

**MONITORING  
EXERCISE IN SOUTH-SOUTH  
COOPERATION  
EFFECTIVENESS**

Final Report

**AMEXCID**

AGENCIA MEXICANA DE COOPERACIÓN  
INTERNACIONAL PARA EL DESARROLLO

**The Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) conducts biannual monitoring rounds to measure progress on the principles of effective development cooperation:**

**1) National Ownership**

**2) Focus on Results**

**3) Inclusive partnerships**

**4) Transparency and accountability**

Despite not having participated in the Second Global Monitoring Round in 2016, Mexico undertook to examine the applicability of the GPEDC indicators in order to make a contribution to the Monitoring Framework from the perspective of a country with a dual role. The conclusion of the ad hoc report elaborated by Mexico in 2016 revealed the value of the tool. However, it demonstrated that the Global Monitoring Framework did not adequately reflect the

dual nature of Mexican cooperation. Based on these results, added to the growing importance of South-South cooperation for Mexico, the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID) proposed adjusting the indicators to measure the effectiveness of cooperation in a way that responds to the country's own characteristics.



This commitment was consolidated in the Monitoring Pilot developed by Mexico, which has seven indicators chosen as a result of an intense analysis process between AMEXCID and the Joint Secretariat of the GPEDC -composed of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). These indicators are:

- A. The offer of South-South Cooperation (SSC) is aligned with the results frameworks and priorities of the recipient country.
- B. The provider countries use SSC strategic frameworks.
- C. Civil society organizations participate in SSC and contribute to effective development cooperation.
- D. The quality of public-private dialogues in SSC.
- E. Information on SSC is publicly available.
- F. SSC is subject to parliamentary oversight.
- G. SSC incorporates gender equality.

The progress of the indicators was measured through an online survey, the results of which were complemented by the organization of a multi-stakeholder workshop in Mexico City, with the participation of the private sector, civil society organizations, sub-national governments and various AMEXCID areas. This report presents the overall results of the exercise, as well as the recommendations emanating from it.

# Country Ownership



**Countries set their own national development priorities, and development partners align their support accordingly while using country systems.**

# CONCLUSIONS

## PROGRESS

- Joint Commissions are the formal mechanisms for agreeing on bilateral SSC programs.
- The priority areas for action (agriculture, security, climate change, social development), identified through the SSC bilateral program, respond to the national public policy strategy or frameworks such as the National Development Plan.
- There are various mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the bilateral program that reflect this ownership: periodic reports, follow-up missions, general monitoring indicators or intermediate evaluations.

## AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY

- Bilateral agreements or programs, while including priority development sectors or areas covered by national frameworks, do not always include adequate operational and budgetary mechanisms.
- Monitoring and evaluation of bilateral programs can be improved with monitoring indicators.
- Although the reference to the 2030 Agenda and SDGs in bilateral programs is made at the goal level, it could be more strategic, with references to target or indicator level in a results framework.

# Focus on Results



**Development co-operation seeks to achieve measurable results by using country-led results frameworks and monitoring and evaluation systems.**

# CONCLUSIONS

## PROGRESS

- The national strategy for international development cooperation includes SSC through a strategic framework such as the Program for International Development Cooperation (PROCID).
- PROCID, published in the Official Journal of the Federation, is publicly available online.
- PROCID defines priority sectors and regions for its implementation, specifying SSC objectives and indicators, defining priorities, indicators and development targets.
- PROCID's progress is reported once a year and is available online.
- The government uses PROCID reports to report on priority areas and cooperation results in the dialogue with SSC partners.
- On the part of sub-national governments, there is an ongoing process to incorporate the SDG targets into the state government's international development cooperation plans.

## AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY

- The PROCID, adopted before September 2015, does not include references to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. However, there is an ongoing process to incorporate the SDGs into the country's international development cooperation plans.
- Participation in the strategy elaboration process of the next PROCID is susceptible to greater participation by development cooperation actors, including sub-national governments, SSC partner countries, civil society and Congress.
- Sub-national governments can explicitly incorporate SSC into their local development plans, in consultation with local actors (civil society, academia, private sector and state congresses).
- Prepare progress reports on international cooperation at the level of sub-national governments.

# Inclusive Partnerships



Development partnerships are inclusive, recognising the different and complementary roles of all actors.

# CONCLUSIONS

## PROGRESS

- There are coordination mechanisms between the public and private sectors, as well as a commitment to participate in a structured dialogue, in relation to cooperation and the implementation of the SDGs.
- The Partnership for Sustainability is an initiative of dialogue, stable and structured participation, between the public and private sectors. It is a concrete manifestation that is highly valued by private sector actors.
- The Social Technical Council is a formal mechanism that promotes the participation, dialogue and involvement of CSOs in SSC.
- Participating CSOs perceive very differently how the government promotes their participation in SSC: there are those that do not perceive that it is promoted, and those that confirm that there are formal mechanisms for dialogue and capacity building for CSOs to participate effectively in SSC agreements or programs.
- The CSOs that participated in the questionnaire mostly incorporate the gender perspective in their activities, in a varied manner and with a different scope.
- Although PROCID does not incorporate gender equality, the design, monitoring or evaluation instruments do.

# CONCLUSIONS

## AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY

- Participation in public-private sector dialogues on SSC is diverse, with some initiatives being more structured and stable, and others more informal, with diverse influence and different relevance and significance. The joint action resulting from the dialogue initiatives is perceived in a very varied way by the participants in the questionnaire: from the little relevance of the joint actions to initiatives perceived as concrete and fruit of collaboration.
- The private sector suggests wider dissemination of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda, greater visualization of success stories or good practices in relation to SSC, and a clear definition of the benefits of participating in cooperation projects.
- It is necessary to continue promoting the participation of CSOs in SSC and to broaden both the mechanisms of participation to reach a greater number of CSOs and the strengthening of its structure in order to have a better installed capacity and to participate with greater value in SSC. The above, with greater transparency and timely dissemination.
- Most participating CSOs consider that SSC partner countries only occasionally consult them on cooperation policies and programs.
- Among participating CSOs, there is a diversity of opinions regarding SSC: whether they include SSC in their advocacy or implementation strategies, also with respect to their installed capacity to participate in SSC partnerships. There are coordination mechanisms among CSOs initiated by them at the sectoral and national levels, supported by their interests to improve their development effectiveness.
- Participating CSOs reflect that their programs are guided by national human rights standards by applying them to their accountability mechanisms, the provision of information on their activity, or their own capacity to assess the results of their actions in relation to development.
- It is necessary to include explicit reference to gender issues in the national development cooperation strategy (PROCID), as well as disaggregation by sex, age group, ethnic origin, socio-economic group and gender-sensitive markers in its monitoring and evaluation.

# Transparency and Mutual Accountability



Countries and their development partners are accountable to each other and to their respective constituents. They are jointly responsible for ensuring development co-operation information is publicly available.

# CONCLUSIONS

## PROGRESS

- The reporting of information on SSC is promoted. The government has an integrated information management system for use by government entities to record and publish aggregate information on development cooperation, both SSC and triangular cooperation.

## AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY

- Information systems simply reflect data from the Federal Government. It would be useful to explore the normative and practical feasibility of including other development actors and partners.
- It is recommended that mechanisms be established for parliamentary follow-up to the national development cooperation strategy (PROCID).
- On the part of sub-national governments, there is significant room for improvement in terms of transparency and accountability, specifically with respect to the recording and systematization of development cooperation actions.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### FROM THE

### MULTI-STAKEHOLDER

### WORKSHOP

At the end of the multi-stakeholder workshop, a group session was held to register the most relevant conclusions of the exercise. The opinion of the participants was collected and consolidated to generate a list of recommendations regarding the advancement of South-South Cooperation effectiveness in Mexico. These recommendations address the effectiveness principles in the Mexican context, considering the perspective of a country with a dual cooperation role.

### **1. Consolidate the Mexican policy of international development cooperation (Principles: Focus on Results, National Ownership)**

- Strengthen the results-oriented approach in cooperation projects, ensuring that they have monitoring and evaluation indicators and targets. Ensure that projects respond to the priorities of partner countries.
- Take advantage of the lessons learned from PROCID 2014-2018, counting on the voices of all its actors, in the construction of PROCID 2019-2024.
- Ensure the pertinence and relevance of the cooperation policy with respect to political, geographical and sectoral priorities.
- Allocate a budget in accordance with the goals and scope expected of the Mexican policy of international cooperation.
- Revise the International Development Cooperation Act (LCID) to make it more inclusive and multi-mandate.

### **2. Strengthen the link between Mexican cooperation actors and the role of AMEXCID as the coordinating body for cooperation (Principles: Inclusive Partnerships, Focus on Results).**

- To continue socializing the faculties and attributions of AMEXCID as the coordinating body of international development cooperation (IDC), among the relevant actors.
- Consolidate the functioning of the existing technical councils and create a per-

manent and, at the same time, dynamic space in which multi-stakeholder and multi-level dialogue is fostered, promoting greater links between the various actors, in order to generate synergies, increase understanding and concrete and impact results.

- Articulate comprehensive multi-stakeholder training programs on SSC from the Mexican perspective, that allow the principles to be included at the sub-national level and that take advantage of the knowledge already created.

### **3. Establish a common language for Mexican cooperation (Principle: Transparency and Accountability)**

- Harmonize the language and definitions on cooperation, in its various modalities, and the effectiveness of cooperation.
- Make visible and communicate good practices and successful cases of Mexican cooperation with stories of impact (storytelling).

### **4. Consolidate actions in favor of transparency and accountability. (Principle: Transparency and Accountability)**

- Continue refining the quantification methodology in the National Registry for International Development Cooperation (RENCID).
- Promote a pilot exercise of accountability and mapping of cooperation projects, where technology is used in a valuable way, allowing the collection of information from diverse actors, in addition to reinforcing the dual role of Mexican cooperation.



#### **5. Increase support and attention to sub-national governments (Principle: Focus on Results)**

- Strengthen the institutional capacities of sub-national governments so that they can design interventions that respond to their territorial needs.
- Consolidate the Council of Local Governments as a key space to incorporate its perspective in Mexican cooperation.
- Collaborate with private initiative and international agencies to mobilize human, financial and institutional resources.
- Promote an approach to the social sector, in order to generate a good offer and guarantee the adequate reception of cooperation.

#### **6. Promote enabling environments for the participation of CSOs working for Sustainable Development (Principle: Inclusive Partnerships)**

- Expand the number of CSOs in the Technical Social Council, fostering permanent efficiency and interaction between Government and Civil Society.
- Promote political dialogue, advocacy, freedom of association and participation of CSOs for sustainable development.

#### **7. Mainstream the gender perspective in Mexican cooperation**

- Make visible the relevance of the gender perspective in Mexican cooperation, and to integrate it in the work strategies.
- Incorporate the gender perspective into strategic cooperation frameworks, taking advantage of the expertise of CSOs in the process.

**8. Deepen and share the lessons learned from the pilot and its effectiveness (Principles: National Ownership, Focus on Results).**

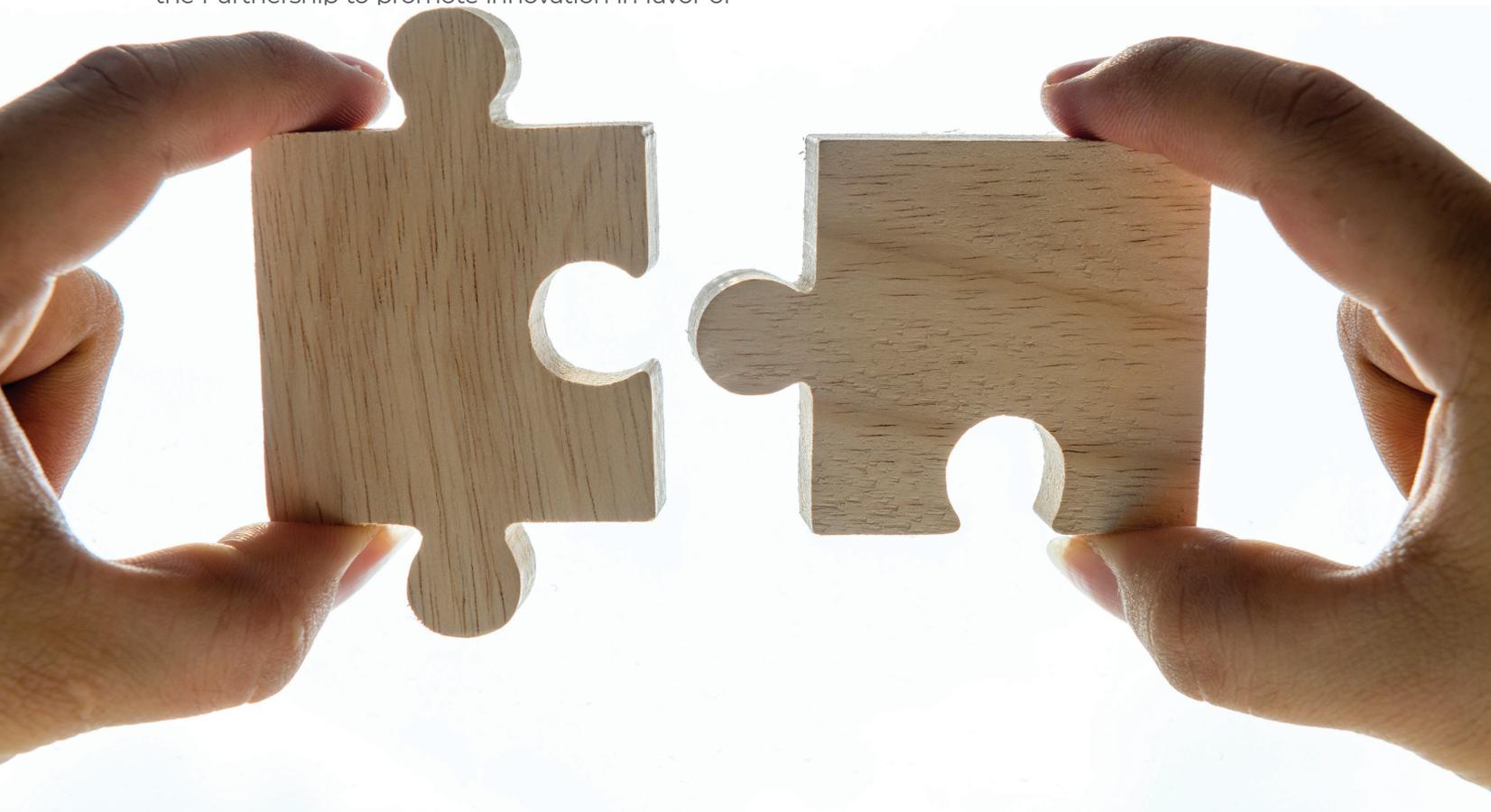
- Ensure that the perspective of partner countries and the different actors benefiting from SSC is included in cooperation.
- Involve the governments of partner countries in future multi-stakeholder workshops in order to enrich the perspective and the relationship with the actors.

**9. Strengthen the Partnership for Sustainability so that it becomes a strategic ally of the Mexican business sector for the effectiveness of cooperation (Principle: Inclusive Partnerships).**

- Take advantage of the knowledge generated in the Partnership to promote innovation in favor of

**10. Leverage multi-stakeholder linkages to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals**

- Generate joint strategies with sub-national governments to favor the alignment of international cooperation plans at the local level, through the appropriation of the knowledge generated at the national and international levels.



## CREDITS

### **Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID)**

Laura Elena Carrillo Cubillas  
Executive Director

Noel González Segura  
Director General of Planning and International Development Cooperation

This publication was supported by the **German International Cooperation Agency (or “GIZ,” its German Acronym)**, commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (or “BMZ,” its acronym in German).

#### **Coordination and edition:**

AMEXCID | Noel González, María Rodríguez Domínguez, Alicia Hernández  
GIZ | Lothar Rast, Lorena López  
Javier Herrero, Consultant  
Daniel Gamboa

The opinions expressed in this document do not necessarily represent the institutional opinions of AMEXCID and GIZ. Partial or total reproduction of this content is permitted for nonprofit purposes as long as this work is duly cited as the source of reference.



**AMEXCID**

AGENCIA MEXICANA DE COOPERACIÓN  
INTERNACIONAL PARA EL DESARROLLO