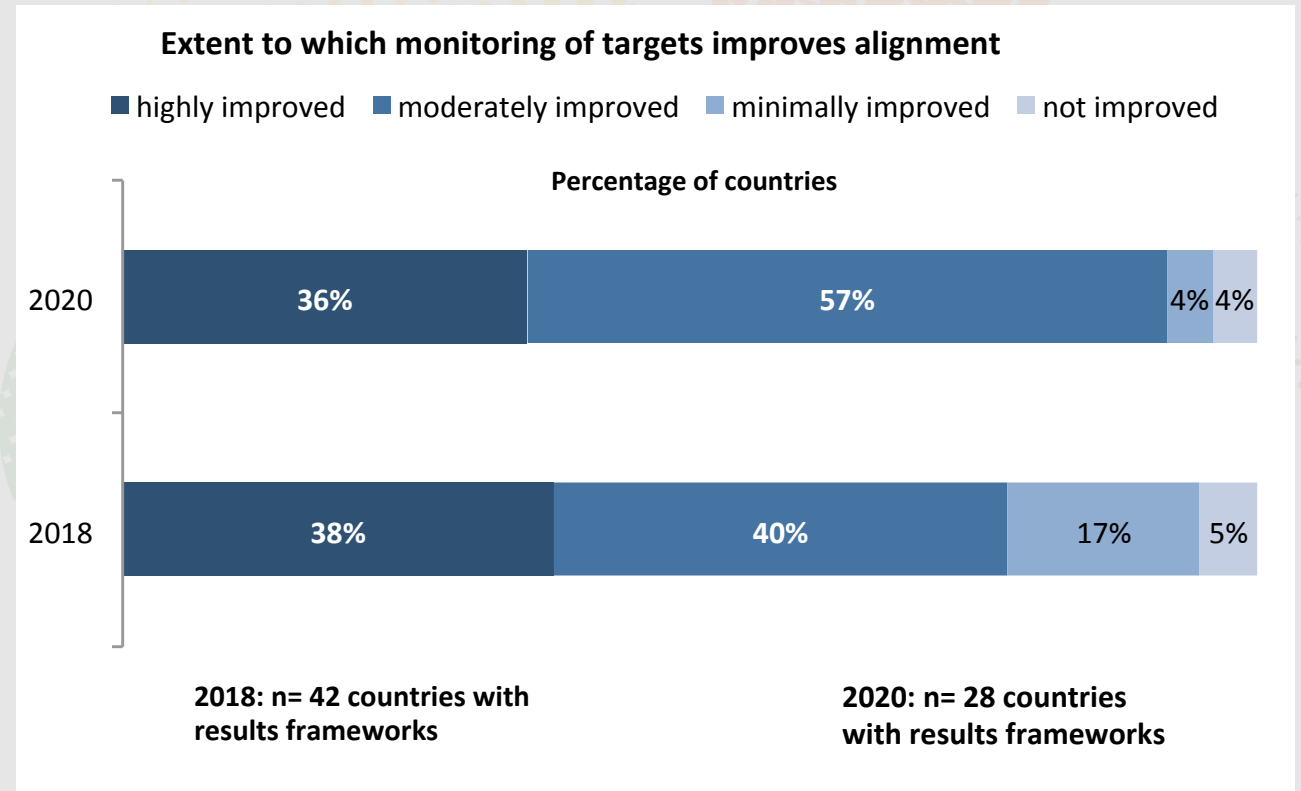


National Development Cooperation Policies (NDCPs) Proposals for action

- Countries without stand-alone NDCPs should develop one or ensure that NDCPs are clearly identified within national sustainable development plans.
- NDCPs should provide for regular comprehensive reviews of the policy that take into account significant changes in the national, regional or global context.
- New or updated NDCPs should incorporate better assessment of risks to sustainable development and reflect how international partners can support building resilience.

Trends in Country Results Frameworks (CRFs)

- Some notable progress w/ CRFs:
 - Setting targets (local & regional governments).
 - Monitoring targets seen to improve alignment with national priorities.
- Some backsliding in reducing use of parallel results frameworks.



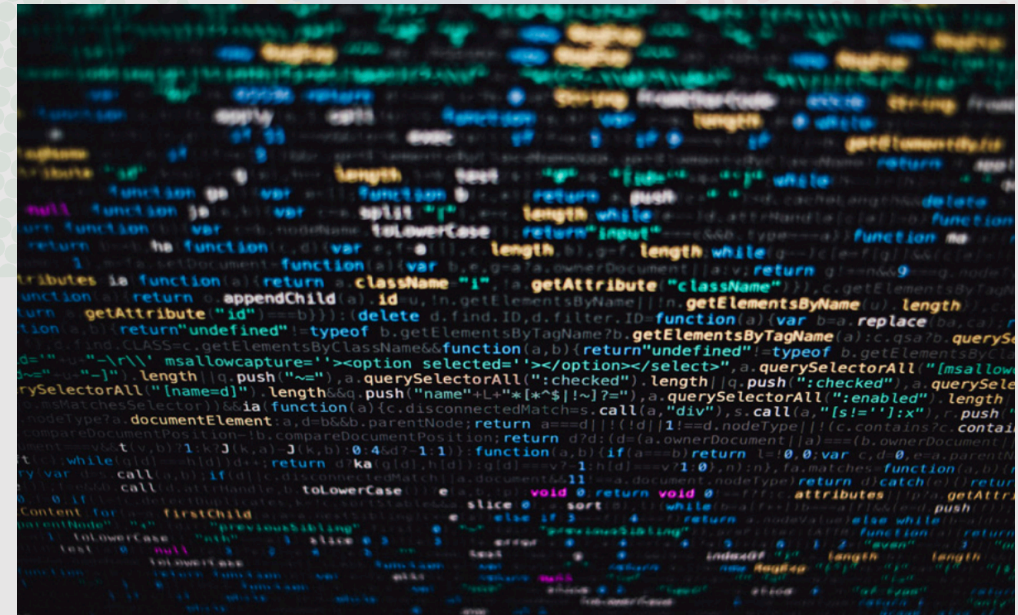
Country Results Frameworks (CRFs)

Proposals for action

- Developing countries without CRFs or similar means for monitoring results of development cooperation are encouraged to develop them in line with their NSDS.
- International development cooperation partners should align with country-led results frameworks, in planning and monitoring stages, and avoid use of parallel frameworks.
- Partners should continue capacity support in using results-based approaches to development cooperation, including the operationalization of CRFs.
- Developing countries should invest in strengthening their negotiation capacity to secure agreed targets from international partners, especially necessary where responsibility for development cooperation is shared between different ministries.

Trends in Development Cooperation Information Systems (DCIS)

- Most survey participants have DCIS and use them to track disbursements, project progress etc.
- DCIS are accessible to wide range of stakeholders, but regular users are mainly government and international development cooperation partners.
- Improvement in parliaments as regular users of DCIS.
- Scope to encourage regular use of DCIS by non-state actors.
- Heavy reliance on data from international partners.
- Need to strengthen country-owned data.



Development Cooperation Information Systems (DCIS) Proposals for action

- National governments should improve DCIS to facilitate collection, analysis and use of data disaggregated by gender and by other vulnerable groups. Inequality markers should be attached to all efforts facilitated through development cooperation.
- Development cooperation should support development of DCIS that can be maintained locally. International partners should continue to improve timeliness and quality of information they provide to DCIS.
- Developing countries and their partners should invest in strengthening existing DCIS and capacities for data and statistical analysis, including to extract and analyse data from existing databases.
- Developing countries are encouraged to continue to improve accessibility of their DCIS to non-state actors.

Trends in National Development Cooperation Forums (NDCFs)

- Positive shift in engagement of local and regional governments.
- Scope to improve engagement of civil society and private sector especially in COVID-19 context.
- Interviews identified lessons in engaging private sector.
- Limited participation of parliaments in NDCFs.



National Development Cooperation Forums (NDCFs)

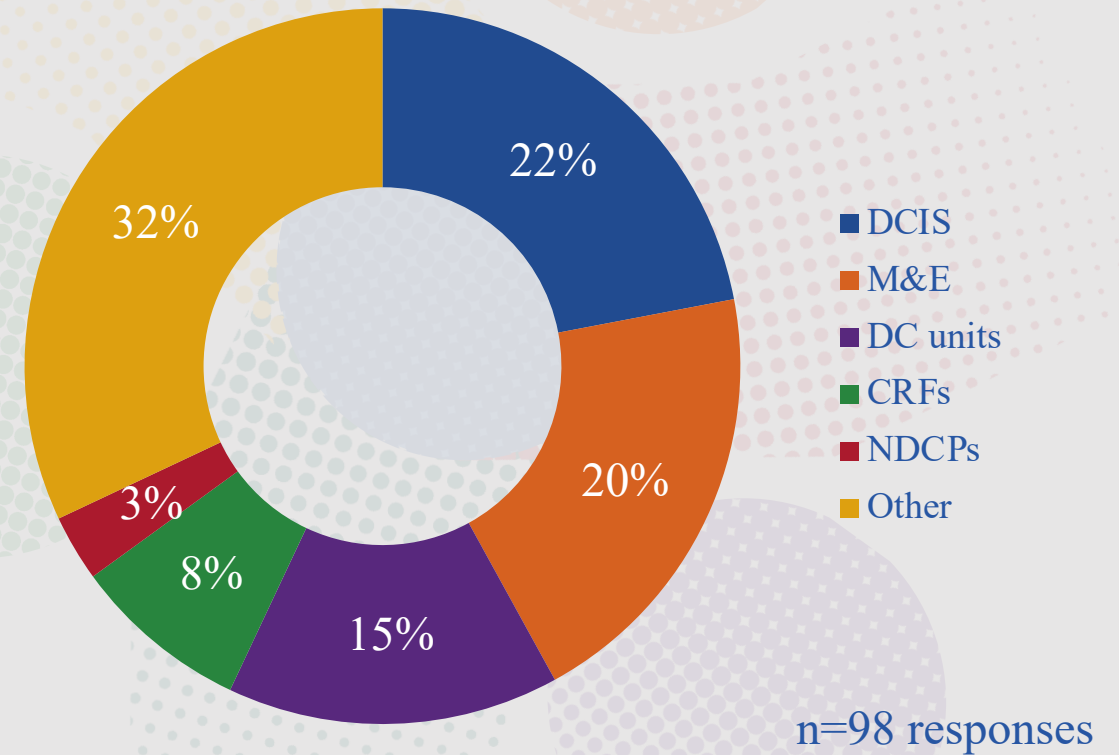
Proposals for action

- National governments should encourage wider engagement in the NDCF – an imperative if countries wish to ‘build back better’ from the pandemic.
- Ministries responsible for local government can enhance engagement of LRGs in NDCFs by strengthening monitoring and evaluation capacities at local and regional levels, also to contribute to VNR reporting.
- International development cooperation partners should improve quality of engagement with civil society organizations, including through the NDCFs.
- National governments should improve quality of engagement with private sector. Units responsible for coordinating DC should consider developing a strategy for engaging private sector in the NDCF.
- Development cooperation coordination units should work with the ministry of labour and employee organizations to develop specific actions for engaging trade unions in NDCFs.

Capacity support for strengthening enablers

- Countries receiving support to strengthen all enablers;
- Most support channeled to DCIS and Development Cooperation units;
- Limited capacity support for:
 - LRGs.
 - Parliaments.
 - National NGOs/CSOs, trade unions.
- Expect increased demand for capacity support in COVID-19 period

Capacity needs identified



Development cooperation and capacity support are needed more than ever to build resilience in COVID-19 period (...)

- Governments should review and recalibrate NDCPs to be risk-informed and climate smart and reflect emerging realities brought on by COVID-19.
- International development cooperation partners should support countries to conduct comprehensive assessments and diagnosis of their financing needs, financial landscape to determine financing gaps, risks and policy and institutional constraints. This is also a first step towards developing an integrated national financing framework (INFF).
- Governments should use their NDCFs to improve the quality of dialogue and partnerships with national stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to strengthen country-owned priorities as part of COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.



(...) Development cooperation and capacity support are needed more than ever to build resilience in COVID-19 period

- Decisions to redirect development cooperation resources should be not only aligned with countries' recovery priorities but also informed by assessment of risks to the projects or programmes from which resources are directed.
- International development cooperation partners should provide high-quality, timely data and support capacity development to strengthen DCIS to track development cooperation resources from all partners for COVID-19-related activities.
- Parliaments should develop their institutional capacities to ensure continuity in exercising their oversight functions during periods of uncertainty caused by major crises.



DCF survey as a tool for learning and policy change

- These five key enablers are distinctive to the DCF survey. They are a toolbox of policies, structures, systems and processes that facilitate mutually reinforcing changes in behaviour of governments of developing countries and their international development cooperation partners, as well as other actors.
- These behaviour changes contribute to better quality and use of development cooperation, which in turn contributes to achieving sustainable development outcomes and building resilience of developing countries.

