2022 DCF Survey Study
Navigating COVID-19 recovery and long-term risks
DCF Survey Exercise

- Biennial DCF surveys have been conducted since 2009.
- Have helped governments to self-assess how effectively their development cooperation works by examining the state of play of key enablers.
- Information and insights gained by participating in the DCF survey exercise can be useful for developing countries and their partners to enhance the effectiveness of development cooperation by adapting policies, systems and processes and identifying capacity needs.
- Survey results are anonymous, leaving opportunity for frank and open feedback.
- Addition of COVID-19 module to 2022 DCF survey instrument.
- Adds value at the global level to country efforts with aggregate results informing the High-level meeting of the DCF (14-15 March 2023).
Key enablers of effective development cooperation

- **National Development Cooperation Policies**
  - Vision
  - Priorities
  - Targets

- **Country Results Frameworks**
  - Monitoring
  - Long-term impact

- **Development Cooperation Information Systems**
  - Accurate, comprehensive, quality and timely data

- **National Development Cooperation Forums**
  - Multi-stakeholder dialogue

**Capacity support**
COVID-19 Recovery and Resilience

- The COVID-19 pandemic impacted development cooperation in all countries which completed the 2021/2022 DCF survey. Nearly two-thirds of the survey respondents reported a major impact.

- Participating countries re-directed development cooperation resources from critical SDG sectors, focusing on short-term needs over long-term risks.

- Quantity of development cooperation resources improved for close to half the countries surveyed, yet worsened for one-third of them.

- Survey respondents reported no improvement in concessionality during the pandemic.

- In some countries, pandemic response had improved alignment, but concerns raised as to whether such alignment will be maintained for long-term resilience building.

Figure 2: Extent of impact of COVID-19 on development cooperation

- Completely
- Mostly
- Somewhat
- Not at all
Of survey respondents 82 per cent reported that they had NDCPs in place, 51 per cent indicated that they had CRFs, 73 per cent reported that they had a DCIS, and 65 per cent reported having an NDCF in place.

While most survey respondents had at least three key enablers in place, NDCPs were most likely to be in place compared to the other key enablers.

NDCPs give good coverage to the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Agenda, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, but are less likely to cover the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and regional development agendas.
• NDCPs have become more inclusive of: (i) financial and non-financial forms of development cooperation, and (ii) a range of development cooperation actors and stakeholders.

• Those countries that had already embedded risks in their NDCPs were best able to coordinate development partners around the COVID-19 response.

• Survey respondents take systemic risks into account in their NDCPs to some extent but need to be more deliberate in adopting a risk-informed approach to their NDCPs.

• While most survey participants reported having CRFs, others noted that there were continued challenges in putting them in place.
Survey respondents underscored that the effectiveness of the DCIS was being hampered by a lack of complete and timely data from development partners.

Survey respondents highlighted the importance of DCIS in decisions on reprioritization and redirection of development cooperation during COVID-19.

There is scope to improve the overall impact and effectiveness of NDCFs by addressing existing barriers to effective use of NDCFs including inclusivity, political buy-in, clarity of roles, and systems and procedures.
Further support to strengthen capacities is needed to better equip developing countries in responding effectively to large-scale, complex challenges.

Participants emphasized the need to build on existing capacities through targeted, high-quality training programmes and access to the most current knowledge, data and tools in the following areas:

- Data and monitoring and evaluation systems
- Accessing finance on favourable terms, and negotiating with existing and prospective development partners
- Coordination of development cooperation
- Other areas including human resources and sector-specific skills training
Risk-informed development cooperation must enable developing countries to address multiple risks simultaneously

Interviewed countries highlighted concerns over intensifying risks and uncertainties. Risk-informed development cooperation and its enablers will need to be agile and reliable in responding to these challenges, including:

- Climate adaptation
- Food security and food systems
- Digital divide and access to digital infrastructure and technology
- Social protection systems
- Engagement of civil society and youth
Conclusions

- The case for risk-informed development cooperation has been strengthened as a result of COVID-19, but uncertainty about development cooperation flows remain.

- Developing countries require a major scaling up of development cooperation resources and improvement in the quality of development cooperation.

- The pandemic underscored the human and financial costs of under-investment in risk mitigation and resilience-building and the need for a long-term outlook for risk-informed development cooperation.

- Those countries with enablers in place and strong existing relationships with development partners and stakeholders were able to facilitate timely development cooperation responses to COVID-19.
Further information

• 2022 DCF Survey Study: study in full and policy brief
• DCF background and additional resources
• DESA Financing for Sustainable Development Office
• Questions or comments:
  • Email barrettg@un.org / dcf@un.org