



The 8th Development Cooperation Forum Survey

Background Information and Frequently Asked Questions

Since 2008, the [Development Cooperation Forum](#) (DCF) Surveys by UNDESA have provided evidence on the state of play in effectiveness of development cooperation on the ground.

The DCF Survey's distinct value added includes:

Tangible impact of country responses

Confidential and frank country responses and inputs are directly fed, without attribution, into the UN-led inter-governmental and inter-agency processes:

- High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
- ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development
- Development Cooperation Forum
- Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development

Detailed analyses of findings are used to generate practical recommendations for policy makers and practitioners at the global, regional, national and local levels, and are made available in the DCF Survey Study.

Structured assessment around key enablers

The DCF Survey helps governments assess how effectively their development cooperation systems work by examining the state of 5 key enablers: national development cooperation policies (NDCPs); country-driven results frameworks (CRFs); national development cooperation forums (NDCF); development cooperation information systems (DCIS); and capacity support.

Supporting INFFs and Voluntary National Reviews

The enablers of effective development cooperation can serve as building blocks in designing and implementing integrated national financing frameworks (INFFs) and optimal mobilization and management of financial and non-financial resources to achieve national sustainable development strategies. Participation in the DCF Survey exercise can also facilitate countries' preparation and follow-up of Voluntary National Reviews of progress towards the SDGs.

Designed to incentivize behavioral changes

The DCF Survey:

- Includes questions on targets for individual development cooperation partners.

- Encourages inclusive participation, beyond governments, of both domestic and international non-state actors, as well as beneficiaries.
- Emphasizes the role of parliamentarians and local and regional governments in monitoring and data.

Highlights from the 2023 DCF

2023 DCF participants emphasized public international finance's distinctive role in addressing crises and building the long-term resilience of the most vulnerable countries and people, and called for a renewed financial architecture that would be more inclusive; help to rebuild trust; and unlock concessional finance and capacity development by MDBs and other development partners in support of developing countries' social protection systems, climate resilience and digital transformations, among other high-impact areas for resilience-building.

Key inputs for the 2025 DCF high-level meeting and FfD4 outcome

The survey will provide key inputs to the next high-level meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum on 12-13 March 2025, which serves as a milestone in the run-up to the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) on 30 June – 3 July 2025 in Spain. Evidence-based and forward-looking discussion informed by the Survey at the DCF will feed into intergovernmental deliberations on quality, impact and effectiveness of international development cooperation in support of an ambitious outcome to FfD4.

Promoting a holistic, resilient and forward-looking approach to high-impact development cooperation in all its forms

The DCF Survey addresses key issues of quality, impact and effectiveness of international development cooperation in a holistic and forward-looking way, while also diving into issues of crises response, recovery and resilience building by examining:

- Integrated and resilient approaches to development cooperation that consider the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental)
- Links to domestic resource mobilization and mobilizing the full range of means of implementation.
- Private and blended development cooperation.
- Capacity support for effective development cooperation and multi-stakeholder engagement
- Examining high-impact development cooperation in all its forms, including financial, non-financial, technical assistance, partnerships and collective actions in support of policy change

Accessible and confidential

The DCF Survey is administered in a user-friendly format, currently available in English, French or Spanish. Anonymity of the submissions and responses is guaranteed. Survey participants also received confidential country profiles summing up key responses alongside aggregate findings.

What's next?

The 2024 DCF Survey exercise begins in March 2024, with distribution of the questionnaire to all interested developing countries. Findings will be presented in the 2024 DCF Survey Study and will inform DCF-related capacity development activities for strengthening international development cooperation systems.



Frequently Asked Questions

➤ What is the Development Cooperation Forum?

The DCF is the UN's inclusive platform to discuss trends and progress in international development cooperation across diverse actors and modalities, advancing the quality, impact, and effectiveness of international development cooperation. Its analytical work and deliberations generate practical recommendations for policy makers and practitioners. Policy discussions in the UN Economic and Social Council are open to all governments and other stakeholders. UNDESA/Financing for Sustainable Development Office serves as the DCF Secretariat.

➤ **What is meant by development cooperation?**

The DCF has developed a working definition of development cooperation: “an activity that aims explicitly to support national or international development priorities, is not mainly driven by profit, discriminates in favor of developing countries and is based on cooperative relationships that seek to enhance developing country ownership.” This includes financial transfers, capacity support, technology development and transfer, cooperative action to drive policy change at the national, regional and global levels, and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

➤ **Who should complete the survey?**

The survey is open to all developing countries. Ministries are encouraged to consult domestic actors and beneficiaries, and their international development cooperation partners in the exercise.

➤ **Why should you engage in the survey exercise?**

National mechanisms that hold actors accountable for development cooperation bring specific value:

- Make financial resources and cooperation more adequate, predictable and targeted towards achieving the SDGs.
- Solidify trust between governments, domestic actors and beneficiaries, and their development cooperation partners.
- Lead to greater use of country systems, budget support and transparent use of funding.
- Contribute to design and operationalization of integrated national financing frameworks.

➤ **What have participating countries shared about their survey experience?**

Participating countries have reported that the DCF surveys:

- Promote candid dialogue on development cooperation.
- Improve coordination within governments and with development cooperation partners.
- Clarify monitoring, review and accountability of development cooperation.
- Facilitate mutual learning among stakeholders.
- Enhance transparency of development cooperation data and information.