

Evaluation of the Paris Declaration Emerging Findings in South Africa

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Overview of Presentation

- Country Context
- Evaluation Process/Context
- Utility of Paris Declaration
- Development Partner Behaviour
- Country Partner Behaviour
- Results of the Paris Declaration

Country Context

- Middle Income Country
- % ODA is less than 1% (about 0.2%)
- Dual Economy
- Pressure to Address Apartheid Legacy
- SA emerging as Regional Development Partner
- Strong Country Ownership of Development Agenda



PROCESS FOLLOWED IN SA

- A Reference Group (RG) was established to oversee the evaluation process. The reference group consisted of representatives from Government, Development Partners and Civil Society.
 - The RG developed the TOR for the study team, selected the study team, monitored the study and in the end approved the final report.
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PROCESS FOLLOWED IN SA

Methodology:

- ❑ In-depth interviews and electronic questionnaire – 14 Government, 20 Development Partners;
- ❑ **Sampling:** Health and Environment Sector;
- ❑ **Data Collection Instrument:** Electronic survey, small groups discussion and literature review;
- ❑ **Evaluation Management:** National Treasury coordinated under the RG guidance;
- ❑ **Limitation:** Study relied on self-reporting; insufficient time to verify the evidence
- ❑ Workshops were held to test the findings of the evaluation.

- Evaluation was carried out as per strict instructions provided in the ToR

The key research questions:

- How useful/effective is the Paris Declaration as a tool for Aid Effectiveness?
- Have there been noticeable changes in the Development Partner behaviour?
- Have there been noticeable changes in the Partner Country behaviour?
- Implementation lessons:
 - Are we doing the right things in South Africa with respect to Aid Effectiveness?
 - Are we doing things right?

Finding 1: Utility of PD

- PD is extremely relevant for SA. There is need to broaden definition of ownership. Linkage between PD, MDGs & Aid Effectiveness, as well as transparency need to be strengthened.
 - Role of CSO in PD issues remain debatable in SA
 - Existence of national dev strategies inadequate measure of ownership
 - Key elements for development such as sustainable development and gender equality are absent in PD architecture

Finding 2: DPs Behaviour (1)

- In SA some DPs have demonstrated commitment to PD through alignment to sector priorities, use of country systems and harmonised joint programming.
 - ❑ DPs use of PFM systems, reporting procedures , national audit report. Good practice - joint completion of PD audit form.
 - ❑ DPs demonstrated joint programming not only with partner country but also with other DPs in the sector. Good practice- Some DPs have global policy in place for adherence to PD.
 - ❑ UN's CCA, UNDAF, CCPAP developed jointly with government leadership.

Finding 2: DPs Behaviour (2)

There is a growing trend among DPs to harmonise among themselves. Visibility of DPs remains a priority against harmonisation and joint development interventions.

- ❑ Group DP country strategy papers: EC, Nordic, World Bank Group
- ❑ DP coordination and establishment of sector working groups among DPs



Finding 2: DPs Behaviour (3)

Tied aid still evident among most DPs contributing to non-sustainability of development interventions.

- ❑ Procurement of experts from DP countries
- ❑ Insistence on separate audits to track PD funds
- ❑ Use of DP country institutions for capacity building
- ❑ Significant aid flows that are “off budget”

Finding 2: DPs Behaviour (4)

- Absence of *mutually agreed* tool for the systematic division of labour among DPs to avoid duplication and over-concentration of aid in easier sectors and uneven development.
 - Oversubscription in Health, Education and Environment sector
 - No coordination systems/ processes in place for debate



Finding 3: Partner Country Behaviour (1)

- Strong ownership evident at national level, however, it is less so at provincial and municipal levels.
 - Partner Country determines and drives the Development Agenda.
 - Joint programming led by partner country
 - Use of PD as a tool to assert partner country leadership and to manage DP and government relations
 - Existence of ODA coordination units with Departments
 - Existence of national priorities/business plans at national and Ministerial level



Finding 3: Partner Country Behaviour (2)

There is an effort to coordinate DPs and ODA through the IDC, however, there is room for improvement

- E.g. provision of timely information on aid flows & donor coordination
 - Outdated information on website
 - Limited human resources to meet demands at IDC
 - Still to establish formal donor coordination structure/ processes



Finding 3: Partner Country Behaviour (3)

Partner country insists on alignment to national priorities and the use of country systems at national level.

- ❑ Adherence to national strategic priorities
- ❑ ODA structures in place at national level
- ❑ Joint programming
- ❑ Reference to aligning to priorities by DP/partner country cooperation and programming documents

Finding 3: Partner Country Behaviour (4)

- South Africa plays a critical regional role as a DP and raises awareness for PD. However, it is loosely coordinated and this puts pressure on participating Ministries.
 - Absence of a coordinated country strategy on regional development assistance
 - Separate missions by Departments to regional countries
 - Lack of a clear budget for regional activities

Emerging Recommendations

- Need to infuse important elements of aid effectiveness into the architecture of PD (MDGs, sustainable development, gender equality, corruption, transparency)
- Need to rethink the strategic role of DPs in the South African context to make the ODA contribution as valuable as possible for meaningful, sustainable development in the country and regionally
- Need for joint initiatives to address capacity gaps in partner country for sustainable development

Lessons Learned

Activity/Result Area	Result	What We Would do Differently
Working together (E.g. NRG, Advisory, NC)	Excellent	Timeframe to appoint people
Finance	Adequate: USAID – Used South African Procedures	Nothing
Contracting	USAID	Own resources
Evaluation Conduct	Excellent: Consultants International Zimbabwe, South Africa	Time
Use of evaluation results/findings	Draft Aid Effectiveness Plan, Baseline Study	Inform the process the clusters

THANK YOU

