

The DCF Accountability Survey – distinct added value

UNDESA has conducted four global DCF Surveys ([2015/16](#), [2013/14](#), [2011](#), [2009](#)), in close collaboration with UNDP. The survey results are unpacked in comprehensive studies.

The 4th DCF Survey was rolled out in low-income and low middle-income countries in 2015-2016. Its results were presented and discussed at the High-level Meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum at UN Headquarters in New York on 21-22 July 2016.

The DCF Surveys provide the evidence on the state of play of development cooperation on the ground. They have distinct added value:

- **Tangible impact of country responses:** Confidential country responses and inputs are directly fed into the UN-led inter-governmental and inter-agency processes, without attribution.
 - Outcomes of the DCF Survey are featured in the Reports of the Secretary-General to the DCF, which provides the UN perspective and policy guidance on issues related to development cooperation. [Reports of the Secretary-General to the DCF: [2016](#), [2014](#), [2012](#), [2010](#), [2008](#)]
 - The Survey findings also feed into the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development (FFD) processes, which follows up on the progress towards implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.
 - UNDESA contributes the outcome of the DCF Survey and other relevant inputs to the work of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on Financing for Development, in particular to the cluster that UNDESA co-leads on international development cooperation, including sections on ODA, South-South and tri-angular cooperation and development effectiveness.
- **Structured assessment around key enablers:** The DCF Survey helps governments to focus their observations around key enablers for effective development cooperation, such as national development cooperation policies (NDCPs); country-driven results frameworks; clear institutional structures with dialogue forums; and quality information.
 - For tailored use of these enablers, see the links below for our [Guidance note for national policy-makers and practitioners](#).
- **Designed to incentivize behavioural changes:** The DCF Survey:
 - Includes questions on targets for individual development partners as well;
 - Encourages inclusive multi-stakeholder participation beyond national governments, of domestic actors, beneficiaries and external partners; and
 - Emphasizes the critical role of citizen-based monitoring.
- **Beyond aid / development effectiveness agenda:** The DCF Survey, in addition to covering topics of the aid and development effectiveness agenda, aims to address key issues relevant to development cooperation in the SDG era. For instance, the Survey examines the degree to which NDCPs integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development, the incorporation of the role of domestic resource mobilization within NDCPs, and the role of private and blended development cooperation.

- **In-depth questionnaire for meaningful responses:** The DCF Survey measures quantitative and qualitative aspects of development cooperation. Responses are further substantiated by additional requests to share supporting documents (e.g. NDCPs).
- **Accessible and confidential:** The DCF Survey is administered in user-friendly formats that guarantee anonymity. Issues related to mutual accountability are inherently “relationship-based” and therefore may be politically sensitive. The DCF Survey takes the principle of “confidentiality” seriously. While discretely handling the data provided through the Survey, UNDESA also aims to make the most of the information collated to contribute to more informed global policy discussion and decision, in close consultation with the participating countries. The previous two surveys were conducted online, with questionnaires in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [French](#). Webinars are held to explain the processes and encourage greater participation.
 - See the links below for the recordings of Webinars in Asia-Pacific and Africa/Europe/Americas and PowerPoint Presentation.

The DCF Survey – informing other processes

The DCF Survey informs other monitoring mechanisms outside the United Nations. The 2011 Paris Declaration Monitoring Survey started to use a number of questions from the DCF Survey to monitor mutual accountability as one of its twelve indicators. Most recently, the monitoring of the Busan indicators by the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation uses the same targets for mutual accountability. This minimizes the reporting burden on countries engaged in both monitoring exercises.

UNDESA updated the survey design for the fourth Survey 2015/16, in close consultation with multi-stakeholder experts and participating countries, to further incorporate the emerging issues of development cooperation in line with the 2030 Agenda and Addis Agenda.

- See the links to the [summary](#) and the related [presentation](#) of the workshop on mutual accountability held at the DCF ROK High-level Symposium (April 2015)

Quick Links

- [DCF Survey 2015/16, 2013/14, 2011, 2009](#)
- [DCF Guidance note on mutual accountability for national policy-makers and practitioners](#)
- Report of the Secretary-General on "Trends and progress in international development cooperation" [[2016](#), [2014](#), [2012](#), [2010](#), [2008](#)]
- DCF Survey regional webinars ([Asia-Pacific](#) and [Africa/Europe/Americas](#)) and [PowerPoint Presentation](#).
- [High-level Meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum \(July 2016, New York\)](#)
- [ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development \(FfD\)](#)
- [High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#)
- [Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation \(GPEDC\)](#)
- SDGs indicators framework: <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/>