

IATI Rwanda Workshop

Session 9 proposal

Understanding the current development cooperation landscape: Challenges and opportunities for enhancing data systems to respond to new and emerging risks

Background

A key message from the 2021 Development Cooperation Forum was that advancing risk-informed development cooperation requires building better data and statistical capacities and systems, based on access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data and the capacity to leverage new data sources.¹ Development cooperation data and information are critical elements of such capacities and systems, and their availability and use have become even more urgent in the face of risks like the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change or consequences of the war in Ukraine. Ensuring that development cooperation achieves sufficient impact and effectiveness relies on data and information that are accurate, comprehensive and timely in reflecting disbursement, allocation, use and monitoring and evaluation of resources. Supporting developing countries and their partners to achieve this standard of data availability and use on development cooperation resources has been a key objective of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) since its creation.

Administered biennially by UNDESA since 2009, the DCF Survey exercise has highlighted countries' development cooperation information systems (DCIS)² as one of the key enablers³ for enhancing the quality and impact of development cooperation with their development partners. An effective DCIS generates credible evidence that can be used to inform development cooperation policies, programmes and projects, which in turn, support national sustainable development strategies. Although each Survey cycle generates distinctive findings, several recommendations on strengthening DCIS have consistently surfaced: (i) broaden the monitoring of development cooperation 'beyond ODA'; (ii) expand the sources of data for the DCIS; (iii) ensure availability of the DCIS to a wide range of stakeholders, including parliaments, civil society and the private sector; and (iv) strengthen country-owned data. In addition to strengthening national capacities and systems to succeed in each of these, improved timeliness and accuracy of the data and information provided by development partners to national governments is fundamental.

In the current context of COVID-19, developing country experiences have reflected the importance of having strong DCIS to withstand risks. For example, developing countries relied on DCIS to identify, reallocate and track limited development cooperation resources to urgent needs caused by the pandemic. Diverse and/or ad hoc sources of pandemic-related development cooperation – including in-kind support or private sector engagement – also required new approaches to monitoring and evaluating development cooperation. Additionally, the demand for real-time trend data surged as Governments worked to channel emergency resources to those in greatest need, driving numerous lessons, innovations and partnership in development cooperation data. To build countries' resilience to future crises, development cooperation partners should help to strengthen the capacity of countries' DCIS and ensure that the

¹ Summary of the 2021 DCF High-level Meeting of the Economic and Social Council.

² In the DCF context, development cooperation information systems (DCIS) are systems used to track information related to international development cooperation, including ODA and other development cooperation resources (e.g. Aid Information Management Systems or other mechanisms).

³ Other enablers include national development cooperation policies, country results frameworks and national development cooperation forums, with capacity support cross-cutting.

benefits of data and statistical innovations are not beyond the reach of developing countries. In this regard, key proposals for developing countries and their development partners emerging from pandemic-related lessons include: (i) improve collection, analysis and use of data disaggregated by gender and other vulnerable groups, which could help track the impacts of various risks on inequalities; (ii) strengthen efforts to develop DCIS that can be maintained at national and subnational levels, including through capacity support; (iii) invest in strengthened data and statistical capacities, such as capacity to extract and analyze data from existing databases to reduce transaction costs of data collection and improve analytical quality of reporting.

Purpose

The session will begin by providing an overview of the latest trends and progress of international development cooperation, and the recommendations of the DCF Survey Study on development cooperation information systems. In this context, the session will be designed as an interactive discussion to meet countries where they are, understand how their development cooperation information systems are currently structured and link to policies and strategies, as well as identify how development cooperation can build on existing strengths to address capacity gaps. Discussions will also explore different tools and innovative practices countries are using to navigate their data challenges. Discussions will take place under Chatham House Rule. Summaries of small group discussions will help inform future DCF-related activities and for the consideration of the IATI Secretariat.

Draft programme:

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| 9:45 – 9: 50 am | Welcome and introductory remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IATI Representative |
| 9:50 – 10:05 am | Presentation on latest trends and progress in international development cooperation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of DCF Team |
| 10: 05 – 10:20 am | Presentation on findings of DCF survey and Development Cooperation Information Systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Angela Bester, Lead Author, DCF Survey Study |
| 10:20 – 11:00 am | Small group discussions Discussion leaders can start the small group discussions by sharing their own reflections on the following questions. DCF and IATI Teams can provide note taking support to discussions leaders to arrive at key messages by the end of the session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What lessons did you learn about the strengths and weaknesses of your development cooperation information system during Covid-19? What other existing or emerging development cooperation trends are impacting your system and how? • How is your country’s development cooperation information system structured? How does it collect and use the relevant data for effective policy making? |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the priority areas for capacity development for data and statistical capacities and how are development partners responding to these priorities?• What innovative tools and partnerships has your country used to enhance the effectiveness of your development cooperation information systems?• Country presentations |
| 11:00 – 11:10 am | Report back Discussion leaders share with all participants the key takeaways from each small group |
| 11:10 – 11:15 am | Close of session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• IATI Representative |