

The DCED Standard for Measuring Results in Private Sector Development

Changes made from Version VII to Version VIII

3rd April 2017

Version VIII builds on the experience of implementing Version VII, drawing mainly on feedback from programmes implementing the Standard, and from auditors auditing the implementation of the Standard. The changes represent mainly clarifications and streamlining; fundamentally, the Standard remains the same. In summary, the key changes are that:

- The Standard now has seven sections, rather than eight. This reflects experience that ‘good measurement practice’ and ‘estimation of attributable change’ are not addressed separately or sequentially in programmes. Sections 3 and 4 of Version VII have therefore been combined into one Section;
- The language of Control Points and Compliance Criteria is now more consistent and clearer;
- The option of an early audit of the 'System in Place' in new programmes has been removed; this service proved to have a high transaction cost, while not providing a particularly useful picture of the results measurement system.
- Rather than all compliance criteria having a maximum score of 10 (as in Version VII), maximum scores now vary, according to the importance of the compliance criteria.

After these changes, the score of a given programme remains the same, against the 'Must' compliance criteria. The Table below gives more detail; all control point numbers refer to version VIII, unless otherwise stated.

| Element of the DCED Standard | Changes made from version VII to version VIII | Reasons for Change |
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| 1. Articulating the results chain | Control point 1.5 no longer refers to the need to outline anticipated systemic changes in the results chain | This aspect has been consolidated into Section 4, 'Capturing wider changes in the system or market'. |
| | Control point 1.5 now refers to 'a system for assessing and understanding differentiated results by gender' | Audit experience suggests that gender aspects need to be thought about at the outset, in the results chain. |
| 2. Defining indicators of change and other information needs | Control point 2.6 has been added, calling for 'specific indicators that enable the assessment of gender differentiated results'. | Indicators need to reflect what is in the results chain, consistent with the new 1.5. |
| 3. Measuring attributable change | Control point 3.3 now incorporates what was previously covered by control point 4.1. | Good practice in measurement includes consideration of attribution |
| | Control point 3.4 has been added: 'The programme implements processes to use information from monitoring and results measurement in management of interventions and decision making'. | Confirming the use in practice of results information by management is a very important element in the audit process. |
| | Control point 3.5 on differentiated results by gender was previously 3.3, and is now | This ensures consistency with 1.5 and 2.6. |

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| | recommended | |
| 4. Capturing wider changes in the system or market | Control point 4.1 refers to the existence of a plan to assess systemic change at programme level. | Previously this was control point 1.5, now clarified to apply at programme level. |
| | Control point 4.2 calls for systemic change to be assessed at both market system level and at beneficiary level. | The previous 5.1 was not clear about the need to consider both levels. |
| 5. Tracking costs and impact | Control point 5.2 is the previous 7.1. | Aggregation takes place before results are reported. |
| 6. Reporting costs and results | 6.2 has been added: 'Results of gender impact are reported' | To be consistent with the other changes above |
| 7. Managing the system for results measurement | No change from the previous Section 8 | |