DCF 5th Global Accountability Survey
2017/2018
Since 2008, the Development Cooperation Forum Surveys by UN-DESA have provided evidence on the state of play in development cooperation on the ground.

The DCF Survey’s Distinct Value Added

Tangible impact of country responses:
Confidential 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
- Reports of the Secretary-General to the DCF
- Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development

Structured assessment around key enablers:
The DCF Survey helps governments to focus their observations of how effectively their development cooperation functions and why around key enablers, such as national development cooperation policies (NDCPs), country-driven results frameworks, clear institutional structures with dialogue forums, and quality information.

Designed to incentivize behavioral changes:
The DCF Survey:

- Includes questions on targets for individual development cooperation partners
- Encourages inclusive participation, beyond governments, of domestic actors and beneficiaries plus external partners
- Emphasizes the role of parliamentarians and of citizen-based monitoring

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 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 monitoring and review of development cooperation at national and local levels

Informing other processes:
The DCF Survey has informed monitoring mechanisms outside the United Nations:

- 2011 Paris Declaration Monitoring Survey
- Monitoring by the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation of Busan indicators

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 and national levels, and are made available in the DCF Global Accountability Study.

Development Cooperation Forum 5th Global Accountability Survey

Frequently Asked Questions

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:

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

Participating countries report 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

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.

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, UN-DESA conducts these broad-based DCF Surveys, in collaboration with UNDP.

Learn more about the DCF and participation in the Survey:

Visit the DCF Website | Subscribe to the DCF Newsletter | Contact: dcf@un.org