

Evaluation of the Implementation of the Paris Declaration

Update of Phase 1 Donor Studies

UK (DFID)

Executive Summary

What changes have been proposed and implemented following the Phase 1 evaluation?

DFID accepted and is implementing almost all the recommendations of the Synthesis donor study and the DFID Donor HQ case study. These included suggestions to:

- update Parliament and the public on progress on aid effectiveness and establish explicit transparency objectives
- improve medium term predictability of aid flows to feed into partner country budgeting and reporting
- delegate more authority to field offices
- if requested, DFID should strengthen support to partner countries to adjust to Paris agenda.

DFID did not accept some recommendations on special budgets and resources and benchmarking because these were not considered necessary given other processes.

The 2010 DAC peer review of DFID gives further information about DFID's progress on aid effectiveness.

Did the Accra Agenda for Action provide further impetus to the PD process and result in any specific changes?

The Accra Agenda for Action definitely did provide further impetus to DFID's implementation of the Paris Declaration.

It resulted in a DFID action plan, "Beyond Accra", approved by ministers, setting out how we would implement Paris and Accra commitments. It was published in July 2009 on the DFID website and submitted to the DAC. We provided two progress reports to the DAC on implementing the 'Beginning Now' Accra commitments.

Since Accra:

- DFID has published conditions linked to disbursements from April 2010 onwards.
- The majority of our country offices report that they provide information on annual commitments to partner governments.
- We provide rolling three-year indicative resource allocations to partner country governments in our focus countries where we provide resources through government.
- We publish indicative country allocations for DFID's country programmes for the three and soon to be four years of the current UK Spending Review period.
- DFID has worked to improve aid transparency, in line with Paris and Accra commitments. The Secretary of State launched a UK Aid Transparency Guarantee in June 2010. We will begin publishing full information on all new DFID projects over £ 500 by January 2011. We launched a searchable database of project information on the DFID website in August 2009.

- We have led the International Aid Transparency Initiative, which was launched at Accra to help donors implement their commitments on transparency. In June 2010, the 18 donor signatories agreed what information they will publish in the first phase, plus common definitions and formats, with implementation to start by January 2011.
- DFID has worked with other donors and partners in countries like Ghana, Zambia, Bangladesh and Uganda to improve mutual accountability. To support faster progress at country-level, we have analysed barriers to establishing mutual accountability processes in eleven countries where we have programmes and produced top tips on mutual accountability for our country offices. These were also used by the Working party on Aid Effectiveness Task Team on mutual accountability. And we have worked closely with the UN Development Cooperation Forum on their survey of country-level mutual accountability.
- In 2009 DFID reviewed our incentives for aid effectiveness, using a self-assessment tool which was presented at Accra. We have shared the results with the DAC and implemented recommendations to improve.
- DFID has strengthened its results focus to ensure that programme and policy decisions are based on evidence

of what works and what's value for money, and that it learns and improves results using information from research, reviews and evaluations.

What reporting has been made to domestic or international accountability structures on the implementation of the Paris Declaration?

Domestic:

DFID reports on Aid Effectiveness in its public Annual Report. DFID is accountable to Parliament and the public to ensure that UK aid achieves maximum effectiveness. Part of this is responding to the International Development (Reporting and Transparency) Act 2006, which requires the Secretary of State to report on the progress made in specified areas related to aid effectiveness. The latest report, DFID in 2009-10, is on DFID's website.

DFID reported to the All Party Parliamentary Group for Debt Aid and Trade who led a Parliamentary Inquiry into Aid Effectiveness which reported in March 2010.

International:

DFID reports to the DAC and annually to the EU on aid effectiveness. The DAC Peer Review of DFID in 2010 included reviewing aid effectiveness.