

Development co-operation to leave no one behind: A snapshot of DAC member approaches

**Development Co-operation Report 2018:
Joining forces to leave no one behind**
(due for release in November 2018)



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Introduction

The OECD's 2018 Development Co-operation Report is focusing on how to apply the concept, principle or ambition of leaving no one behind, as expressed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in practice. The report whose subtitle is *Joining Forces to Leave No One Behind*, responds to demand from governments, policy makers, civil society and business for more clarity on how to ensure that no one is left behind in practice. These actors ask how to transform the ambition into reality? How should development co-operation policies, programming and accountability adapt? What should governments, development partners and the international community do differently to ensure the SDGs benefit everyone and the furthest behind first?

Why this brochure?

The full 2018 Development Co-operation Report will be published in November 2018. A key part of the Report – *Profiles of Providers of Development Co-operation* – is published earlier in the year (July 2018, available at: oe.cd/dcr2018) – in line with OECD policy to release statistical analysis in a timely way. These profiles provide a snapshot of how individual members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) are addressing leave no one behind, informed by responses to a survey that the OECD circulated to members in March/April 2018. DAC members have verified the information provided.

This brochure compiles and presents the information provided by DAC members in one document to ease access and comparison. A working paper with a breakdown of survey responses will also be published by the OECD in August.

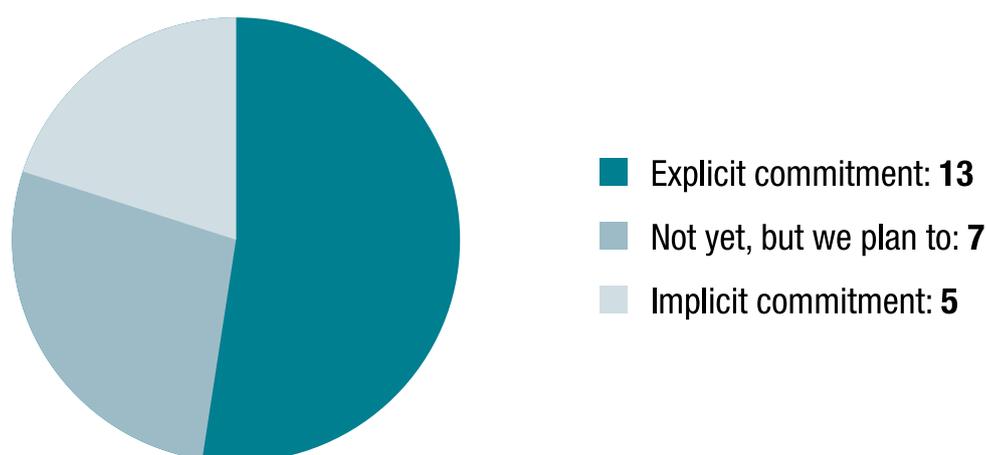
DAC member approaches to leaving no one behind: some overall findings

Preliminary findings from the survey on DAC donor priorities and approaches to leaving no one behind show a broad commitment to align priorities and target resources to the objective of leave no one behind. The survey findings also highlight that there is a good degree of similarity in member priorities and approaches but the majority face challenges with mainstreaming leave no one behind in everything they do. Members grapple with some challenges when it comes to turning ambition into practice, as outlined below.

Some key findings:

1. A majority of DAC members align with the principle/ambition of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of leaving no one behind (figure 1).
2. Findings from the survey suggest that DAC members address leave no one behind through two key lenses:
 1. Geography – countries most in need (such as least developed countries, fragile contexts and small island developing states) and targeted programmes in middle-income developing countries, notably to poorer regions and people who are marginalised, excluded.
 2. People and groups with a strong emphasis on eradicating poverty, reducing inequality, promoting social and economic inclusion and respect for human rights.
3. According to their responses, DAC members consider that the focus on leaving no one behind is an important opportunity to seize; it opens new discussion about the priorities and targeting of development co-operation on vulnerabilities, equitable access and poverty eradication. It also stimulates fresh thinking about what needs to be done differently to succeed.
4. Key challenges that were flagged in terms of ensuring development co-operation is fit to leave no one behind or reaching the furthest behind first include effective targeting of the people/groups who are left behind, data gaps, questions about the feasibility of ensuring no one is left behind combined with issues of political economy and how to mainstream it effectively.

Figure 1. The extent to which DAC members have committed to leaving no one behind through development co-operation



Note: Number of responses: 25

Source: Response to questions 1 and 1.2 of the OECD survey of DAC member approaches to leaving no one behind.

Australia

Australia is committed to leaving no one behind as per the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Its domestic and international approach to leaving no one behind is a theme of its first (in 2018) Voluntary National Review on the 2030 Agenda. Australia believes that the universal, indivisible and inalienable nature of human rights and the focus of its aid policy framework – notably poverty reduction, gender, disability and indigenous peoples – are consistent with leaving no one behind.

Australia has integrated the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into programme guidance including for its annual program performance reports and aid investment plans. Its mapping of aid investments shows their relevance for several SDGs. For example, agriculture, fisheries and water investments contribute to at least seven SDGs.

Closing data gaps, targeting interventions for disadvantaged/vulnerable groups while addressing the multiple and intersecting forms of disadvantage across groups, and effectively mainstreaming leave no one behind in development co-operation, are key challenges it faces. It supports initiatives such as the Individual Deprivation Measure, is learning from gender mainstreaming, is looking at equity in programming, and is developing an inclusive growth and governance diagnostic tool to situate its country strategies for development co-operation firmly in the realities of the context.

Austria

Austria believes that leaving no one behind has been a long-standing and integral part of its development co-operation. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides it with a fresh impetus to build on this experience and to make an explicit policy commitment to leaving no one behind.

One priority of Austrian development policy is to concentrate on people, their needs and rights, in particular those sections of the population that run the highest risk of poverty and live in particularly precarious circumstances, such as children, women, older people, persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups. Austrian development co-operation follows a human rights-based approach in all projects and programmes. It considers that development co-operation should target these groups from the outset. It also aims to reduce inequalities in all segments of society, which it considers to be a crucial precondition for sustainable economic, social and ecological development.

According to Austria, delivering on the principle to leave no one behind is challenging because of the focus on people and groups that are suffering entrenched discrimination and who are hard to reach, but also because long-term commitment and engagement are necessary to deliver positive change and to meet specific needs.

Belgium

Belgium addresses the leave no one behind pledge of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through two strands: a focus on reaching out to those countries farthest behind and a focus on reaching out to those populations that are in a disadvantaged, vulnerable or marginalised situation.

In order to reach those left behind, Belgian development co-operation has a political priority to support least developed countries (LDCs): 12 out of its 14 partner countries are LDCs. It strives to allocate 50% of its official development assistance to the LDCs and fragile states.

Promoting human rights is a core theme of Belgium's development co-operation. Belgium's rights-based approach focuses on empowerment and human rights. It mainstreams the rights-based approach in all its interventions by focusing on specific individual rights of groups such as women and children; sexual and reproductive rights; and the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. When taking decisions about the choice and the funding of partner governments, Belgium states that it pays particular attention to democratic legitimacy and good governance. It also strives to promote sustainable and inclusive economic development and strategic engagement with the private sector and civil society to achieve its objectives.

Canada

Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy for development co-operation makes an explicit commitment to leaving no one behind which advocates for poverty eradication and a peaceful, inclusive and prosperous world.

Canada addresses leaving no one behind through a feminist approach which aims at protecting and promoting human rights for all, especially for the most vulnerable and marginalised groups, and at increasing the participation of these groups in decision making. Through this human rights-based and inclusive approach and its commitment to achieving SDG 5 for gender equality and empowering women and girls, Canada believes it will also drive progress towards the other Sustainable Development Goals given their interdependence. Canada applies its commitment to leaving no one behind in other policies that have a potential impact on developing countries, e.g. trade, climate and migration policies.

Canada is mainstreaming leaving no one behind in its development programming and project cycle. It conducts broad country contextual analysis for programme and project planning and selection. It uses specific analytical tools such as the Multidimensional Poverty Index as a data and evidence base for identifying and targeting needs.

Czech Republic

The Czech Republic committed to leaving no one behind in its Development Co-operation Strategy 2018-2030. It addresses leaving no one behind through its focus on the humanitarian-development nexus; efforts to create a more coherent and sustainable impact by ensuring synergies between bilateral and multilateral activities; through its partnerships between public, private and civil society actors; and by developing innovative financial instruments.

Czech development co-operation targets ethnic minorities and other socially excluded groups, as well as people with health-related disabilities. It also deliberately targets poorer and marginalised regions in its partner countries. To identify where need is greatest, the Czech Republic uses internationally recognised criteria and indicators such as the Human Development Index, the Fund for Peace's Fragile State Index or EU needs assessments.

A key challenge with addressing leaving no one behind for the Czech Republic is finding efficient ways to monitor progress with leaving no one behind so as to avoid additional and costly administrative burdens.

Denmark

Danish development co-operation is committed to the Sustainable Development Goals and “a world in balance without extreme poverty, with sustainable growth and development – financially, socially and environmentally – where no one is left behind.” Denmark sees an important role for official development assistance (ODA) in supporting groups and countries “left behind” because they are not the first to benefit from other types of development finance.

Denmark's policy seeks to fight poverty and reduce inequality by working to secure equal opportunities for everyone and eliminate discriminatory legislation, policies and practice. It focuses on four priorities – 1) security and development; 2) migration and development; 3) inclusive, sustainable growth; and 4) development. It invests the bulk of ODA in fragile countries and regions where poverty and vulnerability are extensive.

For Denmark, taking a leave no one behind approach helps overcome the Millennium Development Goals' challenge of unequal progress and can help direct attention to the furthest behind groups. However, measuring progress will be a challenge because of the lack of data about people left behind and need for greater of clarity of the concept to guide action.

Denmark finds that its human-rights based approach helps it to fulfil its global obligation of making the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for everyone.

European Union

The European Commission's development co-operation aims to eradicate poverty, by fostering the sustainable economic, social and environmental development of developing countries. The new European Consensus on Development affirms that eradicating poverty, tackling discriminations and inequalities, and leaving no one behind are at the heart of the Commission's policy.

The Commission works to enhance social cohesion; to reduce inequality of outcomes; and to promote equal opportunities for all, inclusive sustainable growth, and universal, sustainable and equitable social protection systems. It is committed to allocating at least 20% of its official development assistance to social inclusion and human development. It implements a rights-based approach to development, respecting all human rights and promoting inclusion and participation, non-discrimination, equality and equity, transparency and accountability. It sees this as key to leaving no one behind. Through the approach it pays particular attention to disadvantaged and marginalised groups, including children and the elderly in vulnerable situations; persons with disabilities; lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons; migrants and indigenous peoples.

The Commission is updating its programming and reporting tools to address inequalities; to further implement the rights-based approach and gender equality commitments; and to assess progress with delivery of the 2030 Agenda and the European Consensus in line with the pledge to leave no one behind.

Finland

Finland's 2016 development policy is guided by a human rights-based approach and focuses on low-income countries. In line with these priorities, its development investments should comply with minimum standards, including adherence to human rights principles, equality, participation and non-discrimination, non-contribution to human rights violations or to existing discriminatory structures and norms. Finland is committed to mainstreaming leave no one behind in its development co-operation with a specific focus on the rights of women and persons with disabilities. It also promotes and funds universal and non-discriminatory basic services such as inclusive education and the right to education for children with disabilities.

Finland is in the process of updating its guidelines for its policy's three cross-cutting objectives: gender equality, non-discrimination and climate sustainability. The guidelines aim to collect and analyse disaggregated data in a systematic way and to better operationalise and monitor development outcomes from a leave no one behind perspective.

For Finland, key challenges to mainstreaming a leave no one behind approach across all development interventions are: 1) the absence of strategic and policy guidance; 2) modest incentives to systematically analyse inequalities and discriminatory structures to guide funding decisions and programming; and 3) incomplete accountability systems.

France

France has fully endorsed the 2030 Agenda, committing itself to leave no one behind, in the conclusions of the 2016 and 2018 Committee for International Cooperation and Development. In particular, to deliver on this commitment, the Agence française de développement (AFD) has set a target of having a “100% social link”, meaning that every project it finances should contribute to reinforcing social links, reducing inequalities, and enhancing access to social services and culture, with a special focus on gender equality and access to education for youth.

According to France, delivering on the principle to leave no one behind has the potential to boost inclusivity and effectiveness and to contribute to reducing inequalities within developing countries. At the same time, it believes that least developed countries should remain at the core of development co-operation efforts. A key challenge to success in leaving no one behind are the cultural and social constraints to ensuring that specific categories of the population are included in economic and social development.

France mainstreams a leave no one behind lens through the AFD’s diagnostic tools such as its “sustainable development analysis and opinion mechanism”. The AFD has also adopted an environmental and social risk management policy based on the World Bank’s Environment and Social Standards.

Germany

Germany’s Sustainable Development Strategy states that up to 2030 “even greater efforts than before will be required to reach all disadvantaged people and populations and to counteract rising inequality.”

For Germany the focus on leaving no one behind is an opportunity for rights-based approaches to development; to invest in poverty reduction, inclusive growth and social cohesion; and to recognise that the most deprived people need to make faster progress to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. It considers that official development assistance has a comparative advantage in least developed and low-income countries which have less access to other resources and in targeting the furthest behind in ways that other sources of finance, which need a financial return, cannot.

The Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ) is developing a conceptual framework on inequality reduction which will take into account the principle to leave no one behind. BMZ and GIZ use indicators and assessment tools to set priorities, identify needs, target groups and track progress such as political economy analysis, governance, and human rights risk assessments and gender analysis. Low quality information and data gaps on who is left behind, where and why weakens the evidence base for programming. Other challenges include handling the potentially higher cost of reaching poor and vulnerable people in remote, hard-to-access areas, and political and cultural disincentives to include all groups in development.

Greece

Greece is committed to the 2030 Agenda, which it sees as a transformative framework for a new sustainable development path where no one is left behind. It intends to revisit its overall development perspectives through the lens of the Sustainable Development Goals. The vision of “leaving no one behind” is also explicitly incorporated in the new European Consensus on Development to which Greece subscribes as an EU member state.

Through its foreign and security policy, Greece strives to promote peace, security, human rights, gender equality, the rule of law and good governance. It has adopted a pragmatic approach to its development assistance by focusing primarily on multilateral aid. It considers that its multilateral partners have adopted a leave no one behind approach by focusing, inter alia, on income inequalities, women and youth, or trying to promote an equitable multilateral trade system.

Greece believes that a leave no one behind approach to development co-operation should focus on the most vulnerable – women, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and children of refugees and migrants – and on basic services that promote inclusive development such as healthcare, primary education and vocational training. According to Greece, in order to address the issue of exclusion, donors need to overcome in particular cultural and political views that lead to discrimination and systematically monitor and evaluate the impact of their interventions on marginalised groups.

Hungary

Hungary’s development co-operation aims to support sustainable development while promoting human rights, social justice, democracy, equal opportunities, non-discrimination, gender equality, environmental sustainability and support for vulnerable groups. When determining its geographical priorities, Hungary takes into account the specific needs of least developed countries, low-income countries, fragile states and countries in post-conflict situations.

Hungary believes that a leave no one behind approach to development co-operation is a fresh opportunity to draw increased attention to vulnerable people and groups such as women, children, people with disabilities, people living in rural areas and ethnic groups. For Hungary, one of the greatest challenges to success is creating the right financial mechanisms to mobilise enough funds in order to really leave no one behind.

Iceland

Iceland will identify how its development co-operation will address leaving no one behind in a forthcoming parliamentary resolution. This resolution will build on current priorities, which are least developed countries and within these countries the hard-to-reach, rural populations, the most vulnerable and poorest people including people with disabilities. Iceland also focuses on gender equality, children and youth.

For Iceland, official development assistance has a comparative advantage in supporting the underfunded Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets in low-income countries, dealing with the root causes of poverty and fragility, and targeting specific needs. It believes that working to include the most vulnerable sections of the population in development is a prerequisite to reaching many of the SDGs.

To deliver on leaving no one behind, Iceland plans to sharpen its focus on the poorest and most vulnerable sections of the population in its partner countries, including children and minority groups. However, it stresses the need to focus on having better data and measuring results in order to have a clear picture of who benefits and who is being missed out in development processes. It also considers that the meaning and objectives of leaving no one behind could be clarified in terms of lifting the living standards of the world's most underprivileged people.

Ireland

Ireland's foreign policy and development programme strive towards a sustainable and just world, where people are empowered to overcome poverty and hunger and to fully realise their rights and potential. Ireland's forthcoming (2018) international development policy will respond to the Sustainable Development Goals and continue to focus on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable people to ensure no one is left behind.

For Ireland, the protection of human rights and freedoms and tackling extreme poverty and hunger are the basis for equality and for achieving peace and sustainable development. Gender equality is central to this vision as well as social protection that targets poor communities, especially child and female-headed households. Ireland is focusing on interlinkages between support for sustainable livelihoods, social services and nutrition. Its approach to crises is underpinned by International Humanitarian Law, core humanitarian principles such as flexible and timely funding and non-discrimination, providing life-saving aid to the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations.

Ireland is strengthening its understanding of multidimensional poverty and vulnerability for better targeting and more integrated programming. It believes that good political economy analysis and shifting to adaptive programming are key to success. Ireland is also investing in gender disaggregated data and disability inclusive development.

Italy

Italy is planning to make a specific commitment to leaving no one behind in its development co-operation policy. It addresses the issue at present through its focus on poverty reduction in its Three-year Development Co-operation Programming and Policy Planning Document, which gives emphasis to the poorest, most vulnerable and furthest behind in all developing countries whether least developed or middle income.

For Italy, social and economic inequalities within and among countries are the main obstacle to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It prioritises fighting discrimination and marginalisation of the poorest, most vulnerable and furthest behind – especially youth, children, women and girls, and persons with disability.

Italy mainstreams disability in its programming. It has guidelines on disability and development and an action plan for including people with disability in the development process. Its evidence base for official development assistance decision making includes indicators of poverty and fragility. To identify areas and groups most in need it conducts analysis and ad hoc surveys, relying when possible on the national plans, data and information provided by partner countries. A key challenge for Italy is to design the right methodologies to identify the most marginalised groups and to measure results from a leave no one behind perspective.

Japan

Japan committed to leaving no one behind in the Development Co-operation Charter decided by the Cabinet in 2015 and its SDGs Action Plan in 2018. Japan attaches importance to the concept of human security which gives particular consideration to people in vulnerable situations and is a key to addressing “leave no one behind.” Japan focuses its development co-operation on individuals – especially those liable to be vulnerable such as children, women, persons with disabilities, the elderly, refugees and internally displaced persons, ethnic minorities, and indigenous peoples. It provides co-operation for their protection and empowerment so as to realise human security.

To promote a human security approach within the United Nations system, Japan has been contributing to the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security since its establishment in 1999. To reduce poverty sustainably, Japan also prioritises “quality” economic growth which must be inclusive and shared, sustainable and resilient to shocks.

Japan mainstreams leave no one behind into development co-operation through, for example, the Japan International Cooperation Agency’s Environmental and Social Considerations/Guidelines which focus on the human rights of vulnerable social groups.

Korea

At the 2017 UN General Assembly, Korea committed to support sustainable growth in developing countries with a specific aim of eradicating inequality. Korea has two strategies related to leaving no one behind: the Strategy on Assistance to Fragile States, which targets the causes of fragility in marginalised fragile states with a focus on vulnerable groups, and the Humanitarian Strategy, which aims to build resilience and looks at prolonged crises as well as emergencies.

For Korea, taking a leave no one behind approach helps development co-operation focus on “countries most in need” and vulnerable and marginalised people, including refugees and persons with disabilities. Official development assistance has a comparative and crucial advantage in supporting marginalised people, especially in fragile states, focusing on social impacts and development effectiveness with less pressure for economic returns, unlike other types of development finance.

Korea’s Ministry for Foreign Affairs’ implementing agency (KOICA) and the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (KEXIM EDCF) each invest in fragile states on the basis of fragility criteria, taking differentiated and context-specific approaches. Korea also has guidelines on disability-inclusive development co-operation. Data gaps and low quality data on who is left behind and where are a key challenge for Korea in operationalising the approach and in measuring results.

Luxembourg

Luxembourg plans to make a commitment to leaving no one behind in its forthcoming development co-operation strategy (July 2018). Its Laws on Development Co-operation (1996 and 2012) require it to focus on least developed countries and fragile contexts. At present, leaving no one behind is an implicit principle of its programmes with seven partner countries and its humanitarian strategy, which prioritise the most vulnerable and deprived populations.

For Luxembourg, adopting a leave no one behind approach can help increase awareness and evidence of the root causes of social, economic and political exclusion and the need to use multidimensional poverty measures, thus allowing for better planning and targeting of populations and areas most in need from an early stage. It sees a range of data challenges to making progress – data gaps; quality; the cost of conducting deeper, more fine-tuned analyses; and modest statistical capacity. It believes the principle of leaving no one behind should have concrete measures that are applied and monitored in programming to succeed.

In its programming, Luxembourg addresses leaving no one behind through its overall objective of poverty reduction and eradication in a sustainable development framework. To identify and map vulnerabilities, it conducts studies and assessments, using complementary data, reports and studies by national governments, civil society and international development partners.

Netherlands

The Netherlands' 2018 Policy "Investing in Global Prospects" is guided by the Sustainable Development Goals and the pledge to leave no one behind. The policy identifies four closely connected objectives: 1) preventing conflict and instability; 2) reducing poverty and social inequality; 3) promoting sustainable and inclusive growth and climate action worldwide; and 4) enhancing the Netherlands' international earning capacity. Dutch trade policy addresses leaving no one behind with its focus on a living wage, the poorest groups and women.

For the Netherlands, it is in everyone's interest to tackle the root causes of extreme poverty, which is increasingly concentrated in fragile regions and the closely intertwined nature of global problems such as poverty, conflict, terrorism, climate change, population growth and irregular migration.

The Netherlands' approach to leaving no one behind focuses on fragile situations and states with high levels of extreme poverty; the empowerment of women and girls; and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. It also aims to improve the protection and prospects of refugees and displaced persons and will actively target young people – a rapidly growing share of the population. Data gaps, especially disaggregated data and political and cultural barriers to including minority groups, are key challenges to its leaving no one behind approach.

New Zealand

New Zealand addresses leaving no one behind by focusing official development assistance (ODA) on the challenges of countries most in need, including small island developing states (where it allocates 60% of its ODA), least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and fragile and conflict affected states. It considers that ODA has a comparative advantage as a source of financing for countries that struggle to access other finance and as a catalyst for mobilising resources for regions and groups of people most at risk of being left behind.

New Zealand is trialling a Development Quality Policy with four key quality domains. One domain is "inclusive development", under which New Zealand will pursue development that is inclusive, equitable and leaves no one behind. Inclusion will be treated as a quality concern across all areas of development co-operation.

New Zealand recently outlined (in 2018) a "Reset" of its relationship and development support in the Pacific. The Pacific Reset includes plans to increase focus on inclusive development themes such as human rights, gender and women's empowerment, youth, health, and education and is accompanied by a plan to increase ODA for the region by one-third compared to the past three years starting from July 2018 and for a period of three years.

Norway

Leaving no one behind is a guiding priority for Norwegian development co-operation, which has a long-standing focus on poverty eradication and people most in need. Norway is currently asking “how” it can step up a gear on what it has always been doing in the framework of the 2030 Agenda. It sees leaving no one behind bringing a welcome re-focus on reaching the poorest and most marginalised people, on the need to understand local contexts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and to find effective ways for official development assistance (ODA) to align behind country priorities and processes. It also sees room for a better understanding of the role of global public goods in realising leaving no one behind.

For Norway, while the relative importance of ODA has declined as a source finance and trigger for inclusive national development, it can play an important role as a mediator and facilitator of change in favour of the groups and people who are left behind.

Norway addresses leave no one behind in key sectors like education, health, business development, the environment and humanitarian aid, which have the potential to reach the most in need. Its parliament decided recently to focus more on sub-Saharan Africa and humanitarian needs. Having access to reliable and disaggregated data is a major political and technical challenge. Norway provides statistical capacity building in some partner countries along with international partners.

Poland

Poland is planning to include a special principle of leaving no one behind in its forthcoming 2021-2025 Multiannual Development Co-operation Programme.

Polish development co-operation addresses leaving no one behind at present through its focus on the principle of non-discrimination of vulnerable groups in least developed and middle-income countries. It targets vulnerable or excluded people in some of its partner countries through support for social policy and services for people with disabilities, victims of domestic violence, children in foster care, and conflict affected populations.

For Poland, the principle to leave no one behind means ensuring that no country is left behind including middle-income countries and other more advanced developing countries where development co-operation policies can target poor people and vulnerable groups. Poland believes that the concept of leaving no one behind needs to be clarified to guide programming and projects and to develop the right instruments and tools to meet the needs of specific vulnerable groups in different contexts.

Portugal

Portugal is committed to the principle of leaving no one behind and the notions of inclusion, universality and equity it entails. Through its development co-operation, Portugal aims to eradicate poverty; promote the respect of human rights, democracy, the rule of law; and the social, economic and political inclusion of all. It also addresses the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable countries in policy areas that have transboundary impacts, such as trade, climate and migration.

For Portugal, applying a leave no one behind approach helps focus on the poorest, vulnerable and excluded segments of the population in all developing countries. It supports, for example, social protection for abandoned children and people with disabilities. Official development assistance (ODA) can be a relevant source of finance in the poorest countries and can catalyse other sources of finance and technical co-operation in all developing contexts. It sees a need, however, for better tools, instruments and partnerships for mainstreaming leave no one behind in development co-operation and to deliver real results for vulnerable people and groups.

Key challenges to success include finding the right balance between ODA allocations (that are still crucial for those countries that are lagging behind) and the use of ODA to mobilise other public and private sources of finance to catalyse investment in a more efficient and effective manner and to reach the furthest behind groups.

Slovak Republic

The Slovak Republic's development co-operation programme aims to contribute to sustainable development in partner countries, primarily by supporting education, employment, and democracy and good governance. The Slovak Republic promotes the creation of economic opportunities and employment as an effective instrument for fighting poverty and the causes of migration, reducing inequality, and strengthening developing countries' economic and social resilience.

The Slovak Republic is preparing a new strategy for implementing the 2030 Agenda and plans to focus on six priority areas: 1) sustainable economic growth in the ageing population and changing global environment; 2) education as a life-long process, which should enable a life in dignity under rapidly changing circumstances and requirements; 3) good health; 4) sustainable settlements and countryside in the context of climate change; 5) elimination of poverty and social inclusion; and 6) rule of law, democracy and security emphasising the role of strong institutions and data-based governance.

Slovenia

Slovenia's 2017 Resolution on Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance prioritises equal opportunities, including gender equality. In its strategy aimed to operationalise the Resolution, Slovenia will address leaving no one behind. The strategy will outline a human rights-based approach, reflecting objectives of inclusion and equality of rights. Slovenia will also continue to target vulnerable groups in its humanitarian assistance, notably children and women refugees.

According to Slovenia, there is scope for greater clarity of leaving no one behind to help translate it into practice and results. So far, it has interpreted leave no one behind mainly in terms of reducing extreme poverty. It considers that the principle can help development co-operation increase focus on equality, better prospects and social cohesion for all. It also sees potential for knowledge sharing on good practices and developing new approaches in development co-operation to ensure people are not left behind.

In its programming, Slovenia has a special focus on women, youth and children. It targets least developed countries mainly through its multilateral co-operation and partners. When deciding on the geographic location of its bilateral projects, Slovenia focuses on poor and underdeveloped regions of its partner countries in the Western Balkans, where it implements the bulk of its bilateral co-operation.

Spain

Spain has made an explicit commitment to leaving no one behind in its new Fifth Master Plan for Development Co-operation. According to Spain addressing leaving no one behind requires a differentiated, people-centred approach that adapts to the needs of different developing countries according to four fundamental variables: 1) levels of poverty; 2) human development; 3) inequality; and 4) vulnerability.

Spanish development co-operation strives to respect cross-cutting principles of human rights and fundamental freedoms, gender equality, respect for cultural diversity, and environmental sustainability. It also targets vulnerable populations in middle-income countries and reducing inequalities within developing countries. It uses indicators such as the Human Development Index, GDP per capita and the multidimensional poverty index as its evidence base for selecting countries and regions.

For Spain, applying a leave no one behind approach helps ensure that policies focus on excluded people, can increase efficiency in allocating resources, and enable a better understanding of the problems and challenges to inclusive development. A key challenge is managing potential trade-offs between reaching the furthest behind first, pressure to allocate funds efficiently to maximise impact, and the potentially higher cost of reaching the most vulnerable populations.

Sweden

Sweden has embedded the pledge to leave no one behind in its 2016 government policy framework, which focuses on countries facing the greatest resource challenges, where development needs are greatest and where Sweden can make a difference. The two overarching principles are poor people's perspectives and the rights perspective. In addition, three thematic perspectives are integrated into decision making, implementation and follow-up: 1) environment and climate; 2) gender equality; and 3) conflict.

Sweden's multidimensional approach to poverty eradication (and new toolbox) focuses on resources, opportunities and choice, power and voice, and human security. It recognises that people and groups experiencing poverty and the drivers of poverty and vulnerability change with contexts. In line with this, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) seeks to identify who is excluded and marginalised in each country and then designs its approach to meet their needs.

Least developed and conflict or post-conflict countries are the main focus of its bilateral development co-operation. Support to middle-income countries is limited financially since access to finance may be less of a challenge than redistributing existing resources more equally. Sida is also strengthening its focus on the humanitarian-development nexus providing short-term crisis support while building sustainable pathways out of poverty.

Switzerland

Switzerland committed to leaving no one behind in the 2030 Agenda and plans to refer to it in the next parliamentary Dispatch on development co-operation (in 2021). The Swiss Agency for Development Co-operation (SDC) has a long-standing focus on multidimensional poverty, tackling root causes of exclusion and discrimination. In addition to its humanitarian aid, the SDC states that it meets its target to allocate 50% of its bilateral budget to fragile and conflict-affected countries, which it considers as the countries left behind.

The SDC considers that all individuals or groups excluded from sustainable development and lacking minimum standards of living are left behind. It is developing a working tool to address leaving no one behind which builds on the human rights-based approach it has mainstreamed. The tool identifies two pathways: 1) working towards an inclusive society where all groups benefit from minimum standards of living and mainstreaming "leave no one behind" through targeted actions on barriers to inclusion; and 2) prioritising groups in specific contexts and designing targeted programmes to enhance resilience and inclusion. It is also developing factsheets on what leave no one behind means in specific sectors and will integrate this approach in its results-based management tools.

For the SDC, the risk of weak political buy-in to reach the furthest behind is a challenge in some contexts. Lack of disaggregated data is also a challenge.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom's 2015 strategy "UK aid: Tackling global challenges in the national interest" commits the United Kingdom to lead efforts in implementing leave no one behind. The policy paper "Leaving no one behind: Our promise" commits to putting the last first, targeting the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, the most excluded, those in crises, and most at risk of violence and discrimination. It strives to end violence against girls and women, including ending female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage, and tackling sexual violence in conflict.

For the Department for International Development (DFID), an opportunity of leave no one behind is that growth and development benefit from being inclusive. In its draft framework, DFID focuses on three pillars: understand, empower, include. The understand pillar aims to get data and evidence on who, where and why people are left behind and is accompanied by a data disaggregation plan. Gender equality and disability are high priorities and four country offices – Bangladesh, Nepal, Rwanda and Zimbabwe – are testing new ways to embed leave no one behind.

In its programming, DFID uses poverty analysis to identify most vulnerable groups. It is developing new diagnostic tools, which will integrate inclusion tools into its portfolio-wide poverty diagnostic. Key challenges are managing the risks of people still being left behind in 2030 and understanding additional costs and then financing the cost of leaving no one behind.

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