

DCED Secretariat support to results measurement in member agencies and their programmes: A brief overview

The Donor Committee for Enterprise Development (DCED) is a global network of bilateral donors, UN organisations and foundations with an interest in Private Sector Development (PSD). Their vision is to for the DCED to serve as *a leading source of knowledge on PSD and support members in improving the effectiveness of PSD, based on lessons from experience*. The DCED Secretariat supports members in realising this vision.

Its core tasks include knowledge management and external engagement to raise the profile of PSD and the DCED and to share the evidence on results, lessons from experience and new trends in PSD. The Secretariat also provides technical support to members and coordination with programmes to support the implementation of good PSD practices. This note sets out the Secretariat's support to results measurement in particular.

Credible results measurement in PSD has been a long-standing focus of the DCED and remains a priority in many member agencies. The DCED Secretariat stands ready to support DCED members and their programmes with tailored support on how to measure results and use this information in a timely manner to steer both programme management and evidence-based policymaking. Specific services include:

/01 Facilitating member exchange and coordination

The DCED Results Measurement Working Group (WG) is a key forum where DCED members exchange experiences, conduct research together, and develop guidance on good practice. The Secretariat onboards colleagues from member agencies to the group and/or task forces working on specific topics of interest. The Secretariat can further present the work of the WG to member agencies on request. The Secretariat can also help members share relevant agency publications and activities with the WG or a wider audience via the DCED website, newsletters and social media.

/02 Providing tailored advice on results measurement

The Secretariat responds to queries on different technical aspects of results measurement. Common topics include:

- Developing robust theories of change
- Assessing systems change
- Aggregating results
- Designing effective evaluations
- Qualitative and quantitative research design
- Measuring 'green' impact
- Impact Measurement and Management (IMM) in impact investing

Where more substantiative support is required, the Secretariat can suggest relevant consultants.

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Building linkages with practitioners

Secretariat provides institutional memory in field of results measurement and evidence in PSD. As such, members can contact the Secretariat to enquire about relevant publications and research and to be connected to relevant programmes and practitioners. The secretariat also [lists consultants](#) who may be available to provide support to programmes working towards compliance with the DCED Standard; each has been through a rigorous selection process, generally including an exam on the Standard, and contacting referees.

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Organising online and in-person events

The Secretariat organizes webinars, seminars and workshops on relevant results measurement topics to promote learning. If there are specific themes or topics that members want the secretariat to cover through these events, members can contact the Secretariat to take up. The Secretariat can organize both in-person and online events.

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Supporting the use of the DCED Standard

The [DCED Standard](#) for Results Measurement provides a common framework for measuring programmes' results in practical yet credible ways by outlining seven core elements. On request, the Secretariat can offer technical advice, presentations and tailored online or in-person workshops for members and their programmes on why and how to adopt the DCED Standard and solid results measurement practices more broadly.

Why use the Standard: By encouraging grantees to use the DCED Standard, donors can enhance the quality of their programmes and build credible evidence on the effectiveness of PSD:

- The DCED Standard helps donors to make programmes more efficient - it saves time and money, as programmes do not have to 'reinvent the wheel' of good practice
- It guides programmes to report against a small number of aggregable common impact indicators
- It stresses the use of results in programme management
- It supports programmes to work in complex environments such as market systems, by encouraging flexibility and continual validation and revision of the programme logic
- Unlike many other measurement methodologies, the DCED Standard emphasizes measurement of systems change
- Compliance with the Standard can assure donors that programmes are seriously engaged in results measurement and quality work, particularly if the results measurement system is subject to a DCED audit.

THE DCED STANDARD FOR MEASURING RESULTS
IN PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT
CONTROL POINTS AND COMPLIANCE CRITERIA

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Get in touch: If you are interested to learn more about how the DCED Secretariat can help you in results measurement, get in touch via admin@enterprise-development.org

