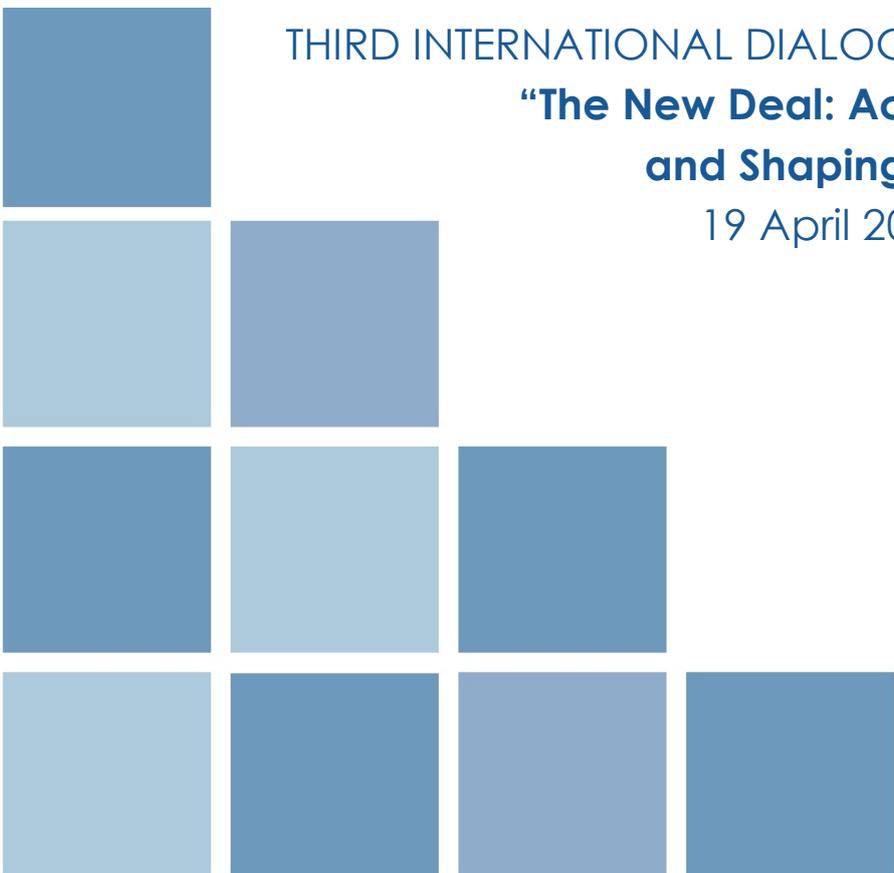


## Briefing Paper: The Role of Lead Development Partners in Pilot Countries



THIRD INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE GLOBAL MEETING  
**“The New Deal: Achieving Better Results  
and Shaping the Global Agenda”**  
19 April 2013, Washington, D.C.

## BRIEFING PAPER: THE ROLE OF LEAD DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS IN PILOT COUNTRIES

### **Introduction**

Seven development partners to date have committed to lead on New Deal implementation in five pilot countries (See Table I). Ongoing experience shows that the role of lead development partner is not always clear or not well understood both at the country level and within and across the community of development partners.

This brief highlights options for possible roles of lead development partner/s in pilot countries, within their headquarters, and through international fora. These suggestions are based on the New Deal commitments, ongoing experience, and discussions within the New Deal implementation working group (Juba, December 2012).

### **Who decides on a lead development partner?**

The decision concerning lead development partners is primarily a country-level decision taken by national actors in consultation with interested development partners. Criteria that could inform such a decision may include an already strong partnership with a donor, the in-country presence and capacity of the lead donor, a coordination role among development partners that the lead donor may already be playing, and an early and demonstrated commitment by a donor to implement the New Deal.

Once a lead development partner has been identified this should be communicated formally to the International Dialogue Secretariat.

The political opportunities and modalities to establish/strengthen a partnership around piloting the New Deal are not addressed in this brief.

### **Options for roles of lead development partner/s**

The role a lead development partner/s may play depends on the country context and expectations by stakeholders in the pilot country and the interest and capacity of the lead development partner themselves. In some contexts, lead development partners can (and are often expected to) play a proactive role both in working with country stakeholders – particularly in developing an agenda for policy dialogue and promoting a coherent donor voice – to advance New Deal implementation and in taking other partners along. Such a proactive role may be appropriate, for instance, in situations where the capacity of local stakeholders, particularly the government, is weak or there is a rush of new development partners to meet emergency or recovery needs in a given context. In other situations, windows of opportunity may emerge that should be seized by development partners in order to optimize the impact of international assistance, particularly to advance New Deal implementation, or as specific opportunities to step up implementation arise.

In other context where political will and institutional capacity may be stronger, an enabling and demand-driven approach taken by a lead development partner may be more appropriate. This could be the case, for instance, in contexts where the pilot country already has clear plans and priorities for New Deal implementation or has already advanced in implementing New Deal commitments, where there is a strong and long-term relationship between the development partner(s) and the pilot country, or where sensitivities around development partners' interventions require special consideration.

*Possible roles of lead development partner/s at the country level*

- Model New Deal commitments and behaviour
  - Identify, and discuss with government, actions to implement TRUST elements.
  - Review existing programmes and strategies and discuss with government the action needed to ensure they align with New Deal commitments.
- Facilitate dialogue between the government and other country stakeholders, particularly the local donor community, to discuss expectations and priorities, create fora for stakeholders to explain donor priorities and constraints and explore innovative ways to achieve the country priorities.
- Support the government and country-level actors to raise awareness of the New Deal across the government itself at the central and local level; within other institutions; and among civil society, development partners and other stakeholders.
- Support the establishment of a New Deal task force at country level (if this is decided).
- Facilitate discussion with the government and country-level actors how to integrate New Deal into existing planning processes.
- Proactively help identify options for New Deal implementation that could be advanced as a priority, and contribute practically to these, including some financial support (e.g. help initiate a compact, provide support to inclusive political dialogue, help set up mechanisms for transparent management of aid and domestic resources, undertake a joint risk assessment, discuss options for capacity development etc.).
- Support data collection and the analysis of information on New Deal implementation, including providing joint inputs on implementation for country and global level lessons learning and monitoring purposes. Pro-actively encourage other development partners to practically implement their New Deal commitments in-country:
  - Stimulate discussions among other development partners and with civil society on possible actions to support New Deal implementation.
  - Promote coordination on New Deal implementation between bilateral and multilateral partners.
  - Support country-level civil society organisations on New Deal implementation issues.
- Support other relevant initiatives in line with the New Deal and mutual commitments at the request of the government.

*Possible roles of lead development partner/s at headquarter level and in international fora*

- Push for headquarters' level reforms that are required to advance New Deal implementation in country.
- Ensure headquarters-field communication, coordination, and alignment in supporting New Deal implementation (i.e. bridge the policy-practice gap).
- Influence decisions within key international organisations and fora that affect pilot countries (e.g. allocation of Multi-Donor and Thematic Trust Funds, Resolution by the UN Peacebuilding Commission, the Security Council and General Assembly, etc.)

**Table I – New Deal pilot countries and lead development partners**

<b>PILOT COUNTRIES</b>	<b>LEAD DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS</b>
Afghanistan	Denmark, Netherlands, United Kingdom
Central African Republic	European Commission
Democratic Republic of Congo	
Liberia	Sweden, United States
Sierra Leone	
South Sudan	Denmark, Netherlands, United Kingdom
Timor-Leste	Australia