

DCED Standard for Results Measurement

Governments, businesses and charities seek to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of people and planet. But how do we know what difference these organisations are making for the poor and disadvantaged?



Using timely, meaningful results information helps achieve outcomes. Development programmes are more likely to benefit poor and disadvantaged people when they use quality results measurement systems to understand progress towards results; manage risks; and make decisions.

Around 130 programmes in over 50 countries use the DCED Standard for Results Measurement to:

- ▶▶ **A**chieve clarity of goals, purpose and actions.
- ▶▶ **B**enefit from learning and using information to improve their work.
- ▶▶ **C**learly communicate credible results.
- ▶▶ **D**emonstrate accountability to funders, investors, partners, beneficiaries and the public.



The DCED Standard has seven 'elements' listed on the [DCED website](#). They can be summarised in the following three steps:

Firstly, programmes using the Standard set out a clear vision for what they want to achieve, and explain the logic of how they expect to get there. This is



Visit the [map](#) to find out who else is using the DCED Standard for Results Measurement

The [DCED website](#) contains many resources including guidelines, manuals, and case studies. The [DCED Secretariat](#) can also provide guidance and answer your questions.

articulated in a results chain, a simplified diagram that shows the vision of the intervention.

Secondly, programmes check progress by measuring their results. Programmes develop clear indicators, and regularly measure them. The Standard encourages managers to assess the broader impact of their work beyond the people or organisations they work with directly.

Thirdly, programmes adjust their approach as required to reach their goals. The reality of implementation is always different to initial expectations. Consequently, programmes assess their results chain to understand whether their starting assumptions were correct, and whether interventions are likely to achieve the desired changes. If not, activities can be adjusted to increase the chances of success.

The system's components are consistent regardless of sector, size or country. What is measured, and how it is measured, is flexible and needs to be tailored to the specific goals, information needs and context.

The **credibility of reported results** depends on the quality of results measurement systems. The DCED facilitates independent assessments of organisations' and programmes' results measurement systems. Find out more about [results measurement systems audits](#).



Icons made by Freepik from [www.flaticon.com](#)