

Options for country-level donor support for New Deal implementation

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Introduction

The International Dialogue 2012 work-programme highlights the importance of focusing efforts and capacity on country-level implementation of the New Deal, the responsibility for which rests with country-level actors.

To facilitate this, the Dialogue members have agreed to produce communication material and a simple guide with key resources to help disseminate the New Deal and assist in concrete action to implement its provisions.¹

The members of the New Deal implementation working group have also agreed in Copenhagen in March 2012 on the need to offer direct support to countries implementing the New Deal.

This paper outlines options to support country-level implementation of the New Deal. These include: 1) options for specific, short-term support aimed to kick-start implementation and/or to provide targeted technical or other assistance on specific aspects of New Deal implementation, and; 2) options for longer-term, continued support aimed to build in-country capacity, within Government, civil society, and development partners to manage the overall implementation of New Deal provisions. In addition, the paper highlights areas of global support, and presents options for how implementation could be financed.

On-going initiatives to strengthen capacities, in particular of the g7+ and of civil society, to work at the global level and to promote global aspects of New Deal implementation (i.e. the promotion of the PSGs) are mentioned in this paper, but the details are not explored.

The options presented here are not exhaustive, but based on discussions during the New Deal working group meeting, available knowledge of mechanisms and capacities accessible at the country-level, including ongoing and/or planned initiatives to strengthen country-level capacities.² Nor are they mutually exclusive. The choice will depend on the country context and the needs of local actors.

The core principles enshrined in the New Deal of country ownership, using country systems, supporting the development of local capacities, and promoting South-South, fragile-to-fragile cooperation must guide the identification of appropriate country-level support.

International Dialogue members are encouraged to identify and make available mechanisms that can be drawn upon to support country-level implementation.

¹ See the "Guide to implement the New Deal" and the "New Deal Communication Package."

² These include g7+ plans with UNDP and the World Bank to strengthen g7+ capacities in New Deal pilot countries, the on-going support provided by ODI to the g7+ Secretariat and pilot countries, and on-going efforts to strengthen United Nation Resident Coordinators' capacity.

1. Specific, short-term donor support to New Deal implementation at the country level

1.1 Providing targeted support for national New Deal workshops: These workshops would be organised in New Deal pilot countries, to bring together key actors to kick-start and/or advance New Deal implementation (see New Deal Implementation Guide³). The International Dialogue, through its New Deal implementation working group, could provide support to facilitate the organisation of a national workshop, as needed. This could involve a small 1-2 person team, including communication expertise, if needed, workshop material, technical or other expertise, depending on the workshop focus.

1.2 Fielding short-term implementation support teams: Depending on country needs, the International Dialogue Secretariat, in collaboration with the g7+ Secretariat, could put together and field implementation support teams. These teams could be composed of a combination of International Dialogue members (g7+, development partners, and civil society), and technical experts, which could be made available to pilot countries for short periods, on request. Support that can be provided by these teams include: (i) to support the above workshops, (ii) to help country-based actors develop New Deal implementation plans, and/or (iii) to develop implementation options for specific parts of the New Deal (i.e. fragility spectrum, compact, risk assessments...).

1.3 Targeted on-demand support to specific areas of New Deal implementation: Some of the New Deal commitments will require dedicated capacities and funding to get off the ground. Donors should be prepared to finance these on a country-by-country basis. This includes conducting fragility assessments, the operationalisation of compacts, continued political dialogue, the conduct of joint risk assessments, and the mapping of options to support capacity development and channel more aid through country systems.

2. Longer-term donor support to build in-country capacity for New Deal implementation

In addition to these short term support efforts, some dedicated capacity might be required over a longer-term to help country-based actors (both in government and in donor country offices) think through and advance New Deal implementation. This capacity should, when possible, be provided through existing country level capacity/resources (i.e. Government Aid Coordination Offices, UN, World Bank country presence). External support should be considered only when local capacity is not available or cannot be dedicated to supporting New Deal implementation. The following support could be considered:

- **Support to strengthen national capacities to manage and lead the New Deal agenda:** This could involve overall support and technical assistance to strengthen aid management and coordination offices, more targeted support to put in place necessary systems (i.e. for coordination, aid tracking, compact management), as well as technical assistance to government offices and institutions in specific New Deal areas. This support is also being considered as part of the g7+-UNDP-WB initiative to strengthen g7+ capacity in pilot countries and at regional level (i.e. in Nairobi).
- **Support to ensure coordination and strategic planning across international actors:** In addition to strengthening government capacities to manage and coordinate New Deal implementation, some dedicated support might be required to help international partners work together in support of implementation and to deliver on the PSGs. Strategic planners are already being deployed by the UN to support national efforts to plan and prioritise. These could be deployed in all New Deal pilots and be given a specific mandate to also engage in New Deal implementation. World Bank teams are fully briefed on the New Deal and can play a key role to promote joint implementation. These additional capacities should be made available to the lead donors in the pilot whose role also encompasses encouraging coordination. As a minimum, TORs of key country level staff should cover New Deal implementation more broadly, including in terms of planning, prioritisation and risk management. Ideally, a dedicated capacity for New Deal implementation should sit with the national aid coordination office.

³ Ref: A guide to implement the New Deal: Key steps to an implementation strategy and annex A.

- **Support for civil society role in New Deal implementation:** Civil society organisations (CSOs) have a key role to play in supporting and monitoring New Deal implementation. National CSOs in pilot countries must be supported if they are to play this role effectively. Southern, regional CSOs platforms can also play an important role. CSOs have set up a coordination mechanism to ensure active contribution and peer support in New Deal country-level implementation, in particular to promote an active role of CSOs from g7+ countries. Support to CSOs should take various forms, including travel facilitation to allow peer g7+ to g7+ CSOs support, in-country support for implementation and coordination of initiatives related to the New Deal, and various forms of support to strengthen CSOs capacities to engage with the New Deal implementation process.

3. Areas of possible donor support for global-level initiatives

Global level donor initiatives to support New Deal implementation include the g7+ UNDP-WB initiative to support g7+ presence and capacity in New York, in Brussels, and Nairobi. Targeted support to CSOs is being considered by the International Dialogue Secretariat to ensure continuation with the support provided that allowed CSOs participation in the Dialogue process in 2010-2011. Similarly, support is required to allow g7+ representatives to attend international events at which to promote the New Deal.

4. Identifying existing and/or new funding options

The short-term initiatives outlined above could be financed through existing global pooled funds (see below), through existing country level pooled funds (MDTFs), or directly through bilateral contributions and dedicated projects. However, there is a risk of fragmentation of individual project as New Deal implementation proceeds in the different pilot countries, and donors need to carefully consider the transaction costs of different funding options. Given the existence of a number of global funding mechanisms, many of which have already been aligned to the core elements of the New Deal, one option would be to consider how these funds can be mobilised and used to support various aspects of New Deal implementation, including the options outlined above. Discussions should be initiated with the UN Peacebuilding Fund,⁴ the WB State and Peacebuilding Fund, the UNDP-BCPR Thematic Trust Fund for conflict prevention, the EU Instrument for Stability and other global pooled funds to understand if and how these can become main financing vehicles for different parts of the New Deal.

5. How to coordinate support to maximise resources and impact?

Whilst countries and partners should feel free to plan for and seek support for implementing the New Deal from different sources, the g7+, the INCAF, and the International Dialogue Secretariat can work together to respond to country demands and coordinate country-level support, when this is requested. Given the specific role and country presence of the UN and the World Bank, and their capacity to access funding for technical country support, coordination among the Secretariats and key UN and WB teams will be necessary.

⁴ In Busan, for instance, it was proposed that the PBF in particular could be used to support the development and capacity strengthening required to establish compacts.