Global Partnership Initiative 12 Stock-Take of Indicator Two Monitoring – Summary
November 2016

Introduction

In 2016, the Task Team on Civil Society Organization (CSO) Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment (Task Team) undertook a Stock-take of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation's (GPEDC) 2015/16 monitoring of the global effective development cooperation commitments in relation to civil society. The Stock-take focused particularly on Indicator Two of the GPEDC monitoring framework: *civil society operates in an environment that maximizes its engagement in and contribution to development.* The 2015/16 monitoring round called for a multi-stakeholder approach,[i] led by National Coordinators (NCs) from aid-recipient country governments participating in the monitoring. This monitoring approach was meant to involve:

1) Multi-stakeholder dialogue sessions for data gathering and validation
2) Coordination of stakeholder inputs via Focal Points (FPs) designated by stakeholder groups (CSOs, development cooperation providers, others) and agreed on with NCs.

> *"This indicator is primarily built to provide a useful tool to spark multi-stakeholder dialogue at the country level among governments, CSOs and providers, to identify progress as well as room for improvement in CSO enabling environment and CSO development effectiveness." (GPEDC Monitoring Guide 2015/16, p. 26)*

Purpose and Origins of the Stock-take

The purpose of the Stock-take[ii] is to provide a light assessment of the 2015/16 Indicator Two monitoring at country level. The Stock-take research involved over 120 interviews in 11 of the 59 countries that monitored Indicator Two. The Stock-take is intended to inform the Indicator Two monitoring results in the GPEDC's *2016 Progress Report*,[iii] and to enhance the design and implementation of Indicator Two monitoring in the future. Ultimately, the Stock-take's intent is to give impetus to advancing progress on the effective development cooperation commitments related to civil society as reflected in Indicator Two's four-module framework: i) space for multi-stakeholder dialogue; ii) CSO development effectiveness, accountability and transparency; iii) official development cooperation with CSOs; and iv) legal and regulatory environments for CSOs.

The Stock-take partially fulfils a commitment made by the Task Team at the 2014 Mexico High Level Meeting to implement Global Partnership Initiative 12 (GPI-12).[iv] Under GPI-12, the Task Team also collaborated with the GPEDC's Joint Support Team (JST) to design the 2015/16 Indicator Two monitoring approach. Also under GPI-12, the Task Team is developing Guidance[v] on Indicator Two to help build a common understanding of what the four Indicator Two modules entail in practice. Examples of good practice were gathered during the Stock-take research for potential inclusion in the Guidance.

The full Stock-take report covering the process, findings and recommendations can be found on the Task Team's website: https://taskteamcso.com/gpi-12-stock-take/

Key Findings & Recommendations

The findings of the Task Team Stock-take suggest incomplete application of the guidelines in relation to a multi-stakeholder approach. However, findings also suggest the monitoring has whet appetites for more systematic and ongoing multi-stakeholder engagement on Indicator Two going forward. For the purpose of this brochure, key recommendations from the Stock-take have been grouped and listed below.

Relevance to Effective Development Cooperation and Agenda 2030

The relevance of Indicator Two monitoring to effective development cooperation is clear in particular as relates to the Inclusive Partnerships principle. Indicator Two recognizes the importance of CSOs in development, while its multi-stakeholder approach to monitoring the practices of various actors also reflects inclusivity. Indicator Two is also particularly relevant to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 16 and 17.[vi] CSOs have a role to play in advancing progress toward the peaceful, inclusive societies and accountable institutions called for by SDG 16, while these are also key elements of an enabling environment for CSOs. Meanwhile, CSOs are also significant players in the means of implementation of SDG 17.

Multi-Stakeholder Engagement: Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue and Use Of FPs

Limited multi-stakeholder dialogues took place for data gathering and validation purposes, while the use of FPs to facilitate engagement of various stakeholders in Indicator Two monitoring was inconsistaent. Five of the eleven countries completed some form of multi-stakeholder session focused on Indicator Two. Other collaborative approaches to Indicator Two monitoring were evident however. The FP role was important for stakeholder outreach and soliciting input to Indicator Two monitoring, though it was not consistently used across stakeholders. CSO FPs, designated by the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness, played a significant role. The designation of development cooperation provider FPs varied considerably, with providers insufficiently engaged overall. Contributions from other stakeholders such as the private sector, parliamentarians, or non-NC government departments/

ministries were virtually absent. Challenges commonly encountered in Indicator Two monitoring included: time constraints; lack of capacity including financial resources; gaps in awareness; difficulties in stakeholder outreach/inclusion, and mistrust across stakeholders.

Recommendations: Multi-stakeholder Dialogue

- Extend time frame from monitoring launch to data submission

  Target: GPEDC/JST

- Raise country level awareness of effective development cooperation commitments & GPEDC monitoring

  Target: GPEDC/JST, NCs, FPs, 3rd parties

- Provide country level capacity development (including financial support) for design of and engagement in multi-stakeholder dialogue on Indicator Two

  Target: NCs, FPs, 3rd parties

- Convene, institutionalize and maintain ongoing multi-stakeholder dialogue on Indicator Two in between monitoring rounds, tapping into existing dialogue fora or establishing new ones

  Target: NCs, FPs

- Ensure sufficient JST resources and capacity to support the monitoring

  Target: GPEDC

Recommendations: Use of FPs

- Revise GPEDC monitoring guidelines to stress importance of the NC role and FP function for inter and intra-stakeholder group coordination

  Target: GPEDC/JST

- Solicit greater development cooperation provider engagement

  Target: GPEDC/JST, Provider FPs and Headquarters

- Allow context-appropriate application of the FP role, including, given CSO diversity, direct engagement with various CSO coordinating bodies

  Target: NCs, FPs

- Provide country level capacity development for NCs and FPs

  Target: GPEDC/JST, NCs, FPs, 3rd parties

- Broaden stakeholder engagement across and within various stakeholder groups, including outside of capital cities

  Target: NCs, FPs

Indicator Two Questionnaire and Guidelines

The Indicator Two questionnaire and guidelines are comprehensive, and an improvement on the first (2013/14) monitoring round's method of drawing largely from global data. However, the questionnaire could be shortened and simplified. This could potentially enhance the completion of the questionnaire in a multi-stakeholder fashion in future. Still, specific recommendations emerged that would lengthen and potentially complicate the questionnaire. There is interest in devising ways to make the questionnaire and guidelines more locally relevant, including with early translation.

Recommendations: Questionnaire and Guidelines
• Shorten and simplify the questionnaire   **Target:** GPEDC/JST
• Translate the questionnaire and guidelines into key languages (French, Spanish, Arabic) and into country-specific languages, prior to launching the monitoring   **Target:** GPEDC/JST, NCs (country specific)

• Consider specific recommendations:
  - Use scales rather than yes/no answers
  - Increase 300 word limit for narrative responses
  - Distinguish between: policy/regulation and practice; local and non-local CSOs; service and advocacy CSOs
  - Add variables to Module 2 regarding CSO development effectiveness, accountability and transparency
  - Add a variable regarding the financing CSOs bring to development cooperation
  - Add a variable regarding CSO – private sector partnerships
    Target: GPEDC/JST, NCs and FPs as desired

Behaviour Change, Usefulness and Next Steps

Indicator Two monitoring both demonstrates and provides an opportunity for behaviour change involving multi-stakeholder collaboration, increased transparency, and the building of trust and mutual understanding. Despite the mixed experience, even partial steps toward a multi-stakeholder approach have piqued interest in ramping up multi-stakeholder engagement on Indicator Two. Further, Indicator Two monitoring has the potential to motivate changes in the operational behaviour of the stakeholders it targets, and thus to strengthen enabling environments for CSOs and CSO development effectiveness. However, follow-up steps to the Indicator Two monitoring – including ongoing opportunities for multi-stakeholder dialogue and demonstrations of political will to progress on Indicator Two – are required to increase the chances of sustained behaviour change.

Recommendations: Behaviour Change, Usefulness and Next Steps
• Make country reports available for analysis and cross-country comparison   **Target:** GPEDC/JST, NCs
• Single stakeholder group reflection on country reports, implications for their practices, and what is needed to demonstrate political will for change   **Target:** NCs, FPs
• Convene, institutionalize and maintain ongoing multi-stakeholder dialogue on Indicator Two in between monitoring rounds   **Target:** NCs, FPs
• Consolidate an ongoing lead role for NCs in between monitoring rounds, with strong institutional and political backing   **Target:** GPEDC/JST, NCs, FPs

Conclusion

The Stock-take findings and recommendations are worthy of consideration in light of the GPEDC's *2016 Progress Report*; future monitoring rounds; and the collective interest in multi-stakeholder engagement at country level toward more enabling environments for CSOs and CSO development effectiveness. The potential to build on the Indicator Two experience is worth seizing as a means to achieve greater development cooperation effectiveness.

i GPEDC (2015), Monitoring Guide 2015-16: Monitoring the Effective Development Cooperation Commitments, http://effectivecooperation.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/2015-Monitoring-Guide_-final1.pdf.

ii The Stock-take research was commissioned by the Task Team through its Secretariat at the International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam (ISS-EUR), the Netherlands. It was authored by Jacqueline Wood with contributions from Adinda Ceelen. The content of the Stock-take Report and this summary do not necessarily reflect the views of ISS-EUR, Task Team participants or their institutions.

iii GPEDC (2016), Making Development Co-operation More Effective: 2016 Progress Report, http://www.oecd.org/development/making-development-co-operation-more-effective-9789264266261-en.htm.

iv GPIs are voluntary initiatives affiliated with the GPEDC's efforts to advance effective development cooperation. See the Mexico Communiqué, available at http://effectivecooperation.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/ENG_Final-ConsensusMexicoHLMCommunique.pdf

v The Guidance will be available at: https://taskteamcso.com/gpi-12-guidelines-2/.

vi United Nations General Assembly (2015), Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E. SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

About the Task Team

The Task Team on CSO Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment (Task Team) is a multi-stakeholder informal network. Its work is concerned with advancing the role of civil society in development, in the context of international commitments on civil society as agreed at the Accra (2008), Busan (2011), and Mexico (2014) High Level Fora/Meetings on aid and development effectiveness and (anticipated) at the 2016 Nairobi High Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC).

Task Team participants come from three stakeholder groups: governments that provide development cooperation; recipient governments; and civil society organizations (CSOs) in the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE). It is led by three co-chairs, each representing a stakeholder group.