QCPR Monitoring
Survey of Programme Countries
2014

Report

Development Cooperation Policy Branch
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations

December 2014

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UNDESA - Survey of Programme Countries, 2014 – Draft Report

Introduction

To monitor the implementation of resolution 67/226 on the QCPR, the General Assembly called on the Secretary-General to regularly assess and report on a comprehensive and quantitative basis on progress in furthering programme and operational coordination at the country level; and among other measures to carry out, in cooperation with United Nations resident coordinators, a survey of programme country governments once every two years, on the effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of the United Nations system.

The 2014 survey of programme country governments was accordingly carried out from 7 August to 31 October 2014. The survey was initiated through a message from DESA to the Permanent Representatives of all programme countries. The results are presented below, question by question.

The overall response rate to the survey was 50% as compared to 74% in 2012 This response rate proved sufficient to provide a clear picture of the views of governments in respect of most of the questions in the survey particularly as many responses could be triangulated with the responses from RCs, UNCTs and governments in previous surveys. Instances where data must be treated with caution are noted in the text.

Demographics

A1. Please select your location:

Valid responses were received from 74 countries and territories, or 50% of all countries and territories that received the questionnaire. The responding countries also accounted for exactly 50% of all country-level expenditures (2012 data) by the UN system on operational activities for development.

A2. Income group

Using the most recent World Bank classification, it was found that 17 low-income countries, 22 lower middle-income countries, 31 upper middle-income countries and 4 higher income countries had participated. The figures are shown in the table below, which also shows the response rate per income grouping. It can be seen that the lower middle income countries are slightly under-represented in the responses, while overall the middle-income countries are equally represented with the low income countries.

The final column of the table below gives the response rate of different income groupings in the 2012 survey. Compared to the 2012 survey, a greater proportion of upper middle income countries and lower proportion of low-income countries responded to the survey. This could explain some differences between the two surveys in the responses to certain questions.

Income grouping	Responses in 2014	Number of countries in category	Response rate (%)	Response rate in 2012 (%)
Low income	17	34	50	83

Lower middle income	22	51	43	69
Upper middle income	31	55	56	73
High income	4	NA	NA	NA

A4. Is the country classed as a Least-Developed Country (LDC)?

Responses from 22 least-developed countries (LDCs) were received, representing a response rate of 46%, marginally below the overall response rate. In 2012, there were 34 responses from LDCs, representing a response rate of 71%. The substantial drop in 2014 mirrors the drop in responses from low income countries mentioned above.

A5. Is the country classed as a Small Island Developing Country (SIDS)?

Responses were received from 13 Small Island Developing Countries (SIDS) representing a response rate of 33%. In 2012, there were 20 responses from SIDS, representing a response rate of 51%. The change in response rate is in line with the average change for all countries. In other words, SIDS are neither more nor less represented in the 2014 survey compared with the 2012 survey.

A6. Status of the country in regard to Delivering as One (DaO)

For the purpose of analysing the responses to this survey, the original eight DaO pilot countries and all countries that reported themselves to be self-starters in 2013 (according to the responses to the 2013 RC survey) were deemed to have been implementing DaO. Among the 74 responding countries to the current survey, 19 countries (26%) fell in this category of implementing DaO. As will be seen in this report, these countries have provided significantly different responses to some of the questions. In 2012, only the eight DaO pilot countries were classified as DaO countries.

A8. Does the UN have a UN Humanitarian Coordinator in the country?

15 responses were received from countries where the UN Resident Coordinator is also the UN Humanitarian Coordinator. This represents 56% of all countries with a UN Humanitarian Coordinator, a slightly higher response rate than the average for all programme countries.

A9. Does the country have an Integrated UN Mission (IM)?

9 responses to the questionnaire came from countries with Integrated UN Missions, representing a notably high response rate of 64%.

2. How many years have you been engaged in coordinating UN activities in your country?

80% of respondents stated that they had been engaged in coordinating UN activities in their country for three or more years, of whom 51% had been doing this work for five years or more. These percentages reflect a considerable amount of experience in coordinating UN operational activities.

3. Please indicate which UN agencies have had operational activities in your country during the last two years. Please select all that apply. Note: The term 'UN agencies' is used in the questionnaire as shorthand for UN funds, programmes and specialized agencies.

Altogether, 74 governments responded to the survey, so the maximum possible number of times an agency could be selected was 74. As may be seen, UNDP and UNICEF are reported to have operations in almost every programme countries, followed by UNFPA, FAO, WHO and UNESCO. The fact that UNDP was not reported to have activities in every country may be because UNDP does not have a *resident* presence in some countries or territories with very small programmes.

UN Agency	Number of countries where agency was active in last two years	As percentage of all countries that responded
UNDP	71	96
UNICEF	70	95
UNFPA	63	85
FAO	62	84
WHO	62	84
UNESCO	59	80
ILO	52	70
UNWOMEN	49	66
UNIDO	48	65
UNAIDS	47	64
WFP	46	62
UNEP	46	62
UNHCR	43	58
IFAD	40	54
UNOPS	34	46
UN-HABITAT	34	46
UNCTAD	31	42
OHCHR	24	32
UNODC	24	32
UNISDR	10	14
ITC	9	12

UNRWA	4	5
OCHA	3	4
OTHER	11	15

Among the other agencies mentioned were ECE, ESCAP, ECLAC and DESA.

4. Overall, the activities of the UN and your country's development needs and priorities are:

The responses to this question, on alignment of UN activities with the country's needs and priorities, are shown in the first column of the table below. For comparison, the responses to the same question in 2012 are also shown, as well as the responses from the UN Resident Coordinators in 2014.

Closeness of alignment	Governments 2014 %	Governments 2012 %	UN Resident Coordinators 2014: %	UN Resident Coordinators 2013: %
Very closely aligned	23	23	49	58
Closely aligned	70	60	45	34
Somewhat aligned	7	16	5	8
Not aligned at all	0	1	1	0

The extent of alignment would seem in general to be satisfactory and yet there is obviously room for improvement, particularly in the view of governments. As was the case in 2012, the UN Resident Coordinators and their government counterparts have somewhat different perceptions of how well aligned the UN is with national needs and priorities. However, not too much should be read into the apparent changes between the two years, considering that 78 RCs responded in 2014 compared with 109 in 2013, similar to the drop in response-rate experienced for the programme country survey. This alone could explain the change in percentages.

It is of interest to note that while 49% of resident coordinators overall chose 'very closely aligned' in 2014, 63% of DaO pilot and other countries "fully implementing DaO gave that response, indicating that DaO may promote better alignment. A similar pattern was observed in the government surveys in 2012 and 2014, reinforcing this picture.   Thus, while 23% of governments overall chose 'very closely aligned', the governments in 42% of DaO pilot and self-starter countries made the same choice.

Conversely, among the 15 countries in transition situations (gauged by the presence of a UN Humanitarian Coordinator) that responded to the survey, only one (7%) selected 'very closely aligned'. It is not evident why alignment is judged to be weaker in these countries.

5. Many UN agencies receive contributions from donors for specific programmes or projects in addition to their regular (core) funds. Please indicate how well aligned each type of contribution is with your country's development needs and priorities:

This supplementary question was asked in order to understand better whether alignment is affected by the source of funds: core and non-core. The answers suggest that non-core tends to be slightly less well aligned, but most governments do not see any difference.

Type of funding	Extent of alignment (% of respondents choosing each answer option)				
	Very closely aligned	Closely aligned	Somewhat aligned	Not aligned at all	Don't know
Regular (core) funds	19	64	13	0	4
Other (non-core) funds	21	57	17	0	5

In 2012, this question was structured differently. Respondents were asked to agree or disagree with a statement, as follows: 'Many UN agencies receive contributions from donors for specific programmes or projects in addition to their regular (core) funds. In general, such additional donor-funded activities are less relevant to your country's needs and priorities'. The responses were:

Extent of agreement that non-core funds are *less* relevant to needs (2012)					
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Responses (108)	5	31	38	32	2
As a percentage	4	29	35	30	2

Although the questions differ, similar conclusions can be drawn. That is, the majority of countries do not agree that non-core contributions are less relevant to their needs. Some governments have pointed out that they have systems to ensure that *all* external assistance is aligned with their needs and priorities. On the other hand, some governments do have significant concerns. One commented: "UN has to carry out its programs according to Government needs and not just decide on a certain program because a donor is willing to give money for that cause."

6. The efforts of the UN are focused on assisting your country in achieving the internationally-agreed development goals (IADGs), notably the Millennium Development Goals:

The responses to this question are shown below, along with the responses to a similar question in 2012. The exact wording of the question in 2012 was: 'The efforts of the UN are focused on assisting your country in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)'.

Extent of agreement:	Governments 2014 %	Governments 2012 %
Strongly agree	64	60
Somewhat agree	33	35
Somewhat disagree	1	5
Strongly disagree	1	0
Don't know	1	0

The results reconfirm that working towards the achievement of the MDGs is judged to be a focus of the UN's work in most countries. The breakdown by income level reveals that three-quarters of low income and lower middle-income countries 'strongly agreed', and half the upper middle income countries and high income countries 'strongly agreed'.

7. The efforts of the UN are focused on assisting your country in aligning with the international human rights instruments (IHRIs), such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child that your country has signed and/or ratified:

This was a new question in 2014. The responses were as follows:

Extent of agreement:	Governments 2014 %
Strongly agree	51
Somewhat agree	42
Somewhat disagree	1
Strongly disagree	0
Don't know	6

Comparing with the responses to the preceding question, it appears there was somewhat less strong agreement with the proposition. Also, in this case, the differences among countries in terms of income level were not significant, suggesting that the human rights topic is of equal relevance at all income levels.

8. The introduction of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), or an alternative UN planning framework, has enabled the Government to ensure that the UN's activities are closely aligned with your national plans and strategies: (The UNDAF is an instrument for joint planning on UN agencies at the country level. Other similar UN planning tools include One Plan/One Programme formats and "integrated strategic frameworks" in some countries in transition from relief to development)

Extent of agreement:	Governments 2014 %	Governments 2012 %
Strongly agree	56	53
Somewhat agree	39	39
Somewhat disagree	1	4
Strongly disagree	0	2
Not applicable/Don't know	4	3

The above table seems to reconfirm the view that the UNDAF is seen to be a valuable instrument by most countries. There was noticeably stronger agreement on the part of low income and lower middle income countries (63% strongly agreed) as against the upper middle income and high income countries, among whom 47% 'strongly agreed.' A similar variation according to income level was observed in 2012. There were no significant differences in the responses from DaO and non-DaO countries.

9. How relevant are the following attributes of the UN to providing support for your country's development?

A similar question was asked in 2012. The following table shows, for both 2012 and 2014, the percentage of programme countries that identified each attribute as "very relevant" or "somewhat relevant" to their needs. It must be noted that the description of the attribute was changed in some cases between the two surveys. In particular, when the first attribute (global presence) was expressed in terms of ability to provide resources from anywhere in the world, the extent of

relevance was judged to be significantly less. Conversely, when the sixth item was expressed in more specific terms, the extent of relevance was rated higher. It may be concluded that having staff that understand the country well is generally seen to be more relevant than an ability to access resources from anywhere in the world. The ratings in the other categories do not seem to have changed in a significant way: advocacy for international norms, access to specialized knowledge, trust and impartiality remain very relevant attributes.

Suggested attributes of the United Nations	Relevance - 2014		Relevance - 2012	
	Very (%)	Somewhat (%)	Very (%)	Somewhat (%)
Can obtain resources from anywhere in the world (2014)	26	51	-	-
Has global presence (2012)	-	-	57	37
Is impartial	52	37	54	36
Advocates for international norms and standards	62	34	57	38
Is trusted by national partners	56	38	51	42
Provides access to specialized knowledge in a wide range of subject areas	56	42	54	39
UN staff have a good understanding of the country, its culture and its needs (2014) Employs staff who live in your country and understand it (2012)	47	47	38	43

The respondents were given the opportunity to note other attributes they felt were important. Responding to humanitarian needs was mentioned; others took the opportunity to ask the UN to do more to use national capacities.

10. When your Government's priorities or strategies change, how quickly does the UN respond by making the required changes in the support it provides to the country?

This question was asked in view of the emphasis placed by the QCPR on flexibility in UN operational activities for development. A similar question was asked in 2012, as follows: 'How quickly does the UN respond when your Government wants to make changes in the areas supported by the UN?' The question was rephrased in 2014 to make it more precise. The responses for both years are given below:

How quickly does the UN respond?	Governments 2014 %	Governments 2012 %
Very quickly	17	14
Somewhat quickly	58	51
Somewhat slowly	17	29
Very slowly	5	6
Not applicable/Don't know	3	0

Since the overall perceptions of UN responsiveness are unlikely to have changed greatly in two years, it is possible that the more positive response in 2014 may be due to the more precise nature of the question being asked. Although the question is still perception-oriented, the new phrasing

leaves less room for giving a subjective response. It is recommended that the new phrasing be retained in future surveys.

11. Is there a joint Government or national UN Steering Committee (or similar body) on the UNDAF (or equivalent instrument)?

This question was asked in the 2013 survey of UN Resident Coordinators, but it has not previously been asked in the survey of programme country governments. The responses are shown below:

Existence of joint Steering Committee on the UNDAF	Yes - %	No - %	Total - %	Number of responses
Government survey 2014	76	24	100	70
RC survey 2013	70	30	100	109

As remarked elsewhere, the data for 2014 is based on a smaller number of countries from which responses were received. However, in spite of this difference the percentages appear to be consistent. The breakdown by DaO status indicates that all DaO pilot countries and 88% of self-starters have a joint steering committee, while 71% of the remaining countries have such committees. The optional comments provided by governments indicated that, with the increasing adoption of DaO, the percentage of countries with a joint steering committee on the UNDAF can be expected to rise.

Among countries with a UN Humanitarian Coordinator, the proportion of countries with a joint Steering Committee was 75%, almost exactly the same as for all programme countries.

12. The government's participation in the Steering Committee has allowed the Government to exercise leadership over the UN programmes

This is also a new question. The results in respect of all countries, and for the countries that replied Yes to the previous question, are shown below:

Extent of agreement:	All Governments - %	Governments that said Yes to the previous question - %
Strongly agree	33	41
Somewhat agree	41	47
Somewhat disagree	11	6
Strongly disagree	3	-
Not applicable/Don't know	12	6

Although intended only for governments that answered Yes to the previous question, most respondents did answer this question, and the result seems to lend additional support to the notion that the existence of a joint steering committee may strengthen national leadership of the activities of the UN in the country. Under optional comments, some countries that did not have such a committee mentioned plans to form one, while another explained that "there are specific project steering committees to ensure alignment of UN and Government policies."

13. The tables below list the UN system and five other categories of development partners in the left-hand column, and various types of support that they may be able to provide to your country in the remaining columns. Please select *up to two partners* that you consider to be the preferred provider of each type of support. In case your country is not interested in a particular type of support, or has no preference among the partners, please leave the column blank. Note: Global public goods include climate change, biodiversity & trans-border issues, such as water and migration.

The data from this question is shown in Annex 1. Programme country governments were asked to select, from the UN system and five other categories of development partners, the two partners they considered to be the preferred providers of each type of support. The UN system emerges as the preferred partner for most countries in almost all of the areas listed; the preference is especially marked in the areas of peace, security and humanitarian assistance, institutional capacity development and facilitating the participation of civil society in national development processes. The Bretton Woods institutions were also chosen by many countries as a preferred provider for global public goods, policy advice on national strategies and plans, for 'sectoral programming advice and technical assistance', and for 'mobilizing external resources for development.'

These results are consistent with the results of the 2012 survey, which showed that governments rated the UN much higher than other partners on 'Effectiveness in providing support in politically sensitive areas', but rated the UN system and international financial institutions almost equally in terms of the 'Quality of advice on development policies and strategies.'

Overall, the UN system, the Bretton Woods institutions and the other multilateral and regional institutions not part of the UN were chosen more frequently than the other three categories of partner: traditional bilateral donors, southern partners, and thematic or alliance-based partners (eg The Global Fund). Among the latter three, the traditional bilateral donors are preferred in every area, the only exception being southern partners in the area of south-south cooperation.

A few respondents skipped over this question. One country commented that they had no particular preference: "resources are tapped depending upon priority needs of the country and the programmes which each partner is willing to support." Another mentioned that "UN provides development assistance in most of these areas but it is small when compared to assistance received from other development partners."

14. The UN is effective in ensuring adequate attention and resources are given to the development needs of the poorest and most vulnerable segments of society.

This question was added in 2014 in view of the emphasis in the QCPR on this topic. The results are shown in the table below.

UN ensures adequate attention to the poorest and most vulnerable - extent of agreement:	%
Strongly agree	26
Somewhat agree	67
Somewhat disagree	6
Strongly disagree	0
Don't know	1

Over one-quarter of governments strongly agree that 'The UN is effective in ensuring adequate attention and resources are given to the development needs of the poorest and most vulnerable segments of society.' Considering that a much higher proportion of governments that responded to the survey 'strongly agreed' with some other questions structured in this way (for example, question 8), it may be said that the strength of agreement is modest.

The breakdown according to DaO status is notable. While 26% of programme countries overall 'strongly agreed' that 'the UN is effective in ensuring adequate attention and resources are given to the development needs of the poorest and most vulnerable segments of society', 53% of DaO countries 'strongly agreed', while only 17% of non-DaO countries 'strongly agreed'.

It is worth noting that the results on this question seem to contrast with indicator 30 of the monitoring and reporting framework, where data received from the regional UNDG teams indicates that 96% of new UNDAFs or equivalent programming frameworks "substantively address poverty eradication."

15. All things considered, please indicate how the relevance of the UN to your country's development needs has changed in the past two years

A similar question was also asked in 2012. The difference was that the respondents were asked to compare the UN relevance in 2012 with the UN's relevance four years earlier (that is, at the beginning of the previous QCPR period.) It may be envisaged that the question would revert to 'four years' for the next QCPR survey. The responses for both surveys are shown below:

How has the relevance of the UN to your country's development needs changed in the past two/ four years?	Comparing 2014 with 2012 (2-year period) %	Comparing 2012 with 2008 (4-year period) %
Much more relevant	27	28
Somewhat more relevant	60	56
Somewhat less relevant	8	14
Much less relevant	1	1
Don't know	4	1

Comparing the results of the two surveys, the main feature is that the pattern of responses has not changed significantly. The low income countries were the most likely to rate the UN's relevance highly; almost half of these countries chose 'much more relevant'. A lesser proportion of middle and higher income countries took this view. The 2012 survey produced similar findings. Many countries with a humanitarian coordinator (43%) also deemed the UN to have become 'much more relevant'.

The difference between DaO and non-DaO countries was marginal. Nonetheless, several countries referred to DaO or UNDAF in their optional comments on this question, one of them noting: "Much more relevant because there has been alignment of the UN activities to the country's medium term development strategy. There is also harmonization in the way UN activities are being implemented which also more relevant and mutual accountability has been encouraged which has seen results in most programmes."

16. Please suggest any measures that would make the UN more relevant in your country:

Of the 74 respondents, 44 took the opportunity to offer additional suggestions. As was the case with the answers to the same question in 2012, many of these comments called for greater efforts to be made to strengthen national capacities, and better use to be made of national institutions. Respondents also called for alignment to the national systems and procedures, harmonization of rules and procedures, and harmonized approaches to delivering assistance, and introducing approaches that are better attuned to the situation of middle-income countries.

Many comments anticipated questions that come later in the survey or recalled earlier questions, so they are summarized very briefly here: improve coordination within the UN system and between the UN and the government, take action to prevent duplication and competition, introduce Delivering as One, align with national objectives and priorities, be more transparent about procedures, improve mutual accountability and reporting to national authorities, and focus on a more limited number of areas.

17. Please select the five most important areas for UN assistance to your country in the next four years, from the following list:

The table below shows the percentage of respondents who selected that item (out of 71 respondents). Economic growth and employment, an area where the UN was not widely seen as being very effective (as can be seen in question 19 below) is placed at the top of the list. On the other hand, gender and human rights, areas where the UN was seen as notably effective, are to be found lower down the list. No doubt, the restriction on selecting only the five most important areas played a part in the fact that these areas were not selected so frequently, compared with the responses to question 19.

The results are similar to the responses to the same question in 2012, also shown in the table. While providing some perspective on the results in 2014, it must be noted that the responses are not fully comparable, because in 2014 two new themes were added to the list: sustainable development policies (policies that integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions), and social protection. As a result, most of the original themes have been checked relatively fewer times, since only five areas in total could be selected. For example, some respondents who chose 'environment and natural resources' in 2012 may have split their responses between 'environment and natural resources' and 'sustainable development policies' in 2014. It should also be noted that 'food and nutrition' was reworded to 'food security and nutrition' in 2014. Minor shifts in rankings should be discounted also because of the lower response rate in 2014.

In 2012, environment and health topped the list, while education and economic growth and employment were also near the top. Likewise, industry, trade and investment was close to the bottom of the list.

Most important areas for UN assistance to your country in the next four years (number of respondents who chose the area, expressed as a percentage of the total number of respondents)
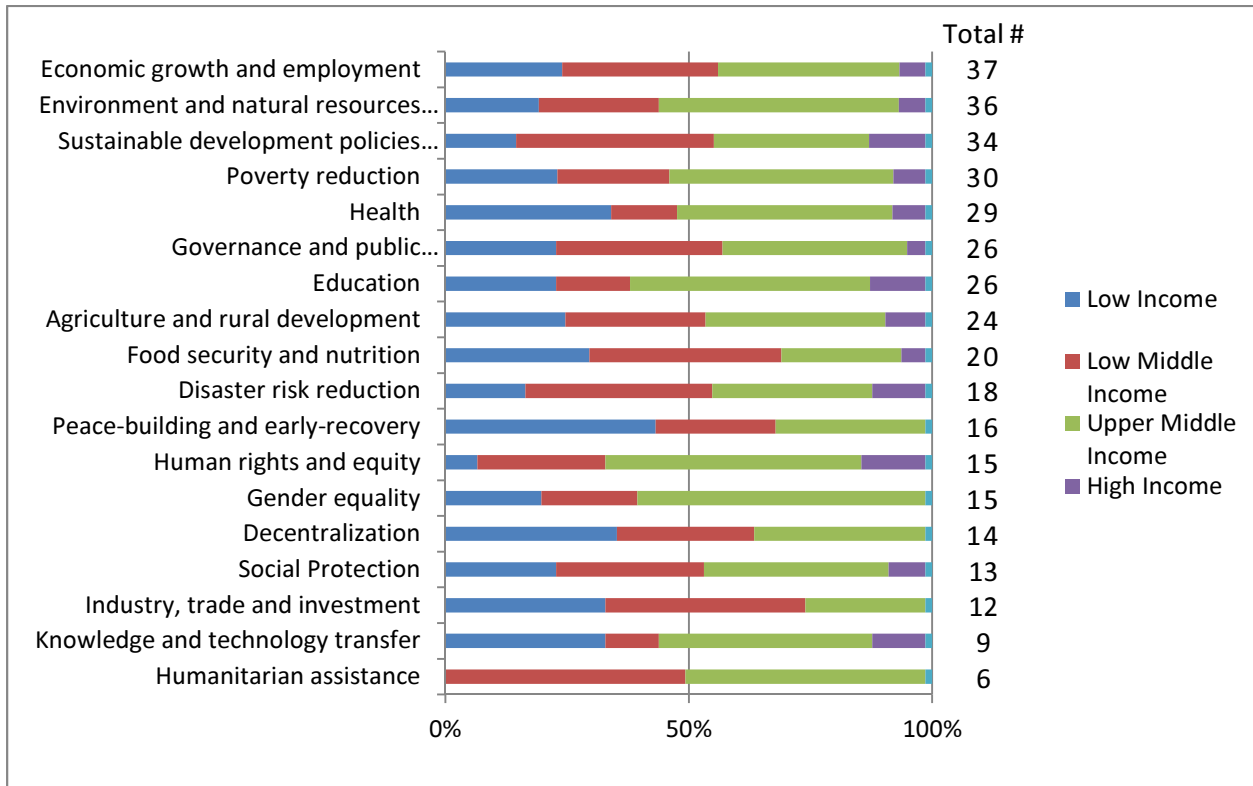
Thematic area	Response %	
	2014	**2012**
Economic growth and employment	52	41
Environment and natural resources	51	73

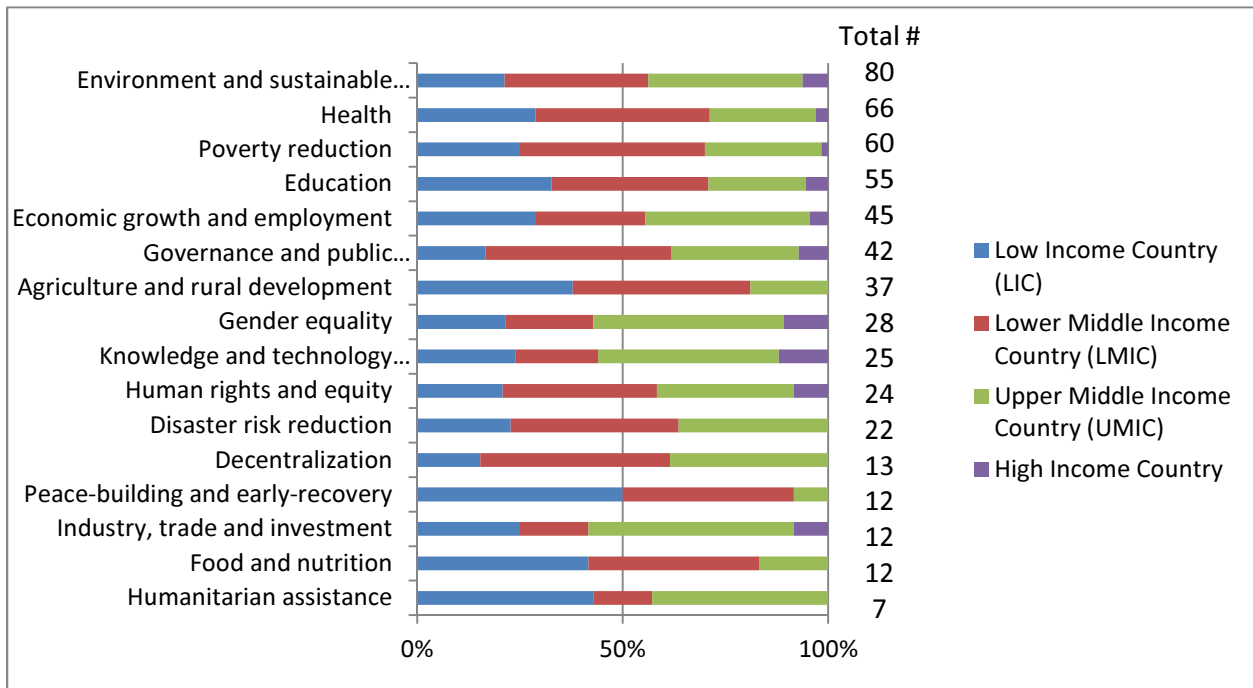|		
(including climate change, water and environmental sanitation)		
Sustainable development policies (Policies that integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions)	48	NA
Poverty reduction	42	55
Health	41	61
Governance and public administration	37	39
Education	37	50
Agriculture and rural development	34	34
Food security and nutrition	28	12
Disaster risk reduction	25	20
Peace-building and early-recovery	23	11
Gender equality	21	26
Human rights and equity	21	22
Decentralization	20	12
Social Protection	18	NA
Industry, trade and investment	17	11
Knowledge and technology transfer	13	23
Humanitarian assistance	8	6

Within these overall figures, there were differences in the responses according to the income level of the country. The following chart depicts the differences. From the chart below it may be seen that over 60% of the respondents in low income and lower middle income countries chose food security, peace-building, decentralization and industry, trade and investment; while over 60% of upper middle income and high income countries chose gender equality, human rights and education.

A second chart is included below, showing the way the responses to the same question in 2012 varied according to income level of the country. It may be seen that some of the patterns are similar, even though two new themes were added, and one was reworded. For example, food and nutrition was chosen much more often by lower income countries in both years, and gender equality much more often by higher income countries in both years.

Relative importance of different areas, according to country income level, 2014

Relative importance of different areas, according to country income level, 2012

Effectiveness

18. The UN has contributed significantly to development in your country:

The identical question was asked in 2012. The results from both surveys is given below. It can be seen that the percentage of programme countries that either strongly or somewhat agreed seems to have remained roughly constant at around 90 per cent. A slight difference can be seen between the strongly and somewhat agree categories, but could be due to the different response rates.

Extent of agreement:	% in 2014	% in 2012
Strongly agree	35	27
Somewhat agree	57	62
Somewhat disagree	4	9
Strongly disagree	1	2
Don't know	3	0

When looked at according to income level, it emerges that the low income countries were twice as likely to 'strongly agree' than all other countries combined. This finding reinforces the finding mentioned earlier about the relevance of the UN system to the needs of low income countries. The DaO countries were also somewhat more likely to 'strongly agree' that UN has contributed significantly to their development.

19. From the following list please select the areas where the UN contribution has been especially significant: Please select all that apply.

As mentioned under question 17, the UN system is seen by governments as being more effective in some areas than others. The table below shows the areas where the UN system was judged to have made the most significant contributions.   As may be seen, the UN development system is perceived as a significant partner in gender, health, environment, and governance by at least 60 per cent of programme countries. Other widely appreciated areas are sustainable development policies, poverty reduction, food security and nutrition, human rights and education. Unlike question 17, respondents were free to select as many areas as they wished.

The results are similar to the responses to the same question in 2012, also shown in the table. While providing some perspective on the results in 2014, it must be noted that the responses are not fully comparable, because in 2014 two new themes were added to the list: sustainable development policies (policies that integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions), and social protection. Also, 'food and nutrition' was reworded to 'food security and nutrition' in 2014, which seems to have made it a more popular choice. As a result, most of the original themes have been checked relatively fewer times, since only five areas in total could be selected. For example, some respondents who chose 'environment and natural resources' in 2012 may have split their responses in 2014 between 'environment and natural resources' and 'sustainable development policies'. Minor shifts in rankings should be discounted also because of the lower response rate in 2014.

It should also be noted that the generally lower percentages in 2014 do not necessarily signify a change in the extent of satisfaction with UN performance in any of the areas. Rather, it reflects the fact that there were more areas to choose from in 2014. In that sense, the ranking of the different areas is more significant than the specific percentages.

Areas where the UN contribution has been especially significant (number of respondents who chose the area, expressed as a percentage of the total number of respondents)

Thematic areas	Response %	
	2014	2012
Gender equality	67	69
Health	64	80
Environment and natural resources (including climate change, water and environmental sanitation)	61	84
Governance and public administration	60	74
Sustainable development policies (Policies that integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions)	49	NA
Poverty reduction	46	62
Food security and nutrition	46	52
Human rights and equity	46	66
Education	44	66
Disaster risk reduction	41	24
Agriculture and rural development	39	55
Social Protection	39	NA
Humanitarian assistance	36	51
Economic growth and employment	27	31
Peace-building and early-recovery	27	38
Decentralization	24	34
Knowledge and technology transfer	19	24
Industry, trade and investment	16	14

While question 17 above asked governments to look forward for four years and indicate in which areas they would like to cooperate with the United Nations, in this question they were essentially being asked how effectively the UN was currently performing in each area. A close convergence between the two can be seen, although some divergences may also be noted. Thus, gender equality, human rights, governance and social protection are more prominent on the 'effectiveness' list, while economic growth and employment are more prominent on the list of areas to support in future. It would seem that the broad area of rights is one where United Nations support is particularly appreciated, even if these areas do not always feature so high on the scales of government priorities. The pattern of responses to these two questions was very similar in 2012.

On the topic of the UN contribution in various thematic areas, the UNDG Coordination Support Survey (CSS) in 2014 asked the respondents (UNCT members) whether DaO had helped to mainstream human rights, gender, and environmental sustainability. The responses overall were quite positive; between 60 and 72% of the respondents who answered the question (many did not answer) agreed that DaO had helped.

The data in the above table can also be viewed through a DaO lens. When this is done, it emerges that around two-thirds of governments in DaO countries judged the UN contribution in regard to 'human rights and equity' as having been "especially significant", while around one-third of the remaining countries gave the same assessment. Based on the government responses, there could be a positive connection between DaO and human rights mainstreaming.   The pattern in regard to mainstreaming environmental sustainability is very similar (for this purpose the data for environment and natural resources and sustainable development policies was combined).   On the other hand, regarding gender, the breakdown by DaO and non-DaO countries does not show a significant difference; around two-thirds of both DaO and non-DaO countries judged the UN contribution in regard to gender as having been "especially significant". In short, based on the government responses, it could not be said that DaO is associated with greater impact as regards mainstreaming gender, but that is because the UN's contribution on gender issues is considered "especially significant" by a substantial majority of all programme countries.

20. The UNDAF or another UN common planning framework has helped the UN to achieve better results than if each UN agency had planned its support to your country separately:

The same question was also asked in 2012, and the results on both occasions are shown in the table below:

Extent of agreement:	% in 2014	% in 2012
Strongly agree	47	48
Somewhat agree	39	31
Somewhat disagree	7	10
Strongly disagree	1	3
Don't know	3	4
Not applicable – no UNDAF or equivalent	3	4

The data suggests that, in the last two years, there has been no significant shift in the views of governments on this question. There is fairly strong agreement to the proposition that the UNDAF has contributed to better results, but not quite as strong as on the extent to which the UNDAF has ensured alignment between UN activities and government priorities (question 8 above). As might be expected, a larger proportion of of DaO countries (63%) 'strongly agreed' on this question, whereas 42% of the remaining countries 'strongly agreed'.

Governments again commented that, while UNDAF has improved the planning phase for the provision of development assistance, there is much scope for improvement at the implementation phase. One government added: "even under the UNDAF planning framework, it is important for the different UN agencies to set aside their differences and work objectively to meet the national objectives of the host country", while another commented that "agencies are more wedded to their individual programmes than to the UNDAF." Governments again called for active participation by all UN agencies in the UNDAF process, improved monitoring in harmony with government systems, and regular reporting and evaluation of results.

For comparison, in the 2012 survey of UNCTs, 32% 'strongly agreed' and 48% 'somewhat agreed' to this proposition, reflecting somewhat less strong agreement than governments. On the other hand, among the RCs who responded in 2012, 64% 'strongly agreed' and 29% 'somewhat agreed.' UNCT members were not asked this question in 2014.

In the CSS survey in 2014, UNCT members were asked to agree or disagree that "DaO has resulted in improved focus on national development results." This would seem to be a substantially different proposition to comment on, compared with the above question, but for the record 70% of the respondents who answered the question agreed, and 78% of those in DaO countries agreed. Interpretation of the data is complicated, however, because 46% of respondents did not answer the question, and among those who did, 136 were reported to be in DaO countries but a majority (196) were not in a DaO country. Also, the definition of a DaO country may be different from the definition used in this report.

21. <u>All things considered, the UN has been effective in developing national capacities:</u>

The same question was also asked in 2012, and the results on each occasion are shown in the table below:
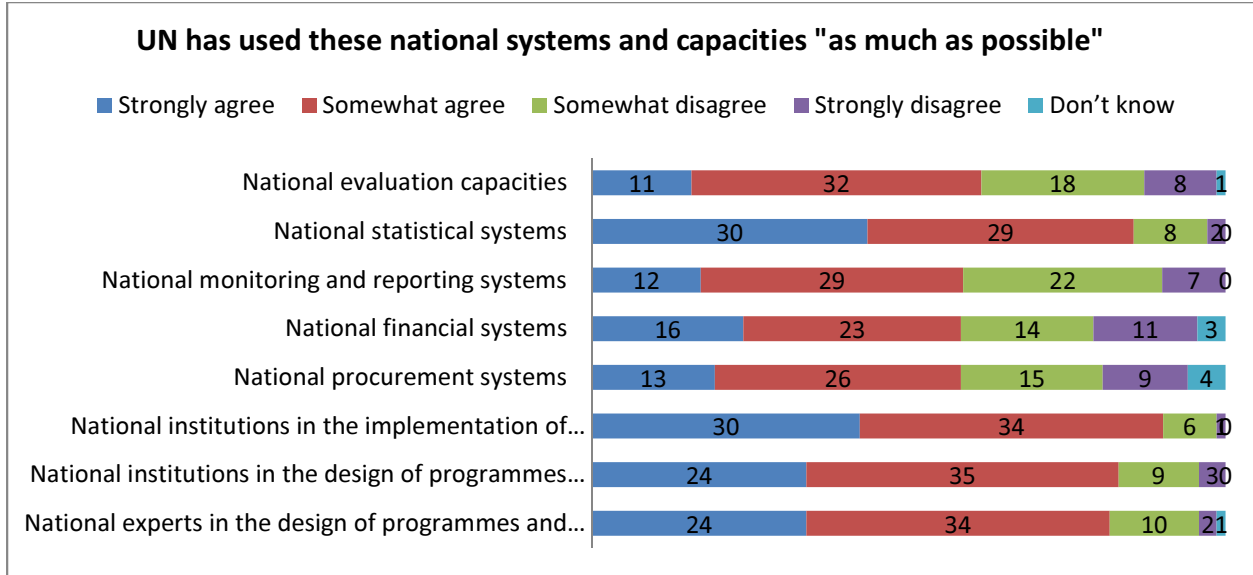
UN has been effective in developing national capacities:	% in 2014	% in 2012
Strongly agree	31	24
Somewhat agree	59	68
Somewhat disagree	8	6
Strongly disagree	1	1
Don't know	1	1

While it may appear that there has been a modest improvement in the way the UN is rated by governments on this topic, the shift could be accounted for by the difference in the overall response rates to the surveys (72 responses to the question in 2014 as against 108 in 2012). Thus, it cannot be said that there has been any change in the views of governments on this question.

As in 2012, the main point to highlight is the fact that a clear majority did not 'strongly agree' with the statement. This result, together with the responses to question 23 (below) and the comments made by Governments throughout the survey, indicate that there is still considerable scope for the UN to become more effective at developing national capacities. Responses from DaO countries differed significantly from the other responses: around half of the DaO countries 'strongly agreed' while only one quarter of the other countries 'strongly agreed.' This appears quite a convincing argument for the UN system to pursue a more coordinated approach to capacity development at the country level.

22. <u>Please indicate how much you agree or disagree that the UN has used following the approaches as much as possible:</u>
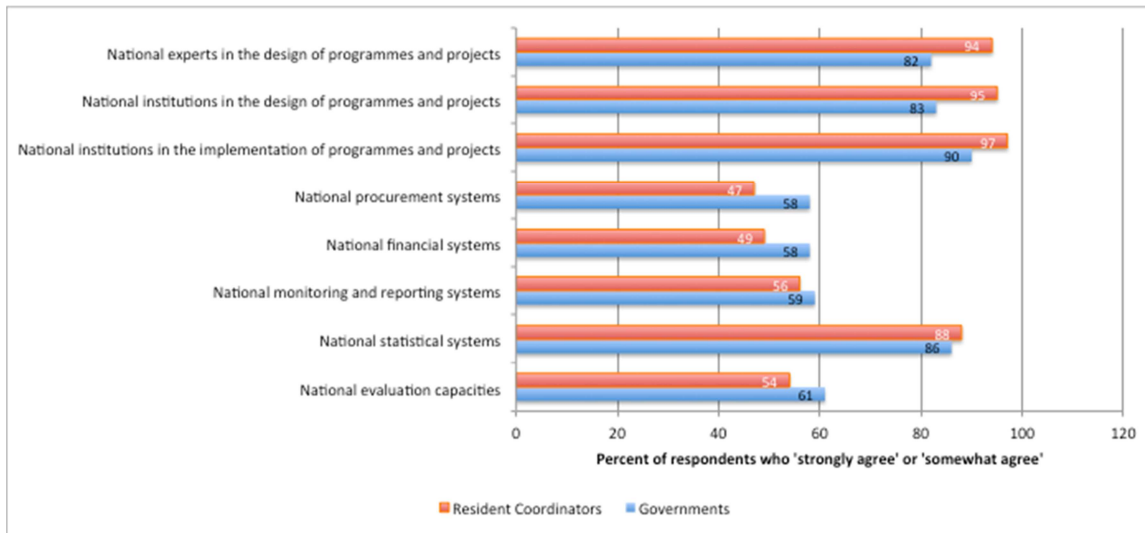
The responses to this question, on the extent to which the UN system uses national capacities, are shown below: The responses to this question appear similar to the responses to the corresponding question in 2012. Thus a substantial majority of countries either strongly or somewhat agreed with the last three statements. That is, the UN is judged to have used national experts and national institutions "as much as possible" in the design and implementation of projects. The same applies to the use of national statistical systems, which was added to this question in 2014.

Less encouraging are the responses in the areas of national evaluation capacities, national monitoring and reporting systems, and financial management and procurement systems, where only about a fifth of countries 'strongly agree' that UN is using national capacities "as much as possible", and over one-third disagree. The breakdowns by country income level and DaO status do not show significant differences in the pattern of responses.

The question was also asked in the RC survey, and the responses from both Governments and RCs is shown in the chart below. As may be seen, the RC survey results provide strong corroboration of the responses from governments on every one of the capacity areas that were covered by the question. While, on the aggregate level the RC and government responses were similar, the breakdown of the RC responses by DaO and non-DaO countries shows some significant differences. The RCs in countries implementing DaO were noticeably more likely to agree that the UN was using national capacities and systems as much as possible; this applies to all the above areas except the last three. For example, in regard to procurement, 63% of RCs in DaO countries agreed that the UN was using national capacities as much as possible, while the corresponding figure for non-DaO countries was 41%. 79% of RCs in DaO countries agreed that the UN was using national evaluation capacities as much as possible, while the corresponding figure for non-DaO countries was 43%. The chart below shows the responses from both DaO and non-DaO countries on all of the topics.

Extent to which Resident Coordinators and Programme Country Governments agree that national systems and capacities are used "as much as possible"

23. <u>Please mention any additional measures the UN system should take in order to strengthen national capacities in the above respects.</u>

38 countries provided comments; many reiterated their wish for the UN to do more to strengthen national capacities in every one of the areas listed in question 22. More involvement of national stakeholders in the design of programmes and projects was called for. Several countries requested that the 'Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers' (HACT) be fully implemented.   It may be noted that the intention HACT is precisely to enable UN agencies to pursue a more differentiated approach to programme management at the country level, better tailored to the needs and realities of each country.

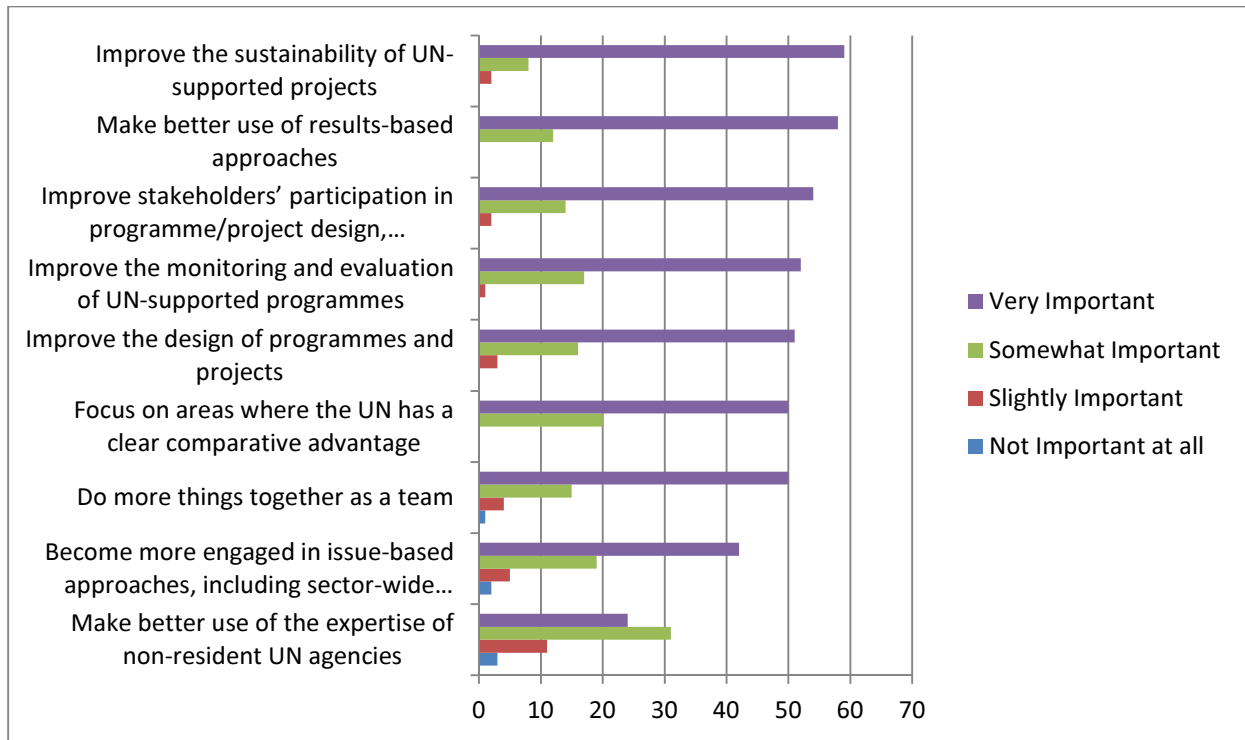24. <u>To become more effective in your country, how important is it for the UN to take each of the following measures?</u>

This question was asked also in 2012, although in 2014 two new answer options were added: 'Improve the sustainability of UN supported projects', and 'Improve stakeholders' participation in programme/project design'. Also, two of the answer options were reworded: 'Do more things together as a team' instead of 'Do fewer things and do them together as a team'; and 'Become more engaged in issue-based approaches including sector-wide approaches' instead of 'Become more engaged in programme-based approaches including sector-wide approaches'. These changes limit the scope for direct comparisons between the two surveys.

Nonetheless, there is clear confirmation of the importance governments attach to making better use of results-based approaches or methods, improving the monitoring and evaluation of UN-supported programmes and projects, improving the design of programmes and projects, and focusing on areas where the UN has a clear comparative advantage. The strong endorsement of the two newly-included measures (on sustainability and stakeholder participation) is also notable, and reinforces the repeated calls in the survey for more effective support for national capacity development.

The one measure where the ratings are markedly lower is the one that refers to non-resident agencies (NRAs). The responses on this measure were again very similar to the responses in 2012. This rating on the subject of NRAs would suggest, at least in relation to the other measures listed, that most governments feel the UN has already adopted adequate measures in this area.

Under optional comments, echoing comments made elsewhere in the survey, one government urged that UN programmes be better aligned with the expected outcomes of the beneficiary country, with more accountability and focus on outcomes identified by the beneficiary country. Along similar lines, others called for better monitoring and reporting of results to recipient government agencies.

To become more effective in your country, how important is it for the UN to take each of the following measures (Number of countries selecting each answer option from the 70 countries that answered the question)

25. Is your country interested in all or some of the elements of Delivering as One (DaO)? (Delivering as One is a UN initiative that began in 2007 whereby in a programme country the UN system would have One Leader, One Programme, One Budgetary Framework, Operating as One, and Communicating as One).

This is a new question, asked for the first time in 2014. 67 governments answered the question.

Interested in Delivering as One (DaO)	Number of responses	%
Yes	47	70
No	7	10
Don't know – unfamiliar with the elements of DaO	13	20

Among the countries familiar with DaO, it is interesting to note the overwhelming proportion that seem to be attracted by it. Many countries added comments, noting some drawbacks as well as benefits of DaO. One mentioned an increased competition for funds, while another mentioned that donor earmarking of funding was not necessarily consistent with government priorities.

26. How satisfied are you with the information about DaO provided by the UN Resident Coordinator and other UN officials?

The respondents who answered Yes to the preceding question were then asked this question. This is also a new question, asked for the first time in 2014.

Degree of satisfaction	Number of governments	%
Very satisfied	13	26
Somewhat satisfied	26	52
Somewhat dissatisfied	10	20
Very dissatisfied	0	0
Don't know	1	2
Total	50	100

Note: An error in the online survey software has allowed three countries to answer this question even though they did not answer Yes to the preceding question.

On this topic there is evidently considerable room for improvement on the part of the UN system. The limited degree of satisfaction could be due at least in part to the RCs and UNCT members themselves being unable to provide complete information, since the UNDG was still developing or refining the Standard Operating Procedures for DaO during the reporting period. Most of the countries that stated 'very satisfied' are already implementing DaO.

27. Has the introduction of DaO made it easier for your Government to deal with the UN system in your country?

Respondents who answered the preceding question were then asked this question. This is also a new question, asked for the first time in 2014. Due to an error in the online survey, it is not possible to separate the data for 'much easier' and 'somewhat easier'.

Ease of working with the UN system under DaO	Number of governments	%
Much easier or somewhat easier	22	73
Somewhat less easy	0	0
Much less easy	0	0
Too early to say	8	27
Total	30	100

This is another vote of confidence in DaO, echoing the favourable references to DaO elsewhere in the survey. The significant proportion saying 'too early to say' may reflect the fact that DaO has been introduced quite recently in these countries. None of the DaO pilot countries said 'too early to say'.

On a related topic, the UNDG CSS survey in 2014 asked UNCT members to agree or disagree that "DaO has led to reduced transaction costs for the Government." A majority of those answering the question were not in DaO countries; however, among those who were reported to be in a DaO country, one quarter did not answer the question, and among the remaining respondents a rather low 48% agreed with the statement.

28. Does your Government receive a report from the UN Resident Coordinator on the results being achieved by the UN system in your country?

UN provided the Government with a report on results being achieved by the UN in the country	Number of governments	%
Yes	34	49
No	23	33
Don't know	13	18

All DaO pilot countries answered Yes to this question, reflecting the fact that DaO procedures include annual reporting to governments.

29. In view of the concerns expressed in the 2012 survey about the quality of UN reporting to governments, the governments that answered Yes to the previous question were asked to what extent they agreed with certain statements:

Answer Options	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Total
We receive reports on UN results regularly enough to meet our needs	12	18	4	1	35
The information in the reports is up-to-date	11	20	3	1	35
Sufficient financial data is included	7	16	9	2	34
The results of the whole UN system are included	8	15	9	3	35
Reporting is structured around the outcomes of the UNDAF (or equivalent programme framework)	19	14	1	0	34
Reporting is linked to national development results	10	23	1	1	35

The table shows the number of countries that chose each answer option. In this instance the numbers rather than percentages are shown, because the total numbers are small[1]. One such respondent used the comment space to note: "All boxes strongly disagree except for somewhat agree for reporting is structured around the outcomes of the UNDAF". This information has been incorporated in the table.

This table seems to indicate a moderate degree of satisfaction with the reports received from UN resident coordinators; areas particularly needing improvement would appear to include financial reporting and coverage of the whole UN system. It also appears important to establish clearer linkages between UN results and national development results. It must be emphasized that this

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[1] Due to a technical issue in the survey software,

data refers only to those countries that have been receiving a results report from the resident coordinator.

On all the criteria, there were marked differences in the way the quality of the UN's reporting was rated by DaO countries versus non-DaO countries, the rating in DaO countries being significantly more favourable to the UN.

A question on this topic was asked of the UN resident coordinators in both 2013 and 2014. The question was formulated somewhat differently, however. RCs were asked whether the reports they supplied to the government met each of the criteria 'Fully', 'Partially', or 'Not at all'. The responses are shown below:

Extent to which the UN system report:	Year of survey	Number of responses				
		Fully	Partially	Not at all	Total	Fully, as % of total
...was structured around the UNDAF outcomes	2014	59	8	11	78	76
	2013	66	28	14	108	61
...was linked to national development results	2014	38	27	13	78	49
	2013	56	39	12	107	52
...informed government on the results of the UNCT as a whole	2014	45	20	13	78	58
	2013	55	26	27	108	51

This data suggests there may have been some improvement in terms of structuring reports around UNDAF outcomes, which is also the aspect of UN reporting most favourably assessed by governments. On the other hand, only around half of the resident coordinators stated that the annual United Nations system results reports were 'fully' linked to national development results, or informed government on the results of the UNCT as a whole. Again, this finding seems consistent with the views expressed by the governments in 2014, where relatively few 'strongly agreed' that the UN reports met these criteria.

The UNDG CSS survey in 2014 asked UNCT members to agree or disagree that "The UN's contribution to national priorities is comprehensively reported in the single annual UN Country Results Report". 40% of respondents did not answer the question, which can be attributed to the fact that around half of all UNCTs do not provide a results report annually to the government. Among the remainder, 11% stated strongly agree, 63% stated agree and 16% were neutral. These responses seem broadly consistent with the views of the governments, except perhaps in regard to including the 'results of the whole UN system' on which a significant percentage of governments did not agree.

30. <u>Please provide any additional comments, including any comments you would like to make on the reporting of individual UN agencies:</u>

In their optional comments, governments indicated that the reports should reflect the added value of the agencies, highlighting the results of the joint work between agencies. It was also requested that the results be in terms of indicators and progress based on the goals, not as a list of activities. Also, while DaO was helping to improve coordination and reporting, some governments indicated there were still challenges in both respects. It was noted that some agencies follow separate reporting requirements, even under DaO.

31. Please suggest any additional actions the UN could take collectively to make itself more effective in your country:

28 countries took the opportunity to make comments. There were many references to DaO, such as: "Truly operationalise the essence that DaO advocates". Almost as many governments urged closer coordination with government counterparts, alignment with national development goals, and a more participatory approach to project design. Among the many other suggestions were: observe government planning cycles and systems, more synergy and joint programming and less duplication, narrow the focus, simplify and harmonize procedures, better monitoring and evaluation of the UNDAF, and provide regular reports to stakeholders with information that is meaningful in terms of achievement of results.

Efficiency

32. All things considered, the UN uses funds carefully and avoids waste:

The same question was also asked in 2012, and the results from both surveys are shown in the table below:

UN uses funds carefully and avoids waste:	% in 2014	% in 2012
Strongly agree	19	19
Somewhat agree	58	59
Somewhat disagree	13	16
Strongly disagree	0	2
Don't know	10	4

The data suggests that, in the last two years, there has been no perceptible shift in the views of governments on this question. As was the case in 2012, it would appear that in most countries the UN's performance on this dimension of efficiency leaves room for improvement. Several governments commented that there was not enough transparency over use of funds, echoing the comments under question 30 above regarding the lack of financial data received from the UN system.

Significantly, no country with a UN Humanitarian Coordinator 'strongly agreed' with the proposition. This may reflect a difficulty in preventing some waste in countries in crisis or emerging from crisis.   On the other hand, the DaO status of a country did not make a significant difference in the responses to this question.

33. There is a clear division of labour (that is, no duplication or overlaps) among the activities of UN agencies in the country:

Essentially the same question was asked in 2012; however, it was phrased the opposite way around: respondents were asked in 2012 to agree or disagree that "there is a significant amount of duplication". The results in both years are shown below:

2014 survey			2012 survey
Clear division of labour?	**%**	**%**	**Significant duplication?**
Strongly agree	16	15	Strongly disagree
Somewhat agree	51	34	Somewhat disagree
Somewhat disagree	21	33	Somewhat agree
Strongly disagree	6	14	Strongly agree
Don't know	6	4	Don't know

Only one country with a UN Humanitarian Cooordinator 'strongly agreed' with the proposition. This reinforces the results from previous surveys that countries with a humanitarian coordinator were more likely to see duplication and competition among UN agencies.

The views on duplication did not vary significantly at different country income levels. There was, similarly, no significant difference between the responses for DaO countries and from non-DaO countries.

The themes of gender and HIV/AIDS were mentioned as areas of potential overlap, with one government suggesting that a single agency handle all gender and development matters. Another government commented that while UN agencies' mandates overlap in specific issues, their country's One-UN programme of cooperation ensures there is no overlap or duplication.

One country offered the following overall comment: "While the mandates of programmes and agencies are clear, there are cases detected where there are agencies working in an area without coordination and division of labour, even competing for resources. In this sense, it is necessary to strengthen interagency work. We believe that if the role of the Office of the Resident Coordinator is strengthened, having more powers, this process of division of labour could be more effective."

34. If you are in a country with DaO, to what extent do you agree that there is now less duplication and overlap among UN agencies as a result of DaO?

This was a new question in 2014. The fact that most respondents did not 'strongly agree' tends to reinforce the finding in the previous question, that the amount of duplication among UN agencies at the country level in not noticeably correlated with DaO status. On the other hand, DaO does seem to have led to a reduction in duplication in 27% of the responding countries, which could at least be considered to show potential to have this effect on a broader basis.

Less duplication as a result of DaO:	%	Excluding not applicable - %
Strongly agree	17	27
Somewhat agree	31	51
Somewhat disagree	3	5
Strongly disagree	0	0
Don't know	10	17
Not applicable – DaO is not implemented in the country	39	
Total	100	100

The UNDG CSS survey asked UNCT members to agree or disagree that "DaO has enabled clear division of labour and reduced programmatic duplication among the UN agencies." As with other CSS survey questions, this question was answered by UNCT members in more non-DaO countries than DaO countries. The responses from the DaO countries are shown in the table below. The data in the table should be compared with the percentages in the right-hand column of the table above. It is not easy to compare the results since, unlike questions in the programme country and RC surveys administered by UN-DESA, the UNDG survey included a neutral option in every question. However, if the neutral responses are discounted, it emerges that governments are more likely than UNCTs to state that DaO has resulted in less duplication. This reinforces a pattern seen in previous surveys: UNCT members are more aware of duplication and competition than governments are, no doubt because the issue affects them more directly.

DaO enabled a clear division of labour	% of UNCT members in DaO countries
Strongly agree	12
Agree	49
Neutral	23
Disagree	14
Strongly disagree	1
Did not answer	16

35. As far as you know, to what extent do UN agencies in your country compete with each other for donor funding?

Extent to which competition among UN agencies for donor funds occurs:	2014 %	2012 %	UN agencies sometimes compete for donor funds:
To a large extent	20	52	Yes
To a moderate extent	46		
To a small extent	25	48	No
Not at all	9		

The same topic was included in the survey in 2012, but the question was formulated somewhat differently. The question was: Do the UN agencies sometimes compete with each other for donor funding for projects? There were only two answer options: Yes or No. Based on feedback from the 2012 survey, it was decided to provide more differentiated response options in 2014. The results from both surveys are shown side-by-side in the table.

It appears probable that, when given the opportunity to provide a more nuanced response, some governments that previously chose 'No' opted to say 'to a small extent' or even 'to a moderate extent'. At the other end of the scale, a 'Yes' response in 2012 would most likely be reflected in choosing one of the first two options in 2012.

Whichever way one looks at the data, it is hard to find any reason to say that governments now see less competition than they saw in 2012. The available evidence seems to point more in the other direction.

When a similar question was asked in 2012, it emerged that there was a progression towards less competition as one moves up the income scale. The breakdown of the results by country income level from this year's survey showed a similar pattern. It also emerged from the 2012 survey that the likelihood to see competition increased in countries with UN Humanitarian Coordinators. This was also the case in 2014: over 90% of countries with a humanitarian coordinator reported that competition occurred to a large or moderate extent, compared with 60% for all other countries. This response reinforces the result noted in question 34 above regarding the extent to which transition countries encounter duplication among UN agencies.

The UNDG CSS survey asked UNCT members to agree or disagree that "UN agencies have better coordinated their fundraising efforts," essentially putting the same question the opposite way around. Nonetheless, a substantial percentage of the respondents who answered the question (33%) expressed disagreement and a further 28% were neutral. An extremely small percentage (just 2%) 'strongly agreed.' This is undoubtedly a reflection of the significant competition for funds that is apparent from the RC and government surveys. It applies in DaO countries as much as in other countries, confirming the findings in the RC survey on this topic.

36. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

Since there can be both healthy and unhealthy aspects to competition, this question has also been asked in both surveys, in 2012 and 2014, and also in the survey of Resident Coordinators in 2013. Respondents could check as many boxes as were appropriate to their situation. The table depicts the percentage of countries that selected each response option.

Answer Options	Strongly agree %	Somewhat agree %	Somewhat disagree %	Strongly disagree %	Don't know%
Competition among UN agencies is healthy and the Government welcomes it	9	34	24	21	12
Competition among UN agencies increases overall UN funding for the country	9	19	32	21	19
Competition among UN agencies creates confusion for the Government	34	31	21	4	10
Competition among UN agencies increases the workload on Government officials	30	33	21	7	9
Competition among UN agencies diverts the agencies' attention from the main tasks of providing support to the country	30	37	24	0	9

The above data suggests that competition among UN agencies has unfavourable effects in most countries. This is especially evident from a reading of the 'strongly agree' and 'strongly disagree' columns.

A similar question was asked in 2012, but it was directed only to the countries that replied Yes to the preceding question, and there were only 22 responses altogether. This could make comparisons between the two surveys somewhat hazardous, but the pattern is actually very similar. Few countries agreed to the first statement, while a majority of respondents agreed to the last three statements. The second statement was not included in the survey in 2012.

37. Please mention below any areas where competition among UN agencies for donor funding is very noticeable, and any other comments you wish to make on this subject.

Relatively few countries (22) took the opportunity to make comments. Among those that did, humanitarian assistance and climate change were mentioned several times as areas where competition was noticed. Health, education, and agriculture were also mentioned by more than one respondent.

Although the Government responses are based on very limited data, they are broadly consistent with the responses provided in the government survey in 2012, as well as in the 2012 survey of UN country teams, where health, humanitarian interventions and environment (including climate change) topped the list of areas in which the respondents reported competition.

38. <u>Comparing the UN system with other development partners, how do you find the workload in complying with their procedures?</u>

This was a new question in 2014. The responses were as follows:

Ease of working with the UN compared with other partners	Number of governments	%
Much less work to deal with the UN	7	10
Less work to deal with the UN	25	38
More work to deal with the UN	28	42
Much more work to deal with the UN	7	10
Total	67	100

The interesting aspect of this data is that an equal number of countries seem to find it easier to work with the UN as find it harder. More research would be needed to determine why some countries find it easier and others find it harder.   The breakdowns by DaO status, country income level, and transition status do not throw light on this matter: their responses mirrored the overall response pattern. A few countries did make optional comments, and one country said it was more work dealing with the UN because of the "lack of joint work". It is possible that the question is not particularly useful because, as another government explained, the various partners are difficult to compare, as the nature and purpose of financing are not same for the different development partners.

39. <u>To reduce the workload on national partners, how important is it for the UN to take the following measures:</u>

The same question, with the same answer options, was also asked in 2012. One additional answer option was provided in 2014: 'Coordinate capacity building activities'. This was clearly a relevant option to include, as it was chosen as 'Very important' by a large majority of countries (73%); only two of the nine categories was selected by more countries.

The following table shows the percentage of countries that rated the suggested measure as being 'Very important' on a scale of Very important, Somewhat important, Slightly important and Not important at all.   The measures are listed in the order of how many countries selected them as 'Very important' in 2014.

Answer Options	Very important (2014) %	Very important (2012) %
Use a single format for annual work plans	72	80
Use a single format for progress reports	72	76
Coordinate capacity-building activities	69	NA
Plan joint monitoring missions and evaluations when working in the same thematic area	68	78
Consolidate its country presence under a single head who is accountable for all UN assistance	66	60
Designate a lead agency for some thematic issues to represent a common UN approach in the country	65	61
Simplify the UNDAF and agency country programming or planning processes	60	65
Share office premises	48	38
Share more services in areas such as procurement, human resources and information technology	33	49

The table shows a similar pattern of responses in 2014 and 2012. Among the answer options that were included in both surveys, the first three items remained the most frequently selected as 'very important'. This adds considerably to the credibility of the 2014 data, which draws on fewer responses than in 2012. From the table, it can also be seen that all the measures listed were deemed to be 'Very important' by at least 60 per cent of the countries that responded, with the exception of the last two measures.

The last two measures, on the business practices side, were rated 'Very important' by fewer countries, possibly because these measures are more internal in nature, and may impinge less directly on the Governments.

A few governments made optional comments, some encouraging the UN to make better use of national systems. One comment was: "UN must explore how its system requirement can be aligned to that of the national system instead of the other way round (reporting requirements imposed on the implementing agencies are very often taxing.)"

40. The UN country team (heads of agency) has the right mix of technical capacities to support my country's development effectively, and:
41. The UN country team has the right leadership skills to support my country's development effectively

These are new questions, introduced in 2014 in the light of QCPR provisions (OP 125).

UN country team has:	The right mix of technical capacities	The right leadership skills
	%	%
Strongly agree	24	26
Somewhat agree	58	62
Somewhat disagree	4	6
Strongly disagree	2	0
Don't know	12	6

The two questions may seem different, but the respondents apparently could not easily distinguish between them and replied almost identically on each question. Thus, while the indicator as proposed in the indicator framework has many dimensions (% of governments that are of the view that UN staff (heads of agencies) has the right mix of capacities and skills including for high-quality policy and programme advice, and the highest standards of leadership skills), it turns out to be a feasible indicator. The appropriate figure to enter for 2014 would be '25% strongly agree.'

This being a new question, the means of putting it into context is lacking. Nonetheless, there would seem to be reason for concern that only 16 countries (24 per cent of respondents) felt able to 'Strongly agree' with the first statement, and only 18 (26 per cent) with the second statement.

The breakdown of the responses by DaO status, size of programme, or country income level did not show any different pattern of responses. The one breakdown that did show some notable divergence was the one for transition countries. Only one of these countries (7%) 'strongly agreed' that the UNCT had the right technical capacities and leadership skills.

42. UN joint funding mechanisms (multi-donor trust funds, One UN Funds) have led to greater UN coherence:

The results from this question are given in the table, along with the results from the same question in 2012:

UN joint funding has led to greater coherence?	% 2014	% 2012
Strongly agree	28	29
Somewhat agree	46	42
Somewhat disagree	3	8
Strongly disagree	3	2
Don't know or not applicable	20	19

Although fewer responses were received in 2014, the pattern of responses is very similar. Joint funding seems to be a useful aspect of improving coherence in some countries, but it is evidently not a very significant factor in many others. A relatively large share (41%) of the DaO countries strongly agreed with the statement, while 24% of non-DaO countries strongly agreed. One non-DaO country commented: "This strengthens the coherence of the activities but the agencies should harmonize their procedures."

43. UN joint funding mechanisms (multi-donor trust funds, One UN Funds) have led to greater UN efficiency:

This is a new question, asked for the first time in 2014.

UN joint funding has led to greater UN efficiency?	% 2014
Strongly agree	21
Somewhat agree	47
Somewhat disagree	4
Strongly disagree	1
Don't know or not applicable	26

As can be seen, respondents answered this question in a similar way to the preceding question. On the current question, however, there was little divergence in the responses from DaO and non-DaO countries.

44. <u>UN joint programming has led to greater UN coherence and effectiveness,</u> and:
45. <u>UN joint programming has led to greater UN efficiency</u>

These are new questions, asked for the first time in 2014.

UN joint programming has led to greater:	Coherence and Effectiveness %	Efficiency %
Strongly agree	29	30
Somewhat agree	48	44
Somewhat disagree	6	9
Strongly disagree	1	0
Don't know or not applicable	16	17

As can be seen, a few more respondents have experience of UN joint programming as compared with joint funding; however, they answered these questions in a similar way to the preceding two questions. It is possible that many programme countries do not see a distinction between joint funding and joint programming. If there are significant differences between the two, it would need to be clarified in the questions. Otherwise, the new questions may be considered redundant, and dropped from future surveys.

46. <u>All things considered, the UN is efficient in providing its support to your country:</u>

The results from this question are given in the table, along with the results from the same question in 2012:

UN is efficient in providing its support:	2014 %	2012 %
Strongly agree	25	23
Somewhat agree	66	68
Somewhat disagree	4	6
Strongly disagree	0	2
Don't know or not applicable	5	1

The clustering of responses in the 'somewhat agree' box in both years indicates that most countries do not have strong views one way or another on this question. The results are consistent with the findings under other questions related to efficiency, such as 33 above, suggesting that there is scope to do better. Once again, it was with the countries with a humanitarian coordinator that divergences could be seen, as only two (14%) of transition countries strongly agreed, while 28% of all other countries strongly agreed.

As was the case with other questions about efficiency, the DaO countries responded similarly to non-DaO countries. Nonetheless, one upper middle income country, where DaO is being implemented, commented as follows: "Application of this integrated model of cooperation pointed at significant benefits and opportunities for improvement that lead to more efficient planning of resources (both human and financial) and adjusting of programme components to the development needs of the country. Delivering as One, as a model of cooperation, creates conditions for deepening

cooperation with the UN, strengthening partner relationships and planning in accordance with national priorities that can lead to building a society in which every individual enjoys quality life in accordance with high UN standards and values. The model of DaO confirmed itself as a mechanism that contributes to realisation of planned objectives – faster economic, social, political and overall democratic prosperity in the society."

47. Please suggest any measures that would improve the UN's efficiency in your country:

32 countries made suggestions under this heading. Many governments called for better coordination and referred to DaO in this connection. Several highlighted the potential of joint programmes and a good division of labour among the UNCT as key steps to be taken. The need for the UN to harmonize procedures, rules and regulations was mentioned. Closer alignment with national priorities was also advocated, with one government urging the UN not to try to "please the political authorities and risk dispersing efforts". Other governments highlighted the importance of using and strengthening national systems and procedures, and called for national execution and the implementation of the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness. Many governments mentioned issues around reporting and communication with national partners. For example, one government called for "regular provision of open and transparent financial information on commitments and disbursements as they relate to current strategic framework documents, in addition to forward spending plans with regard to future strategic programmes. This would facilitate planning and budgeting within national governments and provide the basis for preparing an overall multi-year development assistance strategy. As such, it is seen as a key element of development efficiency."

The UN and other development partners

48. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree that collaboration between the World Bank and the UN in this country has improved over the past two years:

The same question was asked in 2012, except respondents were asked to report on any change that had occurred over a 4-year period, since the previous QCPR (TCPR). The responses on each occasion are given below.

UN collaboration with the World Bank in this country has improved:	2014 - In the last 2 years %	2012 - In the last 4 years %
Strongly agree	13	14
Somewhat agree	46	48
Somewhat disagree	7	14
Strongly disagree	2	2
Unaware of any such collaboration	30	16
World Bank does not operate in this country	2	6

The responses to this question suggest that the number of countries where collaboration between the World Bank and the UN has clearly improved over the past two years is limited, and could be matched by the number where the collaboration has not improved.   The responses from the two surveys are very similar, which tends to support the conclusion that there has not been much change in UN-World Bank collaboration, at least as far as governments are aware of it. Among the

few supplementary comments received was the observation that collaboration with the World Bank in most countries is limited to information sharing and sometimes in policy coherence. It was suggested that the UN should define what kind of partnership it wants to strive for with the World Bank.

As was noted in 2012, countries with a humanitarian coordinator were more likely to be aware of cooperation with the World Bank, and more likely to be of the opinion that cooperation had improved: 85% either strongly or somewhat agreed with the proposition. By comparison, only 53% of other countries either strongly or somewhat agreed. Countries with integrated UN missions responded similarly to all transition countries, not surprisingly.

In the 2012 survey, it was found that the countries which had noticed improvements in UN-World Bank cooperation were mostly low-income and lower middle-income countries. However, in the current survey, the income level breakdown did not reveal significant differences in the countries' responses to this question.

South-South cooperation

The questions in this sub-section featured for the first time in the 2014 survey.

49. <u>Does your country provide development cooperation to other countries (e.g., South-South cooperation or other peer-to-peer exchange platforms)?</u>

Country provides development cooperation to other countries:	2014 %
Yes	72
No	18
Don't know	10

Several countries commented that they were initiating such cooperation.

50. <u>Has the United Nations system undertaken any activities in your country to support south-south or triangular cooperation?</u>

UN supports the country's south-south or triangular cooperation:	2014 %
Yes	66
No	15
Don't know	19

A number of countries mentioned initiatives that are ongoing or planned. One mentioned that "these are still isolated initiatives, which must be strengthened", adding that the new UNDAF 2015 - 2018 has included the development of south-south and triangular cooperation.

51. <u>Please indicate in the table below the areas in which the UN has supported south-south or triangular cooperation in your country, if applicable, and use the right-hand column to indicate the areas in which your government would like support with south-south or triangular cooperation in the future:</u>

58 countries responded. The number of countries choosing each area is shown in the table below. There was no limit on the number of areas that could be checked[2].

An interesting aspect of the table is that, as with questions 17 and 19 above, it emerges that whereas the UN has been more effective or active in the areas of gender and human rights, and less effective or active in the areas of economic growth and employment, and industry, trade and investment, governments still look to the UN to become more active in the latter areas than in the former areas.

Answer Options	The UN has provided support in south-south or triangular cooperation in this area
Agriculture and rural development	22
Social Protection	20
Health	19
Food security and nutrition	18
Gender equality	18
Environment and natural resources (including climate change, water and environmental sanitation)	17
Governance and public administration	17
Knowledge and technology transfer	15
Education	15
Poverty reduction	15
Disaster risk reduction	13
Humanitarian assistance	13
Decentralization	12
Human rights and equity	12
Sustainable development policies (Policies that integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions)	11
Peace-building and early-recovery	11
Economic growth and employment	9
Industry, trade and investment	6

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[2] Respondents were allowed to check one answer per row. The number of responses would have increased has checking of both answers in a row been allowed.

Answer Options	The Government would like to receive UN support in south-south or triangular cooperation in this area in future
Sustainable development policies (Policies that integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions)	33
Economic growth and employment	33
Industry, trade and investment	29
Knowledge and technology transfer	28
Environment and natural resources (including climate change, water and environmental sanitation)	24
Disaster risk reduction	24
Agriculture and rural development	23
Food security and nutrition	23
Education	21
Health	19
Governance and public administration	18
Poverty reduction	17
Social Protection	16
Decentralization	16
Gender equality	12
Humanitarian assistance	12
Human rights and equity	11
Peace-building and early-recovery	10

53. Please mention any other type of assistance you would welcome from the United Nations system on south-south and triangular cooperation

23 countries took the opportunity to make suggestions under this heading. A variety of topics were mentioned, particularly sustainable development and capacity building. One country pointed out that, in general, the support given by the UN is operational. This country urged the United Nations to enhance its systems to account the amounts spent by developing countries in South-South cooperation.

The responses under this heading are quite extensive, and are reproduced in full in Annex 2.

54. Please explain any challenges you might have encountered in working with the United Nations system on south-south and triangular cooperation

24 countries identified challenges under this heading. One government pointed out that south-south cooperation tends not to be fully aligned with the principles of the aid effectiveness agenda. Another mentioned the extra workload involved in following the specific procedures and documentation requirements. Others mentioned resource constraints, lack of a strategy or specific standards for South-South cooperation, and lack of understanding of field officers on the specifics of this kind of cooperation. The verbatim responses in this instance can be found in Annex 3.

55. Is there a dedicated entity in your country responsible for South-South and triangular cooperation?

Is there a dedicated entity for the country's south-south or triangular cooperation?	2014 %
Yes	49
No	30
Don't know	21

56. If yes, please elaborate: (Please note this information will not be published along with the results of the survey. It is strictly for UN headquarters use)

39 countries provided information with names etc., in response to this question.

57. Also, please provide a rough estimate (in millions of US dollars) of the current annual budget for south-south cooperation:

50 countries provided a response. The number of countries reporting that their budget was in a given dollar band is presented in the table below:

Country's annual budget for south-south cooperation in millions of US dollars	Number of countries
Less than 1 million	8
1 to 5 million	4
5 to 20 million	5
20 to 50 million	1
50 to 100 million	0
Over 100 million	3
Don't know	29

58. Optional comments on the survey itself.

12 countries commented, and mostly welcomed the survey. One stated: "These kinds of surveys give the possibility to show strengths, weaknesses and opportunities in the cooperation and bring to better understanding among the stakeholders that could help to enhance future cooperation." Two countries noted that it was difficult to choose the right reply to some of the questions, due to the multidimensionality of the issues.

Another government explained that they provided a consolidated national response which was answered individually by respective line ministries and some answers are the response by those ministries. In this regard, it was seen that answers may vary or contradict, and then comments were made to support certain answers. This government stated that in the future it would be appreciated if different government departments could answer individually and respond/submit to the RC office.

Annex 1: Number of countries selecting each partner as one of the two preferred providers of external support

Partner	Peace, security and huma-nitarian assistance	Global Public Goods [3]	Supporting south-south and triangular cooperation	Supporting regional or sub-regional cooperation	Mobilizing external resources for development	Policy advice on national strategies and plans	Sectoral programming advice and technical assistance	Institu-tional capacity develop-ment	Facilitating participation of civil society & NGOs in national development processes	Providing equipment and services
UN system (Funds, Progs & SAs)	50	30	42	34	30	44	40	55	41	34
Bretton Woods Institutions (World Bank, IMF etc.)	6	24	9	14	33	36	29	19	8	23
Other multilateral & regional institutions not part of the UN	23	17	15	32	24	16	25	22	15	19
OECD/DAC partners (Traditional bilateral donors)	15	17	16	16	24	19	26	24	16	20
Southern partners	7	3	20	14	7	3	7	9	6	8
Thematic or alliance-based partners (eg The Global Fund)	8	10	7	6	15	4	11	11	9	13

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[3] Global public goods include climate change, biodiversity & trans-border issues, such as water and migration.

Annex 2 - Other types of assistance that governments would welcome from the United Nations system on south-south and triangular cooperation

Responses
It is important to mention that, in general, the support given by the UN is operational. It is very important that the United Nations enhance their systems to account the amounts spent by developing countries in South-South cooperation as such. Moreover, the support of agencies in countries where cooperation takes place should be expanded.
Renforcement des capacities
Knowledge management
Mecanismos de promocion y financiamiento de academicos/as, centros de pensamiento e innvestigadores/as del Sur para generacion de pensamiento en relacion con la CSS y triangular.
Capacity Building Cooperation (trainings, studies, courses, etc).
Fortalecimiento de la gestion de la CSS y Ctr.
Appui a la coalition sud-sud et triangulaie en faveur de l'Afrique dans le cadre de l'agenda post 2015 Appui au developpement des capacites nationales en matiere de cooperation sud-sud et triangulaire
Climate change and Devolution
Fight against corruption
facilitate exchange programme in different areas of expertise; facilitate access to regional programmes and joint projects
Funding for capacity building in the region (Africa). Peer to peer exchange programme. Sharing of database for capacity building
Appui aux organisations sous regionales et regionales d'integration économique
Strategic Planning
Competitividad
Fortalecimiento de capacidades para el desarrollo de la CSS y Triangular.
Implementation and localization of national Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); Development Cooperation Forums (DCF); and Establishment of a Peace Index with regard to peace-building and early-recovery
Elaboration et coordination du PNUAD et mise en oeuvre des programmes conjoints en vue d'un delivering as one effectif
The capacity Development
Appui a l'integration regionale; Appui a la gestion de la migration circulaire et reguliere; Appui aux echanges d'experiences de developpement

Disponer de un marco comun intra Sistema consolidado respecto al apoyo, articulacion y ejecucion de actividades y proyectos de CSS. Hasta el presente, el SNU se visualiza como una multi oferta agencial sobre posicionamiento, actividades y plataformas de CSS sin un rumbo marcado ni una estrategia claramenta definida.
Tools, guidelines, list of demand from countries, indicators to measure success

Annex 3 - Challenges encountered in working with the United Nations system on south-south and triangular cooperation

Response
Resource constraint of UN agencies
Lack of specific standards for South-South cooperation, as well lack of understanding of field officer on the specifics of this kind of cooperation.
Probleme de coordination
El mayor desafio a dia de hoy es promover efectivamente la Cooperacion Sur-Sur triangular con el SNU, en base a los lineamientos del Estado.
Identification of mutual South-South partners
Aid effectiveness
limited funding no complete focus on capacity of country to implement programmes
not fully aligned to the general rules and tendency to aid effectiveness agenda
Se debe armonizar el tema a fin de lograr un beneficio y sostenibilidad del mismo.
Los desafios son la poca preparacion y conocimiento de los mecanismos.
-Falta de recursos. -La Oficina de CSS de NNUU debe realizar acciones para el desarrollo de capacidades, transferencia de conocimientos, difusion de informacion y publicaciones en la materia. Asimismo, debe articular y complementar esfuerzos con las iniciativas que se estan realizando en otros ambitos como las de Iberoamerica.
Partage d'experiences et d'informations pour améliorer nos système de management des cadres de cooperation
To have strategy on south-south cooperation
Inexistance de programmes specifiques lie a la promotion de la cooperation sud-sud Pas d'agence leader dans le domaine de l'appui a la cooperation sud sud
Armonizacion del marco conceptual por el cual el SNU entiende e interviene sobre la CSS y triangular la competencia entre agencias y con aquellos organismos nacionales con mandato en la tematica poco desarrollo y conocimiento del tema, poco registro de las acciones de CSS en el SNU.
It is defined loosely and no corporate clarity of expected outcome