

FfD4 Side Event Concept Note
3rd FfD4 PrepCom, New York, February 2025
Outcomes-Based Financing: Putting evidence into action
to accelerate SDG progress

Organizers: Outcomes Finance Alliance Secretariat (Levoca, LLC) and OECD

Date and Time: Friday, February 14, 2025 | 10:00-11:30am ET

Format: Virtual

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/RPBU8ofcQH6wwjUpi8BK-g>

Event Description:

In an increasingly complex global environment where development cooperation budgets face mounting pressure, outcomes-based financing (OBF) has become vital for accelerating impact on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Over the last two decades, OBF approaches that link financing to pre-defined outcomes have gained traction amongst Member States and partners to enhance accountability to beneficiaries, enable flexibility and innovation in the delivery of programs, and focus all stakeholders on evidence and impact.

Furthermore, financing for sustainable development is at a tipping point. The urgency of bridging the SDG financing gap must be met with utilizing resources effectively and efficiently to deliver more outcomes and higher impact. While the increasing volume of financing required to achieve the SDGs remains important, FfD4 presents a critical opportunity to emphasize the quality of financing for SDG impact—an area where OBF can play a pivotal role. Member States have highlighted the importance of OBF in [inputs to the FFD4 Elements paper](#), noting its role in achieving better development outcomes and leveraging private sector expertise and resources for development financing. The recently released [zero draft](#) of the FfD4 Outcome Document also notes that “there is broad consensus that the development effectiveness agenda needs to be revitalized.”

As the use of OBF has grown, the body of knowledge and evidence on OBF has also been steadily growing across sectors and regions. While overall evidence from existing literature suggests that OBF can lead to improved outcomes, it also highlights limitations and potential areas for future research and knowledge generation. Better understanding the evidence base and identifying opportunities for future learning can help increase the adoption and effective use of OBF.

This session will convene leading researchers and experts from the OBF ecosystem to share the latest evidence on OBF and reflect on how this evidence can inform future OBF policy and practice. Leading knowledge institutions, such as the University of Oxford’s [Government Outcomes Lab](#) (GOLab) and the [Brookings Institution](#), play a key role in advancing the global knowledge agenda for OBF by developing comprehensive databases, conducting in-depth analyses, and sharing insights through case studies and evaluations. The [Education Outcomes Fund](#), a UNICEF-hosted fund since 2020, has undertaken research on the use of OBF in the

education sector, including a recent evidence review of early childhood care and education programs using OBF.

The panel builds on the UN Multistakeholder Side Event held in October 2024, organized by the OECD and Outcomes Finance Alliance Secretariat (OFA), a global network of over 100 organizations interested in enhancing development impact through OBF for the benefit of ODA recipient countries. In partnership with the OFA, the OECD is developing internationally recognized guidance on OBF to support national governments, multi-lateral development banks (MDBs) and organizations engaged in development cooperation.

The OFA represents a diverse pool of participants from the OBF ecosystem, including implementers, donors, governments, impact investors, NGOs, social enterprises, and knowledge partners. The OFA is supported by its Governing Committee – the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), the UBS Optimus Foundation (UBS OF), and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the UK (FCDO). The OFA is uniquely positioned to leverage its diverse membership and ensure the quality aspect of financing is represented in the FFD4 process and dialogue.

Agenda and Speakers:

- **Moderator:**
 - Zachary Levey, *CEO, Outcomes Finance Alliance Secretariat (Levoca, LLC)*
- **Introductory Remarks:**
 - Alejandro Guerrero, *Head, Results Unit, Reforms and Partnerships for Development Impact Division, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD*
- **Panel Discussion:**
 - **Chair:** Jemima Hodkinson, *Private Sector and Capital Markets Department, FCDO*
 - **Speakers:**
 - Emily Gustafsson-Wright, *Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution*
 - Mara Airoldi, *Academic Co-Director, Government Outcomes Lab, University of Oxford*
 - Özsel Belevi, *Head of Learning & Engagement, Education Outcomes Fund*
- **Q&A and Interactive Discussion with Audience**
 - **Moderator:** Stefanie Ridenour, *Associate Director, Outcomes Finance Alliance Secretariat (Levoca, LLC)*
- **Wrap Up and Next Steps**