

Forum:

ECOSOC

Issue:

Building the framework to coordinate humanitarian assistance for building sustainable development in countries affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overview

The COVID-19 pandemic has undoubtedly caused major disruptions and challenges for member nations and institutions around the world. This impact has not been lost on work towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which have had years, or even decades, of progress reversed or halted due to the global pandemic. As a result of the pandemic, many nations have fallen behind on meeting their sustainable development targets, and the threat to sustainable development is heightened in less industrialized nations that have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

The 2021 and 2022 Sustainable Development Goals Reports published by the United Nations (UN) have highlighted the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the lives, livelihood, health systems, and economies around the world. The pandemic has especially affected SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), and SDG 17 (partnerships). According to the reports, the global extreme poverty rate rose for the first time in two decades, from 8.4% in 2019 to 9.5% in 2020. Essential health services and global health systems have been undermined, posing additional threats to fighting against other deadly diseases. A significant rise in inflation, major supply-chain disruptions, growing labor market pressures, and unsustainable debt in developing countries have weakened the current global economy and economic recovery. Additionally the pandemic has adversely impacted progress towards gender equality with violence against women growing and women suffering from disproportionate percent of job losses.

Furthermore, vaccine distribution remains disparate across the globe. The committee must ensure that equitable global access to COVID-19 vaccines, therapies, and tests is planned, designed, and implemented by countries that can produce vaccines and are able to properly support its distribution. Pandemic recovery also relies heavily on delivering adequate resources from recovery packages addressing social protection and inclusion, energy and food systems, and the macro relationship of the economy to the environment.

Thus, the need to coordinate continued efforts towards the realization of the 2030 UN Agenda remains pertinent today. The future of humanitarian aid must be targeted towards the

world's most vulnerable people, communities, and nations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OCED), in 2021, foreign humanitarian aid rose to 179 billion USD, and up from 4.4% in 2020 as developed countries aimed to help developing countries struggling with the pandemic. The recovery effort also relies heavily on greater investments in data collection for high-quality data, which is necessary to guide policymakers. The mobilization of international and domestic resources is crucial for these efforts.

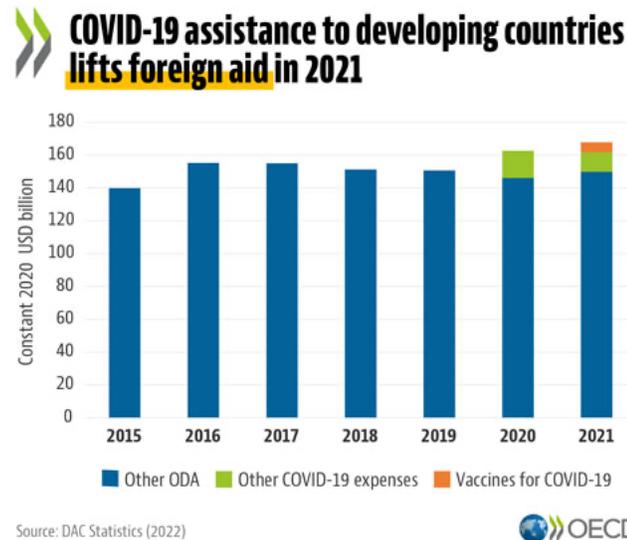


Figure 1: Foreign aid given for COVID-19 assistance to developing countries. ODA stands for Official Developmental Assistance. Source: DAC Statistics (2022)

It is necessary that Member States uphold their commitment towards international solidarity, inclusive multilateralism, and collective global action so that we can achieve a sustainable economy that leaves no nation, community, or individual behind.

Key terms

Pandemic

An epidemic of an infectious disease that has spread across multiple continents or worldwide. COVID-19 is an example of a global pandemic.

Humanitarian assistance/relief

Humanitarian assistance are coordinated responses intended to alleviate suffering and protect the lives of people impacted by natural and man-made crises and disasters.

Sustainable Development

As defined by the UN, Sustainable development is “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. It relies

on three core elements: economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection in order to advance the well-being of individuals and societies. The end goal for sustainable development is for an inclusive, sustainable, and resilient future for people and the planet.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The 17 SDGs and their 169 targets are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and improve the lives and prospects around the world. Maintained by the UN Member States, the SDGs are part of the 15-year plan from the 2030 UN Agenda to achieve a sustainably developed world.

Finland, Denmark, Sweden

The three countries with the highest rankings in terms to sustainable development.

Important Events/Timelines Involved

Date/Event:

1972

The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm marked the first international attempt to create action plans and strategies for a more sustainable pattern of development.

1992

The first UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) was held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. The first agenda for Environment and Development, Agenda 21, was developed. It was the first-time major leaders recognized sustainable development as a major challenge for the world.

2011

On May 24, 2011, the first Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Framework was developed. It brought together Member States, industry, other stakeholders, and the World Health Organization (WHO) to create a global framework for pandemic influenza preparedness and response.

2012

At the Rio+20, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) established an open working group to develop a set of SDGs

2015

On September 25, 2015, the UN adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the UN Sustainable Development Summit. The 2030 agenda included 17 SDG goals with 169 targets aimed at improving health and education, reducing inequality and extreme poverty, and

increasing economic growth. The SDGs came into force on January 2016 with the intent to reach all 17 SDG goals by 2030.

2019

The first cases of COVID-19 are discovered in Wuhan, China in December 2019

2020

The WHO declares COVID-19 a global pandemic on March 11, 2020.

2021

The UN releases the *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021* which outlines the pressing need to implement strong sustainable development frameworks in the midst of the pandemic.

2022

The UN releases the *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022* which continues to highlight the problematic areas of development since the start of COVID-19 while acknowledging some progress made on SDG targets.

Important nations/organizations

United Nations Development Program

works to eradicate poverty while protecting the planet. UNDP helps countries to develop strong policies, skills, partnerships and institutions so they can sustain their progress. It is responsible for implementing the sustainable development goals.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

This subdivision of the UN is responsible for the coordination for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, by organizing and communicating with UN-Ocean, UN-Water, UN-Energy, UN Transport and UN-climate. It will evaluate the implementation and on the advocacy of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Economic Commission for Africa

Subdivision in ECOSOC. Focuses on fostering recovery and transformation in Africa to reduce inequalities and vulnerabilities, as well as financing Africa's recovery.

This includes the following:

Resolution 991 (LIV): Culture and heritage management programme

Resolution 988 (LIV): Scaling up investment in transport to optimize the benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Area

Resolution 990 (LIV): Curbing illicit financial flows and recovery of lost assets

Resolution 983 (LIV): Importance of digital transformation for breaking new ground

Resolution 984 (LIV): Role of Partnerships for African Vaccine Manufacturing in improving African health outcomes

South Africa

South Africa's national framework for sustainable development proposes five strategic focus areas for intervention.

1. Enhancing systems for integrated planning and implementation
2. Sustaining our ecosystems and using natural resources efficiently
3. Economic development via investing in sustainable infrastructure
4. Creating sustainable human settlements
5. Responding appropriately to emerging human development, economic and environmental challenges

Kenya

Kenya focuses on its Kenya's Fourth Medium Term Plan (MTP IV) as its national goal in sustainable development.

Important Documents

UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

The document outlines the program and cycle the UN follows in planning, implementing, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of collective UN support for achieving the 2030 Agenda.

[UNSDG | United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Guidance](#)

Sustainable Development Report 2022

This document is very long, but it outlines the UN's ambitions in the years leading up to 2030.

[Sustainable Development Report 2022 - Sustainable Development Report](#)

ROBECO'S SDG FRAMEWORK How we assess company contributions to the SDGs for integration into investment portfolio

This document suggests why and how investors should invest in companies that work towards the SDGs. It helps take private investors into the picture in terms of establishing the framework.

[docu-robeco-explanation-sdg-framework.pdf](#)

UNITED NATIONS Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Kenya 2022-2026

This document helps show how the currently UN framework works, It also could help delegates see how the framework could be improved.

[UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Kenya.pdf](#)

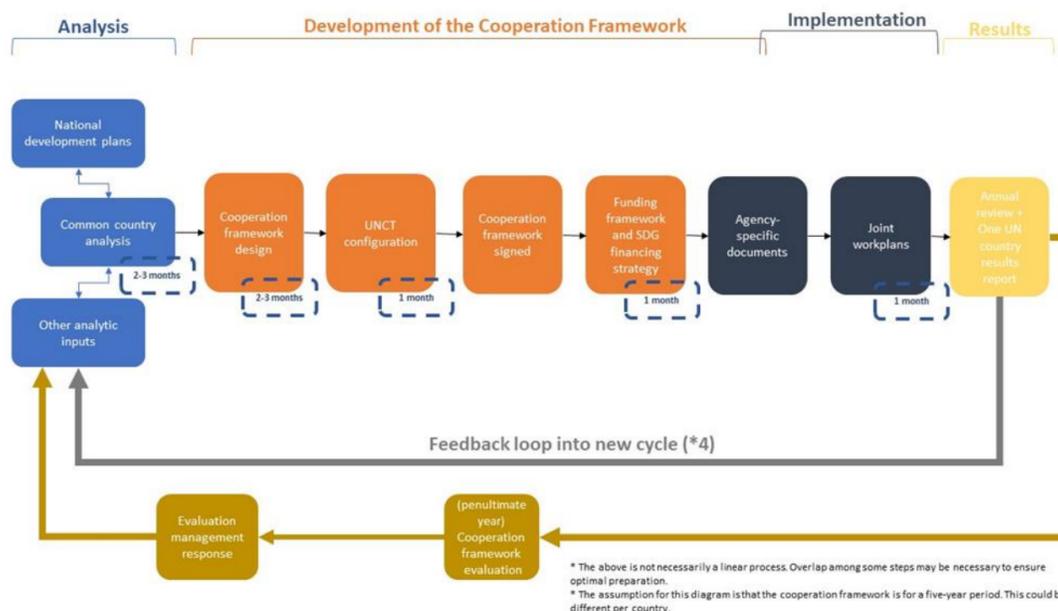
Possible Solutions

A National Framework for Sustainable Development

Like in South Africa, a National Framework on Sustainable Development would help each nation to clarify their national vision for sustainable development and indicate strategic interventions to re-orientate the nation's development path in a more sustainable direction. It will guide the development of the national strategy and action plan.

Refinement of the United Nations Sustainable Development cooperation framework

Currently, the UN evaluates countries, and then plans, finances, and delivers their support to countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The process typically takes five years. The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (“Cooperation Framework”) is at the core of the cycle, co-designed and co-signed by the UN development system and the Government.



This is the current framework that determines UN assistance to nations in achieving SDGs. This same framework should be modified to suite the current situation, especially to shorten the time span it takes to put forth the whole programme. It is also important to increase the framework's resilience, sustainability, and accountability.

Strengthen secondary institutions

Strengthening the capacities of national and subnational institutions and communities is Essential to encouraging the sustainability of this framework. It would help assistance toward loft 2030 development goals reach regional levels.

Increase Transparency

It is important to increase transparency because with greater transparency comes trust. Nations and institutions are more likely to collaborate with the UN, as well as to assist and to accept assistance.

Respect the national priorities

When working with respective countries, the UN should come to respect their priorities and aid the nations in achieving their priorities in SDGs.

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