

THE 7th DCF SURVEY 2021/2022

Since 2008, the [Development Cooperation Forum](#) (DCF) Surveys by UNDESA have provided evidence on the state of play in effectiveness of development cooperation on the ground.

The DCF Survey's distinct value added includes:

Tangible impact of country responses

Confidential and frank country responses and inputs are directly fed, without attribution, into the UN-led inter-governmental and inter-agency processes:

- High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
- ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development
- Development Cooperation Forum
- Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development

Detailed analyses of findings are used to generate practical recommendations for policy makers and practitioners at the global, regional, national and local levels, and are made available in the DCF Survey Study.

Structured assessment around key enablers

The DCF Survey helps governments assess how effectively their development cooperation systems work by examining the state of 5 key enablers: national development cooperation policies (NDCPs); country-driven results frameworks (CRFs); national development cooperation forums (NDCF); development cooperation information systems (DCIS); and capacity support.

Supporting INFFs and Voluntary National Reviews

The enablers of effective development cooperation can serve as building blocks in designing and implementing integrated national financing frameworks (INFFs) and optimal mobilisation and management of financial and non-financial resources to achieve national sustainable development strategies. Participation in the DCF Survey exercise can also facilitate countries' preparation and follow-up of Voluntary National Reviews of progress towards the SDGs.

Designed to incentivize behavioral changes

The DCF Survey:

- Includes questions on targets for individual development cooperation partners.
- Encourages inclusive participation, beyond governments, of both domestic and international non-state actors, as well as beneficiaries.
- Emphasizes the role of parliamentarians and local and regional governments in monitoring and data.

In-depth questionnaire for meaningful responses

The DCF Survey measures quantitative and qualitative aspects of development cooperation at country level.

To further substantiate the responses and support peer learning, it also provides a platform to share key documents (e.g., NDCPs, results frameworks and progress reports).

Beyond the aid/effectiveness agenda

The DCF Survey, while covering topics of the development effectiveness agenda, addresses key issues of development cooperation in support of the SDGs and COVID-19 response, recovery and resilience building:

- Integrated approaches to the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental.
- Potential setbacks and opportunities as a result of COVID-19 and other critical risks.
- Links to domestic resource mobilization and mobilizing the full range of means of implementation.
- Private and blended development cooperation.
- Capacity support for effective development cooperation and multi-stakeholder engagement.

Informing other processes

The DCF Survey supports effective implementation of the 2030 and Addis Agendas, Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework. The survey also supports monitoring and implementation of international commitments to LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and Africa. The DCF Survey has also informed mechanisms outside the UN, such as the 2011 Paris Declaration Monitoring Survey and Monitoring of Busan indicators by the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. This brings synergies for countries and minimizes the reporting burden on those engaged in multiple exercises.

Accessible and confidential

The DCF Survey is administered in a user-friendly format, available in English, French or Spanish. Anonymity of the submissions and responses is guaranteed. Survey participants also received confidential country profiles summing up key responses alongside aggregate findings.

What's next?

The 2021/2022 DCF Survey exercise begins in September 2021, with distribution of the questionnaire to all interested developing countries. Findings will be presented in the 2022 DCF Survey Study and will inform DCF-related capacity development activities for strengthening development cooperation systems.

For more information, please contact dcf@un.org.

Frequently Asked Questions

➤ **What is meant by development cooperation?**

The DCF has developed a working definition of development cooperation: “an activity that aims explicitly to support national or international development priorities, is not mainly driven by profit, discriminates in favor of developing countries and is based on cooperative relationships that seek to enhance developing country ownership.” This includes financial transfers, capacity support, technology development and transfer, cooperative action to drive policy change at the national, regional and global levels, and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

➤ **Who should complete the survey?**

The survey is open to all developing countries. Ministries are encouraged to consult domestic actors and beneficiaries, and their international development cooperation partners in the exercise.

➤ **Why should you engage in the survey exercise?**

National mechanisms that hold actors accountable for development cooperation bring specific value:

- Make financial resources and cooperation more adequate, predictable and targeted towards achieving the SDGs.
- Solidify trust between governments, domestic actors and beneficiaries, and their development cooperation partners.
- Lead to greater use of country systems, budget support and transparent use of funding.
- Contribute to design and operationalization of integrated national financing frameworks.

➤ **What have participating countries shared about their survey experience?**

Participating countries have reported that the DCF surveys:

- Promote candid dialogue on development cooperation.
- Improve coordination within governments and with development cooperation partners.
- Clarify monitoring, review and accountability of development cooperation.
- Facilitate mutual learning among stakeholders.
- Enhance transparency of development cooperation data and information.



The Development Cooperation Forum

The DCF is the United Nations global forum for reviewing the latest trends and progress in development cooperation, enhancing coordination across diverse actors and activities. Its analytical work and deliberations generate practical recommendations for policy makers and practitioners. Policy discussions in the UN Economic and Social Council are open to all governments and other stakeholders. UNDESA/Financing for Sustainable Development Office serves as the DCF Secretariat.