

Results in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: An SDG-based Results Approach to Development Co-operation

Key messages from a workshop held at OECD on 3-4 February 2016

Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD), February 2016

Why link the SDGs with the results of development co-operation?

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development gives us 17 universal goals and 169 targets that serve as an action plan for individual countries and for international collaboration. Most of the goals and targets aim at concrete change for people, society, governance and the environment. Three main messages are:

1. *The SDGs are an overriding framework for development co-operation.* Many providers and partners are adapting their development co-operation goals and policies to the 2030 Agenda, while building on their own priorities. The universality of the SDGs enhances mutual accountability in development co-operation.
2. *Monitoring SDG outcome targets strengthens the pursuit of development co-operation results.* Approximately half of the 169 SDG targets are aimed at outcome change, which is an appropriate level of ambition for results. Some of these outcome targets can be quantified and have strong and direct links to development co-operation.
3. *The Development Assistance Committee (DAC) should further examine an SDG-based results approach to development co-operation.* This is not about aligning portfolios around selected targets, but about using SDG progress information, coming out of developing countries and the UN, to assess the effectiveness and relevance of development co-operation.

The workshop

On 3-4 February 2016, DCD organised a 1 ½ day workshop at OECD with 135 participants, under the heading "*SDGs and Development Results. Results in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.*" The agenda and list of participants are attached. The table below summarises participation.

	Number of delegations
DAC members	28
DAC observers	4
DAC participants	1
Other OECD (non-DAC) member countries	4
OECD non-member countries	3
Other development co-operation providers	7
Civil society	2
Research organisations	4

The promises of an SDG approach to development co-operation results

The workshop identified several potential strengths from an SDG-based results approach:

- The SDGs deal with *outcomes*, i.e. with real change for people, society and environment.
- Progress on most SDG targets is influenced through the *results of development co-operation*.
- The 2030 Agenda can be *operationalised*, without deprioritising any SDGs.
- *Aggregated evidence* of results can be exploited in communication and accountability.
- An SDG-based results approach builds upon SDG progress data from *partner country level*.
- Taking a *results perspective* on the 2030 Agenda adds value to development co-operation.
- *ODA and Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD)* provide entries to the SDGs.
- SDG progress information feeds into the *country results frameworks* of developing countries.
- SDG progress information feeds into the *corporate results reporting* of providers.
- The SDGs enable the results agenda to look at evidence of *outcomes and sustainability*.

Operationalising the SDG targets from a results perspective

The background paper for the workshop¹ proposed a set of filters, or principles, for the identification of SDG targets that are most relevant to development co-operation results:

1. Half of the 169 SDG targets aim at *outcome change*, which is an appropriate results ambition.
2. Some 16 outcome targets can be *quantified*, and an additional 26 targets are partly quantifiable.
3. Some 20 quantifiable SDG targets have the clearest links to development co-operation.
4. Some outcome targets are more likely to show *rolling progress*, which is needed for monitoring.

The challenge is to identify the SDG targets to which development co-operation makes the strongest contribution. An SDG-based results approach captures the breadth and depth of the SDGs, yet focuses on a manageable and representative number of SDG outcome targets. The aim is to provide country-based SDG progress information of particular relevance to development co-operation results. As the UN process of identifying some 200+ *indicators* to monitor the 169 SDG targets reaches its conclusion in the near future, the SDG-based results approach will make use of the indicators adopted and, eventually, the data generated for the SDG outcome targets.

Workshop participants emphasised that incentives for programme alignment around a specific subset of SDG targets should be avoided. They supported the use of evidence generated on progress towards SDG targets of particular significance to development co-operation. The purposes of an SDG-based results approach to development co-operation are: *learning* (effectiveness, gaps in achievements, and constraints in partnerships), *dialogue* between providers and partners, *communication* to legislatures and the general public, *quality assurance* and broad *accountability* for the results of development co-operation.

The use of SDG-based results approaches by providers and partners

The SDG-based results approach implies the collection and analysis of current SDG progress data from developing countries, linked with existing development co-operation data held by DAC/DCD on flows, sector spending, and geographical distribution. Where possible, the development co-operation data should cover both ODA and TOSSD. The data and analysis should be useful in four contexts:

- As inputs to the corporate results information for providers of development co-operation.
- As inputs to the country results information for developing country partners.
- As foundations for partnership dialogues and aid coordination in developing countries.
- As foundations for partnership dialogues in global and regional fora: the UN, GPEDC and DAC.

¹ An *SDG-based results framework for development co-operation*. Draft note by the results team of the Development Co-operation Directorate, Paris, January 2016. (www.oecd.org/dac/peer-reviews/SDG-based%20results%20framework.docx)

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



The next steps in the DAC Programme of Work on Development Results

The key messages gaining support through the workshop were:

- Participants expressed a desire to adopt a results perspective on the 2030 Agenda and to explore the links between the SDGs and development co-operation (ODA and TOSSD).
- Participants cautioned that the SDG-based results approach must use existing data, and that DAC / DCD should work closely with the UN on effective development co-operation for the SDGs.
- Participants emphasised the need to apply the internationally agreed SDG review *indicators* for the SDG-based results approach, while not allowing the indicators to replace the goals and targets.
- The SDG-based results approach should build on areas where development co-operation is significant, without limiting this to particular developing country categories.
- DAC / DCD should develop methodologies, analyses and guidance notes on an SDG-based results approach to development co-operation.

Based on guidance received from the workshop, DAC / DCD will continue its programme of work on development results:

1. Analysing how providers and developing country partners align their *goals and results frameworks* with *SDG outcome targets* and the use of *global SDG indicators*.
2. Preparing two *workshops* (mid and late 2016, respectively):
 - a) *The multiple uses of results information by providers at corporate level, covering SDG progress, provider priorities, and organisational performance.*
 - b) *The multiple uses of results information by providers and partners at country level, covering SDG progress, partner country priorities and mutual accountability.*
3. Promoting an SDG-based results approach to development co-operation, e.g. through case-studies.
4. Launching an online community on "Results for the future".

Final Agenda



SDGs and
development results

Full list of participants



Participants list.
SDGs and results.pdf