

RESULTS-BASED DECISION MAKING IN DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION

Development co-operation under the 2030 Agenda: Results and relevance

Discussion note, Results Team, DAC / DCD / REED, August 2016

Summary

Results frameworks support the achievement of development co-operation goals of both providers and partners. Results frameworks cover goals at least at three levels: 1) Sustainable development and poverty eradication; 2) Provider-contributed results in the form of demonstrable change towards sustainable development; and 3) Improvements in the operational and organisational performance of providers and partners. In September 2015, the world adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 SDGs and 169 targets. These apply universally and constitute an overriding goals and results framework for development co-operation. The SDGs fit into providers' and partners' results frameworks as follows:

1. All provider and partner countries subscribe to the 2030 Agenda. Individual countries give priority to those SDGs that fit within their national priorities for development and for development co-operation. Two recent OECD surveys of providers' goals and results frameworks find that *domestic* politics and audiences play a key role in setting development co-operation goals and related results frameworks. Yet, references are increasingly made to the SDGs as the common ambition.
2. Assessing providers' contribution towards documentable change requires concrete, substantive results information. This applies whether providers report on their *contribution* to results or attempt *attribution* of results to their development co-operation. Some of the SDG targets offer a robust and substantive framework to assess the relevance, if not the results, of development programmes.

The universal agreement and the outcome focus of the SDGs offer good opportunities to strengthen results reporting by development co-operation providers and partners. Mutual accountability between partner and provider countries can be strengthened through SDG-based results monitoring, which links country and UN data on SDG progress with OECD data on development co-operation. This enables assessment of the *relevance* of ODA to the SDGs. The approach facilitates *country-level* and *international dialogues* on questions such as:

- *Baseline*: Does the allocation of ODA contribute towards the SDG targets on which developing countries face the largest challenges and which they prioritise?
- *Change*: Does the allocation of ODA contribute towards the SDG targets on which developing countries show progress – or do not show progress?
- *Gaps*: Does the allocation of ODA to partner countries reflect a balanced engagement by providers with the SDG challenges of the partner country?
- *Provider profiles*: What is the share of individual ODA providers in the allocation of ODA for the selected SDG targets, by partner country or developing countries as a whole?

The note presents a selection of 30 SDG targets, each with an indicator from the UN's list, aimed at outcome change under SDGs #1-#16. Through purpose codes and markers, ODA data is linked to the 30 SDG targets and indicators for individual developing countries, the LDCs and all developing countries. A pilot database will be populated, leading into a workshop of providers and partners (December 2016) on how *support for partners' goals and results frameworks contributes to development effectiveness and mutual accountability*.

Contents

Summary	1
Introduction: Purpose and analytical framework	2
1. Results frameworks in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	3
2. The use of results information – Challenges to providers	4
3. Survey findings on a role for the SDGs in providers' goals and results framework	5
4. Assessing the contribution of development co-operation to SDG progress	6
Annex 1: SDG targets and ODA purposes – Details on the baseline	10

Introduction

The DAC Work Programme on Development Results 2015-16 includes a stream on *mutual accountability through results*. It suggests that progress towards partner countries' development goals is indicative of results in development co-operation. In accordance with agreed principles of effective development co-operation, from Paris to Busan, the achievement of results and country ownership are enhanced through the use of country systems, including country results frameworks. This is about supporting partners' priority-setting procedures and using country institutions for implementation. It is even more about agreement and collaboration on *substance* – on the goals to be achieved, the changes to be pursued, and the impact to be sustained. The aim is to lift the results debate to one on actual change and improvements in the lives of people, in the functioning of societies, and in the conservation of natural resources, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In April-May 2016, the Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD) undertook two surveys of DAC members and other providers, exploring good practice in the *use of results information* and in linking the 2030 Agenda with *development co-operation goals and results frameworks*. The first survey was reported in: *Providers' use of results information for accountability, communication, direction and learning* (OECD, DCD, August 2016).¹ The findings from the second survey are included below. The second survey links up with development co-operation goals and results frameworks *at partner country level*, which is the topic for a workshop scheduled for December 2016, in Paris or Brussels.² Figure 1 below presents the analytical framework emerging from the two surveys.

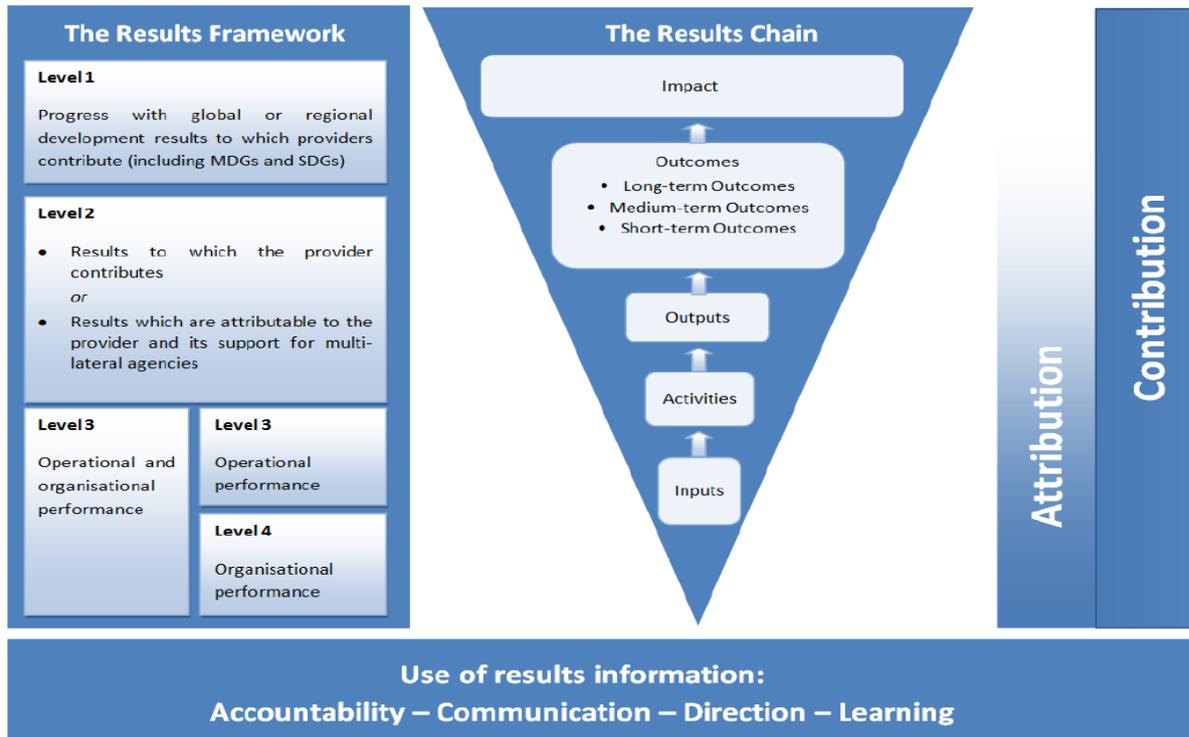
- *Results frameworks* typically have three or four levels: 1) Development progress towards the MDGs, SDGs or similar goals; 2) Results in the form of change, towards which the provider can document contribution or attribution; 3) and 4) The operational and organisational performance of providers of development co-operation.
- The *results chain* draws from proven evaluation practice and has five main steps from inputs to impact, often with outcomes separated into short, medium and long-term outcomes.
- Provider *contribution* to results can cover all levels of the results framework, whereas *attribution* of results to particular providers is easier for projects and programmes than for entire portfolios (country, sector, corporate or global).
- Results information is mainly used for: accountability, communication, direction (including policy formulation and strategic resource allocation), and learning (which is linked with quality assurance).

¹ [Providers' use of results information for accountability, communication, direction and learning](#)

² Country evidence will be emphasized at the December 2016 workshop through these data sets and assessments:

- UN Development Co-operation Forum (DCF): *Results of the Fourth DCF Accountability Survey*, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA).
- Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC): *Second monitoring round*, with a focus on two indicators: 1) Use of country-owned results frameworks; and 7) Mutual accountability.
- DAC / DCD: *Peer learning review on mutual accountability*, with three case studies of partner countries (Burkina Faso, Timor Leste and Togo).
- DAC / DCD: *An SDG-based results approach to development co-operation: Assessing the relevance of ODA flows to the 2030 Agenda*, paper due in October 2016.

Figure 1: The results framework and the results chain



The analytical framework supports two questions that are the main themes of the September and December workshops, respectively: 1) How and for what purposes is results information best generated and used to enhance the effectiveness of development co-operation? 2) How can development co-operation best support partners' goals and results frameworks for sustainable impact and accountability under the 2030 Agenda? The workshop in December 2016 has three goals:

1. *Country focus*: To link the results frameworks of provider and partner countries.
2. *Accountability*: To strengthen mutual accountability through common results.
3. *Goals and results*: To place effective development co-operation firmly within the 2030 Agenda.

1. Results frameworks in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is seen as the overriding goals and results framework of development co-operation. Providers and partners agree on the SDGs as a common and universal challenge and on the efforts needed to achieve the goals, while many still struggle to find effective responses to the complexity and demands of the new 2030 Agenda. There is, as yet, rarely a direct link from the SDGs to the country results frameworks of partner countries or the results frameworks of providers. Assessing progress towards intended results, i.e. the substance of goal achievement, could lift the results debate to be about goals and outcomes within the framework of the 2030 Agenda.

International agreements, from Paris to Busan, tell providers to align their development co-operation to partners' country results frameworks. This requires a commonality of interests on goals to be achieved, which can be found at the overall level of the SDGs, or even for a subset of SDGs relevant to country priorities of both providers and partners. Agreement to work for progress towards a politically prioritised subset of SDGs provides an effective platform for results-focused development co-operation.

The principles of mutual accountability and results focus feature strongly in development co-operation, although application of mutual accountability by providers and partners is still evolving. It is enhanced through collaboration for results on the ground. If intended change is happening, providers and partners

can claim joint responsibility for the achievements. Yet, the debate on mutual accountability has focused more on institutions and processes of country-level partnerships, than on the contents and outcomes of development co-operation.³ This work stream focuses on the latter.

Within management for development results and results-based decision making, the commitment to use partners' *country results frameworks (CRFs)* signals the aspiration of providers to align around the development goals and targets of partner countries. The upcoming report of the *Second Monitoring Round of Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation* finds that more and more partner countries have CRFs in the form of government-led planning instruments where development priorities, goals, targets and budgets are defined in detail, while implementation remains capacity-constrained.

2. The use of results information – Challenges to providers

In May 2016, the results team of the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD) conducted two surveys among DAC members and observers, concerning the *use of results information*, and the reference to the *SDGs* in providers' goals and results frameworks. In a separate note, DCD examines in detail the responses on *Providers' Use of Results Information for Accountability, Communication, Direction and Learning* (August 2016). The first survey found that the goals around which providers of development co-operation have established their results frameworks reflect political priorities in their home countries. The goals usually include: a) wide development goals, such as the MDGs and the SDGs; b) thematic and sector priorities; c) organisational performance objectives for the providers and their implementing agencies, country level representations, etc.; and d) domestic and commercial foreign policy goals (for bilateral providers).

The results frameworks of providers face several challenges, which have to be overcome for providers effectively to support partner countries' goals and results frameworks:

1. *Results-based narratives*: Providers need clear links between their political narratives on development co-operation and the evidence gained 'bottom-up' from their results frameworks. Results information must reflect both political goals and realities on the ground. As an example, a provider's narrative may emphasize improvements in gender equality, human rights, or transition from emergency to development; therefore, its results framework (and independent evaluations) should generate evidence on the progress towards achieving these goals.
2. *Evidence-based policies and strategies*: Providers need clear links between the political / strategic levels and the programme / project levels of their results frameworks. Policies, strategies and thematic and country programmes must be grounded on evidence of outcome. As an example, a provider may establish new schemes for the mobilization of domestic private capital in priority areas such as climate change. To move beyond mere input reporting on such schemes (e.g. millions of dollars mobilized in the provider country), the provider's results framework must capture developments on the ground related to resource mobilization for climate change mitigation and adaptation and be able to assess the effectiveness of the provider in delivery.
3. *Need-to-know results information*: Providers need clear links between the generation and the use of results information. The paper on providers' use of results information outlined how a purposeful corporate results framework can ensure that results information is collected on a need-to-know basis. In most cases, selectivity is applied in the presentation of the results achieved. This may lead to situations where carefully collected results information (or evaluation findings) from projects and

³ The biennial *Accountability Surveys* undertaken by the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) for ECOSOC's Development Cooperation Forum focus on the *institutions and processes* that support mutual accountability and development effectiveness. The "Results of the Fourth DCF Accountability Survey" are currently being published.

programmes is not being used, or where results information is not being reported due to expectations of lack of use.

4. *Results as outcomes*: Providers need to move from a concern with inputs, delivery and processes towards outcomes and impact as well as enhancing results-based decision-making. This requires a move into areas (outcomes and impact), where the provider has less control. It requires legitimate and evidence-based claims of contribution. In provider countries, it assumes an enlightened debate domestically, concerned more about contributing to change on the ground and long-term sustainable development than about provider-specific claims of attributed achievements. It presumes a decision-making culture in public office that is based on evidence and accountable for results, even when adapted to the reality of politics. Providers approach these changes step-wise and with caution.

3. Survey findings on a role for the SDGs in providers' goals and results framework

The survey of providers (May 2016) confirmed that the 2030 Agenda is recognized as a broad, common framework, but also that it is considered too broad and complex to be applied directly as an operational framework for decisions and results reporting. There is scope for raising the dialogue on results to address the relevance and effectiveness of development co-operation vis-a-vis country progress on the SDGs. While the 17 SDGs and their 169 targets are an integrated whole, they offer opportunities for leadership and partnerships around concrete results. An SDG-based results approach can be a platform for country dialogues on development. The survey of providers pointed to the following:

1. Providers find themselves at ease with the 2030 Agenda and see their development goals and development co-operation policies well linked. Most survey respondents are engaged in a process of linking up to a *subset of SDGs*, while recognising the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda. A similar, selective approach applies to the use of the *SDG indicators*.
2. More than half of respondents noted that links with the 2030 Agenda are being *formalised* and made explicit in *new policies and frameworks*. Most respondents pointed to various steps to link the SDGs with their own development goals and policies and to update their results frameworks. They emphasized that the SDGs have to fit with domestic and corporate policy changes. Some providers indicated that the SDG themes are already incorporated in their policies and results frameworks.
3. Half of the respondents noted that *organisational performance* objectives are not included among the SDGs, but are part of their own results frameworks, cf. Figure 1 above. Some respondents pointed to their *geo-political, security and broader foreign policy objectives* that fall outside the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
4. Several provider respondents emphasised that *country ownership* is essential to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and that there is *mutual interest* in strengthening the results frameworks of partners. Almost half of respondents emphasised the need to wait for developing country partners to adopt and adapt the 2030 Agenda and to develop their country results frameworks. Several providers noted that they already support data and statistics capacity building, either directly or through multilateral initiatives such as Paris21. A few respondents expressed a desire to offer proactive support for the results frameworks of partner countries.

Although not examined through the surveys of providers, most developing country partners emphasize their own domestic political priorities and rely on existing budget and planning frameworks for decision-making and results monitoring. This is fully in line with the principles of country ownership and results focus. The governments' planning and budget documents express national development priorities that may or may not include the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.⁴

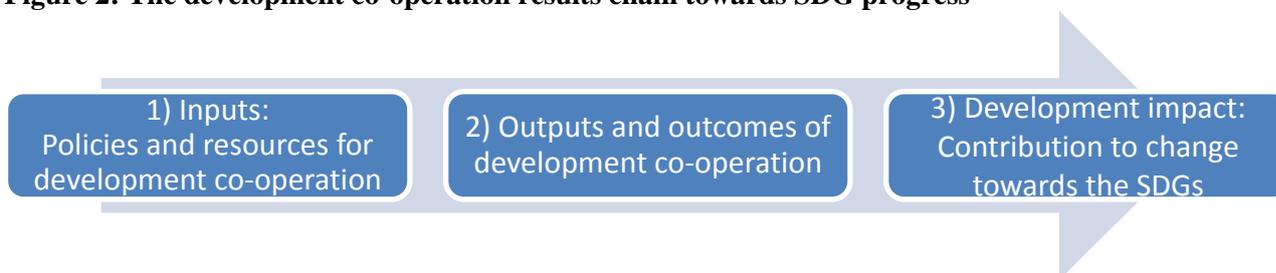
⁴ The 2nd Monitoring Round of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, which is currently being analysed, will provide details on this. Its first indicator (of ten) states that "Development co-operation is

4. Assessing the contribution of development co-operation to SDG progress

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development offer a mixture of intended *outcomes*, desirable *policies* and necessary *processes* of collaboration and partnerships, i.e. not everything is about results. Some goals and targets express aspirations and intentions, but are hardly achievable in a documentable sense. Still, the SDGs offer the best approach to strengthen *results-based decision making* in development co-operation, because they address real life change for people, more inclusive societies, and sustainability in all its dimensions; as well as common commitments for universal change, agreed and monitored by countries and the UN.

The two biggest advantages of an SDG-based results approach to development co-operation are that it lifts the results debate to questions about real change and impact; and that it enables transparent progress monitoring based on common data, verified by the UN (as regards the SDGs) and the OECD-DAC (as regards development co-operation). The proposed approach follows the results chain, as in Figure 2.

Figure 2: The development co-operation results chain towards SDG progress

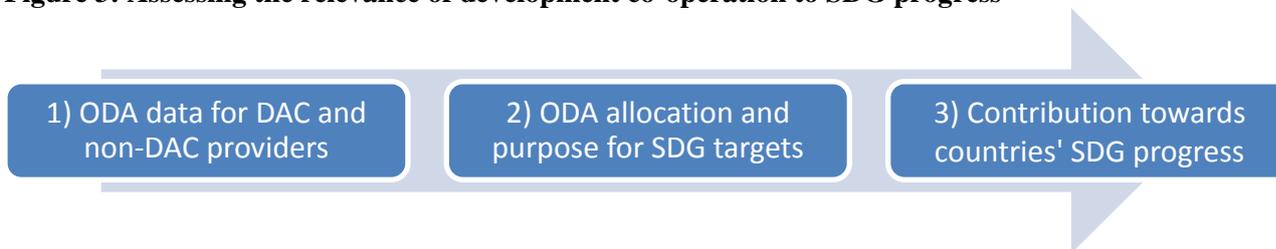


Three narrowing choices are needed to populate this results chain.

1. Data on provider *inputs* is available for official development assistance (ODA) and other official flows (OOF), but not yet for, e.g., total official support for sustainable development (TOSSD).
2. ODA and OOF data (below: ODA) is reported by activity, sector and theme (through purpose codes and markers). It is necessary to link ODA *outputs and outcomes* to *indicators of SDG progress*.
3. ODA is small among the drivers of change within the comprehensive 2030 Agenda. Assessments are feasible only of the *relevance of ODA contributions*, not of the attribution of results.

The data does not allow attribution of results, but only an assessment of *relevance and effectiveness in ODA allocations for SDG support*. This translates into the approach in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Assessing the relevance of development co-operation to SDG progress



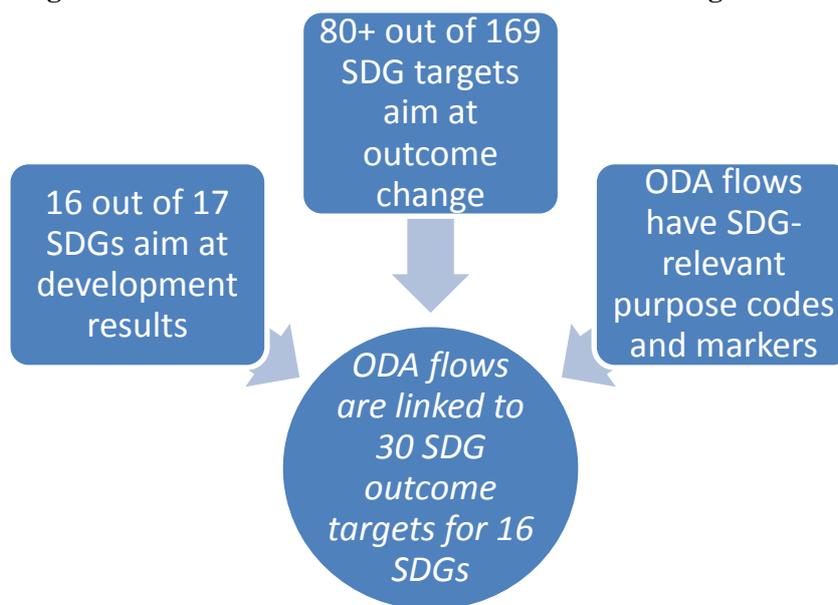
The database outlined below offers a *baseline*, against which the relevance of ODA contributions towards partner countries' SDG progress can be assessed in the coming years. Parts of SDGs #1-#16 are all about desired change at the outcome and impact level, whereas SDG #17 is about the necessary partnerships towards outcome change. For the 169 SDG targets, the UN Statistical Commission has

focused on results that meet developing countries' priorities'', with the following means of verification: ''Extent of use of country results frameworks by providers of development co-operation.''

agreed on a set of SDG indicators (with tier 1 indicators being the most robust and ready to use) that will be used to monitor progress for countries and at aggregated levels. Four criteria are applied to develop a database for assessing the contribution of ODA towards SDG progress. The database must:

- Cover *all* relevant SDGs (16 out of 17 SDGs)
- Focus on the SDG targets that aim at *outcome change* (approximately half of the 169 targets)
- Apply SDG indicators (tier 1) for which data is available on *country situations and progress*
- Link *ODA flows* (commitments) to *SDG targets and progress indicators*

Figure 4: Assessing the relevance of ODA flows to 30 SDG outcome targets



The approach (summarised in Figure 4) leads to a focus on *30 SDG targets* and their related indicators⁵. The 30 targets constitute 18 per cent of the 169 targets in the 2030 Agenda. Using the ODA purpose codes linked with these SDG targets, the data on ODA flows adds up to approximately one third of ODA. The data will be available by individual partner country, for least developed countries (LDCs) and for all developing countries. The data will also be available for individual providers, to assess their share of the total ODA contribution to progress on each of the 30 SDG targets. Table 1 below summarizes the 30 SDG targets and indicators and the proposed mapping with ODA purpose codes and markers. The database promises to facilitate *country-level* and *international dialogues* on questions such as:

- *Baseline*: Does the allocation of ODA contribute towards the SDG targets on which developing countries, individually and as groups, face the largest challenges?
- *Change*: Does the allocation of ODA contribute towards the SDG targets on which developing countries, individually and as groups, show progress – or do not show progress?
- *Gaps*: Does the allocation of ODA to partner countries reflect a balanced engagement by providers with the SDG challenges of the country, or country groups, in question?
- *Provider profiles*: What is the share of individual ODA providers in the allocation of ODA for the selected SDG targets, by partner country or country groups?

The assessment points to substantive dialogue on the *relevance of ODA contributions to SDG challenges and progress*. It monitors *development results in the form of partner country progress towards SDGs*, but it cannot conclude on results of development co-operation per se, let alone attribution of results among providers. Hence, its contribution to results-based decision-making in development co-operation

⁵ The actual number of SDG targets is 29 plus one target on reduced greenhouse gas emissions, which supports SDG#13 on climate action, but which was not included in the list of 169 SDG targets.

is only partial. While it does not address all forms and resources of development co-operation, it is the only attempt to link explicitly the flows of ODA to progress towards the SDGs in partner countries.

Table 1: 30 SDG targets and indicators, mapped with ODA purpose codes and markers

SDG GOALS	SELECTED SDG TARGETS	RELEVANT SDG INDICATORS	MAPPING WITH CRS PURPOSE CODES
Goal 1. No poverty	1.1 Eradicate extreme poverty	1.1.1 Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural)	Cross-cutting (All ODA + OOF)
Goal 2. Zero hunger	2.1 End hunger and ensure access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food	2.1.1 Prevalence of undernourishment	12240 - Basic nutrition 52010 - Food aid/food security programmes
	2.2 End all forms of malnutrition	2.2.1 Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years	
Goal 3. Good health and wellbeing	3.2 End preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5	3.2.1 Under-five mortality rate	12220 - Basic health care 12250 - Infectious disease control
	3.3 End the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases	3.3.2 Tuberculosis incidence per 1,000 population	12263 – Tuberculosis control
	3.7 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services	3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods	13020 - Reproductive health care 13030 - Family planning
Goal 4. Quality education	4.2 Access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education	4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex	111xx – Education – level unspecified 112xx – Basic education
	4.6 Ensure that all youth achieve literacy and numeracy	4.6.1 Percentage of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional literacy	
Goal 5. Gender equality	5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices	5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18	Gender equality marker
Goal 6. Clean water and sanitation	6.1 Achieve access to safe and affordable drinking water	6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	14020-21-22 – Water supply and sanitation – large systems 14030-31-32 – Basic drinking water supply and basic sanitation
	6.2 Achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene	6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water	
	6.4 Substantially increase water use efficiency across all sectors	6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources	14010 - Water sector policy and administrative management
Goal 7. Affordable and clean energy	7.1 Ensure access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services	7.1.1 Proportion of population with access to electricity	230xx – Energy generation, distribution and efficiency
	7.2 Increase substantially the share of renewable energy	7.2.1 Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption	
	7.3 Double improvement in energy efficiency	7.3.1 Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP	
Goal 8. Decent work	8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth	8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita	Cross-cutting (All ODA + OOF)

<i>and economic growth</i>	<i>8.5 Achieve full and productive employment and decent work</i>	<i>8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities</i>	
<i>Goal 9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure</i>	<i>9.4 Upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable</i>	<i>9.4.1 Emissions of carbon dioxide per unit of Manufacturing Value Added</i>	<i>32110 – Industrial policy and administrative management 32120 – Industrial development</i>
	<i>9.5 Enhance scientific research</i>	<i>9.5.1 Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP</i>	<i>32182 - Technological research and development 31182 - Agricultural research 43082 - research/scientific institutions</i>
<i>Goal 10. Reduced inequalities</i>	<i>10.1 Achieve income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population</i>	<i>10.1.1 Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population</i>	<i>Cross-cutting (All ODA + OOF)</i>
<i>Goal 11. Sustainable cities and communities</i>	<i>11.1 Ensure access for all to housing and basic services and upgrade slums</i>	<i>11.1.1 Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing</i>	<i>16030 - Housing 16040 - Basic housing</i>
	<i>11.6 Reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities</i>	<i>11.6.2 Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)</i>	<i>41020 - Biosphere protection</i>
<i>Goal 12. Responsible consumption and production</i>	<i>12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources</i>	<i>12.2.1 Material footprint per capita</i>	<i>Cross-cutting (All ODA + OOF)</i>
<i>Goal 13. Climate action</i>	<i>13 Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, in line with long term goal of achieving net zero global emissions between 2050 and 2100</i>	<i>Greenhouse gas emissions per capita (CO2e) or greenhouse gas emissions intensity (CO2e / unit GDP). Note: Target and indicator drawn from the Paris Agreement on climate change</i>	<i>Climate change mitigation marker</i>
	<i>13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards & disasters</i>	<i>13.1.2 Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people</i>	<i>74010 - Disaster prevention and preparedness 41050 - Flood prevention/control</i>
<i>Goal 14. Life below water</i>	<i>14.5 Conserve at least 10 percent of coastal and marine areas</i>	<i>14.5.1 Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas</i>	<i>14015 - Water resource conservation (including data collection)</i>
<i>Goal 15. Life on land</i>	<i>15.1 Ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems, in particular forests</i>	<i>15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area</i>	<i>312xx - Forestry</i>
	<i>15.5 Reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity</i>	<i>15.5.1 Red List Index</i>	<i>41030 - Biodiversity</i>
<i>Goal 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions</i>	<i>16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere</i>	<i>16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age</i>	<i>15130 - Legal and judicial development</i>
	<i>16.9 Provide legal identity for all</i>	<i>16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age</i>	<i>13010 - Population policy and administrative management</i>

Note: The database is designed with the following criteria (cf. Annex 1):

- *It covers all SDGs aimed at outcomes and desirable results. Only SDG #17 on partnerships is excluded.*
- *It focuses on SDG targets aimed at outcome change, not only at improved processes, policies or institutions*
- *It includes 1-3 SDG targets per SDG, prioritising targets with high relevance to current ODA*
- *It applies 1 SDG indicator (mostly from among the UN's Tier 1 indicators) per SDG target*
- *It adds a target and indicator from outside the SDG lists related to SDG #13 on climate change*
- *It applies frequently used DAC purpose codes for ODA & OOF that support the SDG targets and indicators*
- *It uses ODA markers (value 2) for gender equality & climate change mitigation, to supplement purpose codes*
- *For SDGs #1 (poverty), #8 (inclusive growth), #10 (equality) and #12 (sustainable consumption), no purpose codes or markers capture ODA contributions. Therefore, all of ODA is said to contribute to these SDGs.*

Annex 1: SDG targets and ODA purposes – Details on the baseline

A number of steps were taken in the establishment of a database for future assessment of the relevance and effectiveness of ODA allocations towards SDG progress in partner countries.

SDG outcome targets of relevance to development co-operation

The SDGs place *outcomes*, in the form of *intended results*, at the forefront of co-operation. As noted, 16 of 17 SDGs contain some targets that address outcome change for people, societies or the environment. Without claiming precision or stringency, a review of the 169 SDG targets found that approximately half can be said to aim at documentable change (by 2030) in the form of concrete outcomes on the ground, cf. the 30 SDG targets listed in Table 1. The assessment of the 169 targets can be found here:



Assessment of the
SDG outcome targets

However, not all 30 targets actually represent *outcomes* to be reached in 2030. Several targets aim at *improved access* to resources and services, which strictly speaking is not about outcomes: the actual outcome depends on what people would do with the improved access to education, energy, health, housing, infrastructure, etc. Similarly, strengthened capacity and reduced degradation are not outcomes per se. Still, the 30 targets cover SDGs #1-#16 with issues that are as close to outcomes as possible.

Two main criteria were used to get from the 80+ to the more manageable (in terms of data) number of 30 SDG targets: firstly, the availability of a *quantifiable SDG indicator with accessible data*, and secondly their *relevance to development co-operation*. As seen in Table 1, the 30 targets are distributed as follows: Three goals (#3, #6 and #7) have three targets each; eight goals (#2, #4, #8, #9, #11, #13, #15 and #16) have two targets each; and five goals (#1, #5, #10, #12 and #14) have one target each. While the aim was to have a minimum of one target for each of SDGs #1-#16, the feasibility of getting robust data both on SDG progress and on relevant ODA flows determined the actual choice of SDG targets and indicators.

SDG indicators

The UN Statistical Commission has compiled a set of 230 indicators to monitor the SDGs towards 2030. They are divided into three tiers, with tier 1 indicators being “conceptually clear, (with) established methodology and standards available and data regularly produced by countries”⁶. The 30 SDG indicators presented in Table 1 are all drawn from the tier 1 list, with the exception of indicators 4.6.1, 12.2.1 and 13.1.2. Indicator 4.6.1 (functional literacy and numeracy) is included to cover a broader part of SDG#4, to supplement indicator 4.2.2 related to early-childhood development (which is the only tier 1 indicator for SDG#4). The two indicators for SDG#12 and SDG#13 are included because there are no tier 1 outcome indicators for these two SDGs.

The OECD has recently published a study *Measuring distance to the SDGs targets* covering OECD countries. The study refers to assessments that data may be available for only some 25 per cent of the 230 SDG indicators endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission⁷. Based on OECD data, the study identifies 86 indicators covering 73 SDG targets spanning all 17 SDGs. Given that this covers OECD countries, with better data than most developing countries, it makes sense that a significantly lower

⁶ “Provisional Proposed Tiers for Global SDG Indicators”, as of March 24, 2016. Prepared by the Secretariat of the IAEG-SDGs (Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators), UN Statistical Commission.

⁷ OECD: *Measuring distance to the SDGs targets. A pilot assessment of where OECD countries stand*, July 2016.

number (30) of SDG indicators is proposed in Table 1 for SDG progress in developing countries. 26 of these 30 SDG targets are also among the SDG targets covered in the OECD pilot assessment. For 16 of these 26 targets, the indicator used is the same in the two lists.

Based on work by Dunning & Kalow on the *country coverage* and *frequency* of data collection of tier 1 indicators⁸, the proposed subset of SDG targets and indicators does well in terms of covering developing countries and acceptable with respect to availability of data series:

- *Country coverage:* Dunning & Kalow examine how many of the 193 UN member states have reported at least one data point between 2000 and 2015. The 30 indicators presented in Table 1 are well covered: The average country coverage is 80%, with only 2 SDGs (#10, reducing inequality, and #11, sustainable cities) having a country coverage below 50%. It is essential for a results framework to be populated with data from many partner countries, also to enable aggregation for the least developed countries.
- *Frequency:* According to Dunning & Kalow's assessment of the frequency of surveys over the period 2000-2015, the 30 indicators in Table 1 have an average of eight data points over the past 16 years. Since the SDG indicators are of course only established now, this indicates that there is scope for regular monitoring in future. SDGs #5 (gender equality), #10 and #11 fall behind with an average of less than two data points over the past 16 years. However, the weaker frequency of data is not an issue for the present purpose of exploring the feasibility of an SDG-based approach to a results assessment of development co-operation.

ODA purpose codes and markers

The aim was to assess the results of development co-operation in the form of its contribution towards SDG progress. Unfortunately, no data is as yet available of broad development co-operation. DAC / DCD is currently launching the concept of TOSSD (Total Official Support for Sustainable Development) as a measurement tool for wider public support under the 2030 Agenda, but it has yet to be adopted, specified and populated with data. Therefore, the database built for the present purpose emphasizes ODA and Other Official Flows, for which DCD already has the data.

The objectives of ODA (as per its definition and purpose codes) relate to economic and social development across a number of sectors and themes, but not directly to the intended results. The definition of ODA emphasizes official flows ‘administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as (the) main objective’. Table 1 shows that it is possible to link the purposes of development co-operation (using the purpose codes and markers of ODA) to progress on the 2030 Agenda.

ODA data is sectoral or thematic, whereas the SDG targets of concern here relate to outcomes. Some SDGs cut across all sectors, meaning that all ODA should contribute to these SDGs. This applies to SDG#1 on poverty eradication, SDG#8 on inclusive growth, SDG#10 on reduced inequality, and SDG#12 on sustainable consumption. This is recognized in Table 1 above. Table 1 suggests using the ‘markers’ applied to ODA for SDG#5 on gender equality and SDG#13 on climate action. The reason is the lack of relevant ODA purpose codes to capture the attention given to these two goals.

⁸ Casey Dunning & Jared Kalow: “What SDGs can we track now?”, *Center for Global Development*, Washington DC, 10 June 2016.