

# THE 6th DCF SURVEY 2019/2020

Since 2008, the Development Cooperation Forum 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
- Reports of the Secretary-General to the DCF
- ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development
- Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development

### Structured assessment around key enablers

The DCF Survey helps governments to assess how effectively their development cooperation works by examining the state of play of 4 key enablers: i) national development cooperation policies (NDCPs); ii) country-driven results frameworks (CRFs); iii) national development cooperation forums (NDCF); iv) development cooperation information systems (DCIS); and v) 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 of citizen-based monitoring and data generation.

### In-depth questionnaire for meaningful responses

The DCF Survey measures quantitative and qualitative aspects of development cooperation. 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 aid and development effectiveness agenda, aims to address key issues of development cooperation in the SDG era:

- Integrated approaches to the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental.
- 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 has informed monitoring mechanisms outside the United Nations:

- 2011 Paris Declaration Monitoring Survey
- 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. It facilitates inclusive discussion to prepare responses. Anonymity of the submissions and responses is guaranteed.

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

### What's next?

The 2019/2020 DCF Survey exercise begins in fall 2019, with distribution of the questionnaire to all interested developing countries. For information, please contact [dcf@un.org](mailto:dcf@un.org).

Findings will be presented in the 2020 DCF Survey Study, to be launched in advance of the 2020 Development Cooperation, to be held in New York on 14-15 May 2020.

## 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 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:

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

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

Participating countries have reported that the DCF surveys:

- Promote frank 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 information.



## The Development Cooperation Forum

The DCF reviews the latest trends and progress in development cooperation, facilitating coordination across diverse actors and activities. Its analytical work and deliberations generate practical recommendations for policy makers and practitioners. It is a global forum of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, open to all governments and other stakeholders.

## The United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs

As the DCF Secretariat, UNDESA conducts these broad-based DCF Surveys.