

Why is EDC important?

Embracing and implementing EDC requires a paradigm shift in development work: from aid to development effectiveness. In promoting EDC in all arenas of development work, CPDE contributes to the achievement of human rights and sustainable development. Promoting EDC means creating and expanding an enabling environment for development cooperation between government, implementing partners, CSOs, and the people. EDC enables the expansion and cultivation of social dialogue between various development actors, and acts as check-and-balance approach in development work to ensure that no development program benefits one party while aggravating another.

Where are we now?

Years of pursuing EDC has led to significant progress in expanding the enabling environment for multi-stakeholder cooperation and ensuring CSO participation in pursuing sustainable development. But there is still a lot to be done.

Main gaps in the pursuit of EDC include the partner countries' lack of political will in considering and implementing CSO outputs in national policy frameworks, lack of funding and resources for effective partnerships, absence of inclusive platforms for cooperative development program implementation and monitoring, and the creeping influence of the private sector in implementing development plans.

Moving forward, there is a need to create concrete partnership frameworks that will allow meaningful CSO participation guided by EDC principles. This includes establishing closer partnerships between CSOs and governments to ensure that valuable inputs from various stakeholders are not only considered but also reflected in national policies.

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What is Effective Development Cooperation?



What si EDC?

Effective development cooperation (EDC) is a framework that seeks to shape and align development programs and policies to ensure that all stakeholders, especially those belonging to the marginalised sectors, are involved in the process of addressing the structural causes of poverty, inequality, and social marginalisation.

What are the principles of effective development cooperation?

In 2011, world leaders and development actors gathered in Busan, South Korea to recognise what people’s organisations have been saying all along -- that despite years of implementing development programs and projects, poverty and inequality remained to be a central challenge.

The event gave birth to the Busan Partnership Agreement, which set out principles, commitments, and actions that offer a foundation for effective cooperation in international development. Finalised in 2012, the document embodied the concept of effective development cooperation in four shared principles:



Ownership of development priorities by developing countries

Countries should define the development model that responds to their needs.



Partnerships for development

Development depends on the participation of all actors, and recognises the diversity and complementarity of their functions



A focus on results

Creating a sustainable impact should be the driving force behind investments and efforts in development



Transparency and shared responsibility

Development cooperation must be transparent and accountable to all citizens

TIMELINE OF EDC MILESTONES

2003

During the First High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, the **Rome Declaration on Harmonisation** was endorsed. It centered around key principal commitments which include ensuring that development assistance is delivered in accordance with partner country profiles, and reviewing and amending policy, procedures, and practice to facilitate harmonisation.

2005

Adoption of the **Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness**, which established a monitoring ystem to assess progress and ensure that donors and recipients hold each other accountable for their commitments

2008

The **Accra Agenda for Action** was endorsed by countries that participated in the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Ghana. The said document recognized the vital role of CSOs as development actors in their own right.

2010

The formulation of the **Istanbul Principles**, a statement of common values and approaches that should guide CSOs as independent development actors. The principles are centered on core concepts of human rights, social justice, gender equality, democratic ownership, and environmental sustainability.

2011

The **Busan Development Effectiveness Principles** established the need for an EDC framework that would emphasise the contributions, responsibilities, and unique roles of all stakeholders in development.

2014

The First High-Level Meeting (HLM1) of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation was held in Mexico City. The outcome of this meeting was the **Mexico Communiqué**, which called on all development actors to pursue concrete actions towards inclusive and sustainable development results.

2016

During the Second GPEDC High Level Meeting, the **Nairobi Declaration** was approved. It pushed for universalising EDC and asked for accountability of all development actors in their commitments, with emphasis on the message of leaving no one behind.

The CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness

While the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation ushered in a new era in the global effort to advance people's needs and rights, many civil society organisations saw the need for bolder changes in the way development is pursued: a stronger focus on human rights, and an accountability framework to counter the rising state attacks against CSOs, democracy, and people's fundamental freedoms and rights.

The fruits of collective action by civil society, grassroots organisations, and other development actors produced the Nairobi Outcome Document in 2012 and formed the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE).

CPDE was meant to be a platform to support civil society work on development at all levels. It envisions EDC as a platform where respect for human rights, participatory democracy, social and environmental justice and sustainability, gender equality and equity, decent work and sustainable change are respected and achieved.

