



**Promoting the Universal Application  
of Effective Development Cooperation (EDC)  
for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

**2020 PROGRESS REPORT**

**January – December 2020**

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## List of Abbreviations

APRCM	Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism
CAMEX	Central America and Mexico
CC	Coordination Committee
CFS	UN Committee on World Food Security
COVID-19	2019 corona virus disease
CPDE	CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness
CSM	Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism of the UN CFS
CSO	civil society organisation
C&F	conflict and fragility
DAC	OECD Development Assistance Committee
DE	development effectiveness
DG DEVCO	EC Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
EC	European Commission
EDC	effective development cooperation
EE	enabling environment
EU	European Union
FAQ	frequently asked questions
FBO	faith-based organisation
FG	feminist groups and women's rights organisations
FMO	financial management organisation
FSS	UN Food Systems Summit
GCM	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
GNI	Gross National Income
GPEDC	Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation
HLM	High-Level Ministerial Meeting
IAC	Independent Accountability Committee
ICSO	international CSO
IEC	information, education, communication
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IP	indigenous peoples
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
NECC	GPEDC Non-Executive Co-Chair
NGO	non-government organisation
ODA	official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PIANGO	Pacific Islands Association of NGOs
ROA	Reality of Aid Network
SC	Steering Committee
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
TOSSD	Technical Official Support for Sustainable Development
TWG	technical working group
UN	United Nations
VNR	Voluntary National Reviews
WANA	West Asia and North Africa
WG	working group

## List of Annexes

Annex	Title of Document
1	CPDE Programmes Chapeau
2	CPDE COVID-19 Survey
3	CPDE COVID-19 Statement
4	CPDE COVID-19 Framework Paper
5	CPDE Perspectives Paper and Room Document on GPEDC SCM engagement
6	CPDE National Campaigns against Shrinking Civil Spaces 2020 Summary of Actions
7	Constituency Reports on CSO DE coordination work
8	FBO Sector Open Letter and <a href="#">video</a>
9	FG Sector draft training manual
10	ICSO Sector report
11	IP sector report
12	Labour sector report
13	Migrants sector reports
14	Rural sector compiled reports
15	Rural sector campaigns
16	Youth sector research findings
17	List of countries with COVID-19 case studies
18	17th CC Meeting Summary of Proceedings, Agreements and Action Points
19	18th CC Meeting Summary of Proceedings and Agreements
20	7th GC Meeting Summary Proceedings, Agreement and Action Points
21	CPDE Policy Conference Declaration
22	List of communication materials produced
23	World in Lockdown, Development on Hold
24	CPDE Covid webinar documents

# 1.0 INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

## 1.1 Overview of Achievements

### *General introduction to programme and overview of achievements in 2020*

The progress in the implementation of global development and development cooperation commitments, particularly those made in the Agenda 2030 and Busan Partnership for Development is slow and, some even say, off-track. The 2019 Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) Global Progress Report shows sluggish but incremental progress across the four effective development cooperation (EDC) principles (i.e., country ownership, focus on results, inclusive development partnerships, and transparency and mutual accountability). However, the opposite pattern is observed for the enabling environment for civil society organisations (CSO EE) indicator. Continuing human rights violations and repression of people's civil liberties, as well as weakening multi-stakeholder partnerships – all prevent people's full access to domestic development processes. Overall, a lot of work still awaits country governments, development partners, and CSOs in their pursuit of development effectiveness.

The CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) conducts activities to improve CSO capacities to effectively engage development cooperation and partnerships. This engagement is intended to promote among CSOs and other development actors the behaviour change that will contribute towards achieving EDC commitments.

In 2020, CPDE implemented two programmes, one of which is supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). The complementarity of these projects is explained in a chapeau document (See **Annex 1**).

The Sida-funded programme aims to **contribute to the universal application of EDC for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across different contexts and actors**. In light of the drastic changes in the context in which CPDE operates, the platform made adjustments that (1) takes into consideration the generally hampered operations of CSOs, and (2) makes it more responsive to the call of the times while remaining true to the intention of its programme objectives. Thus, this report shares the progress against objectives from activities in 2020 that were in the approved project document (planned) as well as activities that were pursued to respond to such changes (unplanned). In summary:

**Table 1. Summary of Targets vs. Actual Accomplishments**

Targets	Actual Accomplishments
<b>Immediate Outcome 1:</b> Strengthened country level mechanisms for EDC engagement	
<p>1.1 CSO-generated evidence on EDC country-level implementation</p> <p><i>Participation in the GPEDC Monitoring Reform.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Generated robust evidence on EDC country-level implementation in relation to COVID-19 response (Unplanned)</i></li> <li>• Advanced the importance of monitoring in the GPEDC Steering Committee, Action Areas, and other workstreams. CPDE positions were reflected across the agenda and outputs of these bodies.</li> <li>• Contributed to the preparation and conduct of the CPDE/EU Webinar on Monitoring on November 23, 2020.</li> </ul>
<p>1.2 CSO recommendations and submissions on development partners' national programmes</p> <p><i>National Dialogues with Country Development Partners.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Generated recommendations to development partners' national programmes in relation to COVID-19 response (Unplanned)</i></li> <li>• <i>Moved to 2021</i></li> </ul>
<p>1.3 Country CSO platforms for EDC</p> <p><i>Roll out of national campaigns on shrinking civic spaces.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Strengthened country CSO platforms in addressing Shrinking Civic Spaces in 10 countries (Planned); and in relation to COVID-19 response in 33 countries (Unplanned)</i></li> <li>• Conducted National Campaigns against Shrinking Civic Spaces in 10 countries in five regions</li> </ul>
<b>Immediate Outcome 2:</b> Reinforced application and recognition of CSO DE principles	
<p>2.1 Evidence base for CSO DE practice</p> <p><i>CSO Effectiveness Review.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Initial evidence base for CSO DE situation and practice in the context of COVID-19 pandemic (Unplanned)</i></li> <li>• <i>Moved to 2021</i></li> </ul>
<p>2.2 Global and country-level CSO and multi-stakeholder unities on CSO effectiveness and enabling environment</p> <p><i>Global Conference and national campaigns on CSO Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Advanced CSO and multi-stakeholder unities on CSO DE and EE thru GPEDC Action Area 2.4 and the Task Team on CSO DE and EE, in addressing Shrinking Civic Spaces in 10 countries (Planned) and in relation to COVID-19 response (Unplanned)</i></li> <li>• <i>Moved to 2021</i></li> </ul>

Targets	Actual Accomplishments
<i>Regional and sectoral CSO DE coordination work.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>African</b> region, the <b>Labour, Migrants, Indigenous Peoples, Faith-based, Feminist Group</b>, and <b>ICSOs</b> sectoral constituencies have conducted their review of their own effectiveness in the context of COVID-19.</li> <li>• The <b>Asia</b>, Middle East and North Africa (<b>MENA</b>), <b>Africa, Europe</b> regional constituencies, <b>ICSOs, FBOs, Labour</b> sectoral constituencies initiated and/or completed various studies, education, communications, and training related to EDC and COVID-19</li> <li>• Latin America and Caribbean (<b>LAC</b>) region, Feminist Groups (<b>FG</b>), <b>Rural, Migrants, Youth</b> conducted coordination meetings.</li> </ul>
<b>Immediate Outcome 3:</b> Increased awareness of development actors on EDC principles application in crisis situation	
<p>3.1 CSO consensus on policy positions and submissions related to EDC nexus issues</p> <p><i>Policy Research on the Effectiveness of Climate Finance.</i></p> <p><i>Policy Research on the Effectiveness of Humanitarian Aid.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Built consensus around policy positions and submissions in relation to COVID-19 and EDC (Unplanned)</i></li> <li>• <i>Moved to 2021</i></li> <li>• Allocated part of resources to a special CPDE report on the (in)effectiveness of COVID-19 response as the pandemic is a humanitarian issue/nexus issue. Five regional and six sectoral CPDE constituencies were involved in conducting 29 case studies spanning 33 countries. These studies were presented, discussed, and validated via regional and sectoral webinars and during the CPDE Policy Conference, all of which were conducted in late 2020. The global synthesis of data collated in 2020 was presented in a global webinar early 2021.</li> <li>• <i>Policy Research on Humanitarian Aid moved to 2021.</i></li> </ul>

## 1.2 Context of Implementation

### **General discussion of implementing context including any key factors affecting or having the potential to affect implementation**

The CPDE represents civil society in and co-steers the GPEDC in the context of Busan agreements and other relevant development cooperation commitments. It is widely considered as the apex network of civil society in the effectiveness agenda in important global policy arenas. Eight years since its establishment, CPDE continues to implement programmes<sup>1</sup> that

<sup>1</sup> See CPDE Programmes *Civil Society Continuing Campaign on Effective Development, 2014-2016*, *Sustaining Civil Society Advocacy for Effective Development Cooperation, 2017-2018*, and *Grounding Effective Development Cooperation and Partnerships in People's Realities and Realisation of their Rights, 2018-2019*.

sustain its advocacy on development effectiveness in development cooperation policy and practice along the lines of SDG 16 and 17.<sup>2</sup> In 2020, CPDE pursues its mandate with renewed vigour as it commences implementation of two new programmes, guided by its new [Strategic Plan: Leveraging Effective Development Cooperation for Inclusive Partnerships to Deliver the 2030 Agenda](#).

The spread of COVID-19 in late 2019 has affected the planned activities of the platform in 2020. The imposition of lockdowns and travel bans across the world entailed new ways of working for CSOs: meetings, workshops, and conferences were conducted mostly online, and most offices have closed from several weeks to months, prompting staff to work from home.

The setup made operations and processes more time-consuming, as tasks had to be accomplished virtually, and organisations needed time to adapt. On the other hand, it forced CPDE to maximise online platforms to coordinate, provide more visibility and create awareness, as well as gather feedback from CPDE constituencies.

The adaptation of working modalities due to the pandemic has been more successful in some processes than others. For example, the GPEDC, a much tighter network of practitioners, has been able to adapt relatively well, while the UN political processes have really struggled to fully adapt. CSO space at the institutional level has also suffered as they grappled with the new setup.

The pandemic has prompted the platform to address issues that affected its constituencies, members, and communities as COVID-19 spreads. A few weeks into COVID-19, CPDE conducted a survey to know how its communities were doing, how the pandemic affected its organisations, the nature of said impacts on their work, and the initiatives they have undertaken. The survey aimed to have a glimpse of the situation, to inform ways of responding to the crisis at the global level, as well as explore how CPDE can heighten solidarity actions among members. The results indicated that the pandemic is not only a health concern, but a socio-economic crisis where civil society can play an important role, especially when it comes to responding to the needs of the poor and marginalised. **Annex 2** presents the result of the survey.

CPDE released a statement in March 2020 to express solidarity with the poor and vulnerable communities in developed and developing countries, to salute the health workers and other frontliners who bravely continue to serve the people, and to point out that COVID-19 is a wake-up call to reverse inequality and a challenge to leave no one behind (**Annex 3**). In July 2020, CPDE released a framework paper (**Annex 4**) on why effectiveness matters in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, positing that the crisis exposed the flaws of the prevailing market-based approach to development, with deregulation and privatisation restricting the capacity of developing countries to respond). Then, from August to November 2020, the platform conducted a multi-stakeholder research on the effectiveness of the COVID-19 response. The results of the research were later published and presented in a multi-stakeholder webinar in the first quarter of 2021.

The pandemic likewise exacerbated the trend of shrinking civic space. CSOs continue to face challenges such as political repression through complex legal registration processes, national bank restrictions, tokenistic and/or clientele politics, violent dispersal of protesters, even violent

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<sup>2</sup> See CPDE EC Action *Enhancing Civil Society Role in Development Partnerships Post 2015, 2016-2018*.

execution and unjust persecution of human rights defenders<sup>3</sup>. The militaristic approach of many (developing) countries to pandemic response compounded these trends, prompting many members to call it out as a weaponisation of the pandemic.

Thus, the pandemic and its impact to already constricted civic space impacted on the implementation of several activities and consequently the achievement of programme initiatives to varying degrees (e.g. postponement of country work, global and regional meetings, policy researches, etc.). It has in many places made CSO work more difficult. CPDE, its constituencies, and partners adapted to new ways of working, which affected the accomplishment of our deliverables, and required adjustment of timelines and expectations regarding the form and content of engagements.

Adjustments in the workplan for 2021 are being made in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the ever-shrinking civic space. A number of activities scheduled in 2020 are being finalised and will be implemented from the first to second quarter of 2021 and will be part of the next report.

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<sup>3</sup> See CPDE, *From the Ground Up: Assessing Country Level Actions and Advocacies for Effective Development*, available here: <http://bit.ly/CPDE-FromTheGroundUp>

## 2.0 RESULTS AND IMPACT ACHIEVED

### 2.1 Strengthening Country-level Mechanisms for EDC Engagement

**Table 2. Summary of Results for Objective 1**

Objective: Strengthen country level mechanisms for EDC engagement	
Planned Activities	Actual Results
1.1 CSO generated evidence on EDC country level implementation used in advocacy	Consistently engaged in GPEDC's Steering Committee and action areas and utilised existing and new evidence to support positions.  Contributed to GPEDC meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● GPEDC Technical Workshop on 2020-2021 Work Program</li> <li>● 19th and 20th GPEDC Steering Committee Meetings</li> <li>● GPEDC Webinar on Country Challenges</li> <li>● Consultation on GPEDC Monitoring</li> </ul>
1.2 Country CSO platforms for EDC	Conducted 10 country actions for the CPDE National Campaigns on Shrinking Civic Spaces 2020.

These results and impact and outputs are discussed in greater detail in the succeeding portion, which also briefly describes the key activities that underlie abovementioned accomplishments in 12 months.

#### A. Country Evidence-based advocacy

**Participation in the GPEDC Monitoring Reform.** CPDE sees the GPEDC monitoring as an invaluable tool to promote accountability of actors to the EDC commitments made against the country-level implementation. CPDE sustained its engagement in the reform of the GPEDC monitoring framework scheduled in 2021. The platform was involved in the GPEDC Technical Workshop on 2020-2021 Work Program on March 17-20, 2020, the 19th GPEDC Steering Committee Meeting on May 11 to 12, 2020, the GPEDC Webinar on Country Challenges on October 22, 2020, the Consultation on GPEDC Monitoring on November 9, 2020, where CPDE positions were taken into account to shape and strengthen the GPEDC monitoring revision, and the 20th GPEDC Steering Committee Meeting on December 9 to 10, 2020 where CPDE positions were reflected across the meeting agenda and outcomes. CPDE engaged in these meetings actively through its representatives in the Committee and documents informing this engagement are in **Annex 5** including the CPDE's contribution to GPEDC Perspectives Paper and CPDE Room Document.

There is strong interest among CSOs on the GPEDC monitoring work as exhibited during the CPDE/EU Webinar on Monitoring on November 23, 2020. The event established a formula for collaboration across constituencies.

## B. Country CSO Platforms for EDC

***Rollout of national campaigns on shrinking civic spaces.*** To sustain the awareness of different actors at national and global levels on challenges faced by CSOs and continue to encourage action to reverse the trend of shrinking civic spaces, CPDE launched the National Campaigns Against Shrinking Civic Spaces in the last quarter of 2020. This is a follow-up work on the CPDE Global Day of Action 2019. Ten country actions were chosen whose activities have been scheduled to be implemented from December 2020 to the first quarter of March 2021. The 10 country actions supported are Gabon, Malawi, and Nigeria in the AFRICA region, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, and the Philippines in the ASIA region, Armenia in the EUROPE region, Jordan and Lebanon in the Middle East and North Africa Region (MENA), and Mexico in the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region. The regional constituencies have assisted the Global Secretariat in the selection of the 10 countries.

The Campaigns highlight CSO efforts in reversing the trend of shrinking civic spaces by targeting donor and recipient governments, multilateral organisations, private sector, media, or various citizen groups through activities, tactics, and tools such as exhibit stands, web updates, social media updates, blogs/op-ed pieces, IEC materials (i.e. infographics, videos, photos), among others.

The results of the Campaigns include (i) monitoring the status of implementing the international commitments to provide CSO enabling environment; (ii) increasing awareness of different citizen groups on the need to reverse the trend of shrinking civic space; and (iii) engaging relevant national agencies to address gaps in EDC implementation. The description of the planned activities of the country actions are in **Annex 6**. The results of these campaigns will be reported in the succeeding period.

## 2.2 Reinforcing application and recognition of CSO DE principles

**Table 3. Summary of Results for Objective 2**

Objective: Reinforce application and recognition of CSO Development Effectiveness (DE) principles	
Planned Activities	Actual Results
2.1 Global and country-level CSO and multi-stakeholder unities on CSO effectiveness and enabling environment	Regions and sectors started doing their work on reviewing their DE. To date, the African region, the Labour, Migrants, Faith-based, Women and Feminist, and ICOSOs constituencies have completed their review of their own effectiveness in the context of Covid.  Advanced unities on CSO DE and EE in the Task Team on CSO DE and EE and in the GPEDC Action Area 2.4

Providing further details on the results and impact achieved and outputs produced as summarised above, the next portion briefly describes the activities instrumental to the accomplishments in 12 months.

### A. Global and country-level CSO and multi-stakeholder unities on CSO effectiveness and enabling environment

**Regional and sectoral CSO DE coordination work.** Regions and sectors have started their work on reviewing their DE. To date, the African region, the Labour, Migrants, Faith-based, Women and Feminist, and ICOSOs constituencies have completed their review of their own effectiveness in the context of Covid. The ICOSOs presented their output as part of their segment in the COVID-19 Global Webinar in March 2021. The compiled constituency reports are attached as **Annex 7**.

The **Asia** Region is conducting a policy research on the triple nexus (humanitarian-development-peace) approach jointly with the Working Group on Conflict and Fragility (**WG C&F**). This aims to advance the analysis and importance of development effectiveness (DE) principles in conflict-affected areas and fragile states. Six contributors will lead the case studies in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Guatemala, Lake Chad, Congo, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe. It will be launched in a multi-stakeholder dialogue set for midyear of 2021. Its findings will inform the engagements of CPDE, the Reality of Aid (RoA), and the DAC-CSO Technical Working Group (TWG) on Peace and Security, among other policy arenas.

The **MENA** regional study on ODA and donors' role in conflict situations will look into current aid allocated to areas in conflict, assess them based on the DE principles and propose recommendations for donors, governments, and CSOs. The participatory process among members strengthens ownership to use this research in advocacy engagements at the national, regional and international platforms. This is set for completion by midyear, and the campaign activity has also been carried over to 2021.

The **Africa** Region is conducting country studies to assess the awareness, policy, and practice in the implementation of DE principles in Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zambia. Its findings shall inform the 2021 country initiatives and will include recommendations for CSO engagements with governments and multi-stakeholder actions to ensure the domestication, adoption, and implementation of the Istanbul principles.

The **Europe** Region has been monitoring and documenting the remarkable CSO achievements in times of Covid crisis and has compiled a collection of good practices in promoting dynamic accountability. Preparations are also ongoing for the workshop on developing the capacity of the Black Sea NGO Forum (WG on Sustainability and Resilience) in implementing the CSO DE principles. Both activities are set for completion by midyear, and the Black Sea CSO DE research is also carried over to 2021.

The **LAC** Region strengthened its DE work by consolidating its members with at least six coordination meetings held. Three sub-regional webinars on the Istanbul Principles were participated in by 43 member organisations from CAMEX, Southern Cone, and the Andean, with the theme “Life at the Centre: Visioning Development in the Context of the Pandemic”. Also ongoing are 13 national case studies and the regional scoping paper. Both are set for completion by midyear 2021.

The **FBO** Sector convened the Africa Inter-Faith Leaders Initiative on the Agenda 2030 to train representatives of communications and youth ministries on the application of DE Principles to “build back better” from COVID-19. It was an eye-opener for most, especially on how the FBO constituency can actively partake in SDGs forums, VNRs, and collaborate with other development actors. The open letter and video produced are attached as **Annex 8**. The “We Have Faith” web app development is set for completion by midyear, and the MENA and LAC regional activities are also carried over to 2021.

The **FG** Sector held at least three constituency meetings in preparation for a series of five webinars in English, Russian, Spanish, and French languages. These were participated in by 188 representatives from 43 countries in Asia, Europe, Eurasia, Africa, and the LAC regions. It increased the awareness and capacity among women’s rights organisations as regards recognition and application of DE principles. It also contributed to promoting CPDE advocacy work on enabling environment of women and feminist groups. The draft training manual, attached as **Annex 9**, is set for completion by midyear 2021.

The **ICSOs** Sector led the webinar titled “Towards a convincing evidence base to enhance effective development cooperation” co-organised by CPDE and the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (EC DG DEVCO), with more details on this in the preceding section on engaging the GPEDC Monitoring. A blog post presenting comments on the EU report on the implementation of the effectiveness principles was also released. The ICSO report, attached as **Annex 10**, features an assessment of enablers and impediments to CSO DE and global pandemic response, is near completion and set for release before midyear 2021.

The **IP** Sector conducted constituency meetings and an initial research into the current situation of IP amid the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts on lives and rights. It featured IP communities from Canada, Assam, and Manipur in India, Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, Philippines, Sarawak, West Papua, Brazil, Ecuador, and Uganda. This report entitled “Weaponising Pandemic against Indigenous Peoples: Continuing Plunder and Rights Violations” is attached as **Annex 11**. It provided a mapping of the general situation

and challenges created by government-imposed restrictions and lockdowns to IP communities and their ways of living.

The **Labour** Sector conducted a research on Latin American governments' responses to the COVID-19 crisis in line with the Agenda 2030, particularly SDG8 on decent work and economic growth. Titled "SDGs for recovery and resilience: Case studies from Argentina, Chile and Colombia," the report is attached as **Annex 12**. Its findings put forward concrete policy recommendations and contribute to increasing engagement of trade unions with development partners, country governments and international institutions on building an SDG-centred recovery and resilience.

The **Migrants** Sector conducted coordination meetings to unite on challenges exacerbated by the pandemic. Seven country consultations with 103 participants enabled the drafting of national advocacy agenda for Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Japan, South Korea, and Kenya. Three regional dialogues were also held for Asia, Pacific and Africa with 85 participants from migrants/diaspora CSOs and advocates, representatives from UN Network on Migration, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), and government officials. These enabled the review and promotion of analysis on the Global Compacts from the DE lens as presented in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) side event online forum, and the Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (APRCM) council meeting. The compiled reports are attached as **Annex 13**.

The **Rural** Sector conducted its global council meeting and regional consultations in Asia, Africa, MENA/WANA, and LAC on the impacts of COVID-19 on food sovereignty and the application of EDC principles in pandemic response. A roundtable discussion with Labor groups and a global webinar in time for the National Farmers Day were also held. The compiled reports are attached as **Annex 14**. Altogether, these webinar and online forums were attended by at least 329 participants from (Asia) India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, (Africa) Togo, Uganda, Zambia, (MENA/WANA) Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Qatar, (LAC) Bolivia, Guatemala, Brazil, Colombia, Argentina, and (Europe) Luxembourg. Rural leaders also provided key contributions in drafting the report of the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSM) of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and initiating a sign on statement for the UN Food Systems Summit (UN FSS). Throughout the year, the campaign for the #HelpUsFeedYou and Nine Demands for Food and Rights were promoted, attached as **Annex 15**.

The **Youth** Sector conducted research on the application of EDC principles in national and sectoral strategies and policies for COVID-19 response, with an emphasis on analysing the impacts on and implications for youth organisations. This was presented in a global webinar with participants from (LAC) Colombia, El Salvador, Paraguay, (MENA) Egypt, Lebanon, (Africa) Cameroon, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Tanzania, Comoros, Namibia, South Africa, (Asia) Manipur, Afghanistan, and (Europe) Bulgaria. The compiled findings are attached as **Annex 16**, which were incorporated into the global Covid Response report. The whole process has allowed the youth organisations to engage in dialogue with other stakeholders, including local, national, and regional government representatives.

**Organised Engagement of the Task Team on CSO DE and EE.** The Task Team conducted 2 virtual meetings in 2020 on 11 to 12 May and 23 to 24 November. Prior to these meetings, CPDE facilitated CSO stakeholder group preparatory meetings to ensure that the civil society delegates reach consensus on particular points to be forwarded to the

other stakeholder groups (development partners and partner countries) and the Task Team platform.

In the May meeting, the CPDE delegates called on the Task Team to urge the international community to uphold human rights and the international commitments, and ensure that civil society can remain an important part of the response to this crisis. After the meeting, the Task Team released a concluding statement that states: “*the Task Team urges all stakeholders to work together to mitigate the pandemic and calls for continued efforts of the international community to uphold their commitments to provide a CSO enabling environment and ensure CSO development effectiveness, in order to facilitate CSOs’ vital contribution to the Covid-19 response.*”

In the November meeting, the highlight was a discussion on the mid-term review of the Task Team. The key position of CPDE in this session is the affirmation of the importance of the Task Team as a space where important conversations related to CSO DE and EE happen among the represented stakeholder groups. Inputs of stakeholders were incorporated in the final report of the midterm review.

CSO delegates were also able to contribute to the Task Team work in between meetings. There are CSO members in the reference groups of the Task Team country workshops and Task Team studies. CPDE also contributed to the digitalisation initiative. An example would be its [video contribution to the Online Guidance Module 3](#) prepared in December 2020 and released March 2021.

**Participation in multiple GPEDC Workstreams/Action Area 2.4 Meetings.** CPDE is considered as one of the leads in this Action Area. The multiple workstream meetings in 2020 participated in by CPDE has framed the discussions and conceptualisation of Action Area 2.4: Civil Society Partnerships, which is part of Strategic Priority 2: Building better partnerships, of the GPEDC’s Work Programme. CPDE provided substantial input in the development of the Concept Note and workplan of the Action Area, pushing the importance of human rights-based approach as an overarching principle for the Action Area.

During the 29 June 2020 meeting, it was discussed that the activities included in the work plan proposed by CPDE to Workstream 2.4 are considered Level 1 activities, as those would be conducted by only one member of the Workstream within their memberships. At the end of this discussion, it was agreed that Workstream members will keep one another informed of country-level activities they plan to undertake to explore possible coordination and collaboration. Workstream 2.4 members are enjoined to complement to result in Level 2 joint action activities. Level 3 activities are collective actions brought together by all members.

## 2.3 Increasing awareness of development actors on EDC principles in crisis situation

**Table 4. Summary of Results for Objective 3**

Objective: Increase awareness of development actors on EDC principles application in crisis situation	
Planned Activities	Actual Results
3.1 CSO consensus on policy positions and submissions related to EDC nexus issues	Five regional and six sectoral CPDE constituencies conducted 29 case studies spanning 33 countries from August to November 2020. These studies were initially presented, discussed, and validated via regional and sectoral webinars in late 2020 and the CPDE 2020 Policy Conference on 28 October 2020.

The next portion elaborates on the results and impact achieved and outputs produced, and briefly describes the activities that were key to the aforementioned accomplishments in 12 months.

**Research Study on Evidencing Effectiveness in COVID-19 Response.** CPDE prepared a special CPDE report on the (in)effectiveness of COVID-19 response as part of the platform’s commitment to work for EDC and contribute to the attainment of the SDGs, published 31 March 2021. It aimed to capture the application of effective development cooperation principles in national and sectoral strategies and policies for COVID-19 response. The Research is part of the Project’s activities on policy development on nexus issues, particularly on conflict and fragility.

Five regional and six sectoral CPDE constituencies conducted 29 case studies spanning 33 countries from August to November 2020. These studies were initially presented, discussed, and validated via regional and sectoral webinars in late 2020 and during the CPDE 2020 Policy Conference on 28 October 2020. The constituencies that participated were: Regions (Africa, Asia, Europe, LAC, and MENA) and Sectors (Feminist Groups, Faith-Based Organisations, Indigenous Peoples, Migrants and Diaspora, Rural, and Youth). **Annex 17** presents the list of countries where the initiatives were conducted.

On 30 June 2020, a webinar was conducted for CPDE members to discuss why effectiveness matters in the time of COVID-19. Later, CPDE released its framework paper, *Why Effectiveness Matters in the Response to COVID-19*.

Coordination and implementation of the COVID-19 research and webinar including meeting up with constituencies and communicating regarding their various concerns and drafting of MOUs were a big part of the activities of CPDE from early to mid-2020, as its members grappled with the complications brought about by the pandemic on their plans and priorities.

## 2.4 Managing the Platform and Overall Operations

The work in managing the platform refers to the overall coordination, communication, and follow-up of the evaluation results. It is primarily facilitated by the Global Secretariat with the support of the Co-Chairs and IBON International, which acts as the financial management organisation (FMO) of CPDE. The activities and outputs produced in relation to each area of work are described in detail below.

### A. Platform Coordination

**CPDE 17<sup>th</sup> Coordination Committee (CC) Meeting.** The 17th CC Meeting was held in May 2020 virtually for the first time. Its actions points included the finalisation of the advocacy strategy paper, finalisation of the decentralisation strategy, pursuit of the development of engagement strategy document on engagement with the Task Team on CSO DE and EE, and revisiting need for developing CPDE position paper on Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD). **Annex 18** presents the Summary of Proceedings and Summary of Agreements and Action Points of the meeting.

**CPDE 18<sup>th</sup> CC Meeting.** The 18th CC Meeting was held in September 2020. Its general objectives were: to set policy directions, unite on the programme imperatives for 2020, settle organisational structure and leadership issues, and prepare for the Global Council meeting. The CC Meeting agreements and other related documents can be found in **Annex 19**.

**CPDE 7th Global Council (to be renamed as Global Assembly) Meeting.** The 7th Global Assembly meeting was held in October 2020, also virtually. Its objectives were to update the Global Council members on the state of the platform, discuss the Finalisation Process of Conference Declaration, present the CPDE Strategic Advocacy Priorities, approve the 2020-2023 CPDE Strategic Plan, approve the Bye-Laws' Amendments, and approve the 1-year extension of current CPDE Co-Chairs' term. The GC meeting's summary proceedings and summary of agreement and action points are in **Annex 20**.

**CPDE Policy Conference.** CPDE organised a Policy Conference on CSOs for Using Effective Development Cooperation Principles in Response to COVID-19 in October 2020 and brought together recent work and analysis on the research being conducted by CPDE constituencies on the effectiveness of Covid-19 responses by governments and development partners. The virtual conference provided a space for a synthesis of this analysis to be discussed as well as presentations from regions on how COVID impacts on CSOs' work. It produced the CPDE Policy Conference Declaration on Development effectiveness for a sustainable response to COVID-19 (see **Annex 21**).

### B. External Communications

**Website overhaul and mail server migration.** Following the recommendations from the Independent Accountability Committee (IAC), CPDE continued to overhaul the design of its website, to enhance the navigation, accessibility, and user interface of the website. Significant advances were made in rebranding efforts to reflect our commitment to grounding our advocacy in the realities of our members and making our materials accessible to our audience. The mail server migration has been completed. This is to facilitate communication within CPDE and its various levels of coordination.

**Development of IEC Materials.** The CPDE Communications unit supported the advocacy engagements of the platform with the production of information and education materials. These materials helped inform members and the general public on the CSO positions and aimed to raise awareness on specific thematic issues that the activities focused on. The list of communication materials produced is in **Annex 22**. These outputs are shared through the various CPDE social media channels in order to expand the reach of communicating the advocacy messages of the platform. Print materials such as brochures, key messages, FAQs, and researches were also produced and disseminated in conferences and meetings where CPDE members participated. CPDE tries to produce its knowledge products and materials in at least three languages, English, French, and Spanish.

The communication materials produced need to reach more of CPDE's targets. Distribution processes need to be formally documented and improved. There is a need to develop metrics to measure the actual impact of CPDE materials.

## 3.0 PLANNED RESULTS NOT ACHIEVED

*Planned results not achieved; section describes why they were not yet achieved and how the challenges encountered were addressed.*

The spread of COVID-19 affected the planned activities of the platform in 2020. The imposition of lockdowns and travel bans across the world entailed new ways of working for CSOs, which made the process for doing things more time-consuming as organisations needed time to adapt to the virtual mode of operating. These are the activities and initiatives planned in 2020 that were met with challenges and were rescheduled to be completed by 2021.

***Support for GPEDC Non-Executive Co-Chair (NECC) and Toolkit Guide to CSO Effectiveness Review.*** Following the resolution from the Global Assembly to merge the Working Groups on CSO DE and EE, subsequent planning and fiscal sponsorship by the Reality of Aid - Africa as lead was processed towards the end of 2020. Thus, the support for the NECC and CSO Effectiveness Review Toolkit was carried over to 2021.

***CPDE Guide for Dialogue with Development Partners and Donors and CPDE Guides for Network Management and Project Management.*** The outlines for the guides have been developed and the guides are expected to be finalised by first to second quarter of 2021. The delay was partly due to the focus on COVID-19-related initiatives and the unavailability of consultants to be contracted for the preparation of the material.

***Global Conference on Shrinking Civic Spaces.*** The work on CSO DE and EE will culminate in an online global conference to jumpstart the process preparations for HLM 2022. This global conference will also be an opportunity to highlight and fortify the collaboration with different platforms promoting different frameworks and tools on CSO effectiveness and accountability. The activity will be led by the Working Group on DE and EE through ROA Africa.

***Contracting of the Pacific Region.*** The Pacific regional DE work and the global policy research on Climate Finance is carried over to 2021. The Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO) was supposed to lead this initiative. However, the fiscal sponsorship process for the implementing partner is yet to be resolved for the region. Meanwhile, IBON International has taken the lead in the conduct of the global policy research and steering the Climate Finance Task Force.

## 4.0 UNPLANNED RESULTS

As briefly outlined in Section 1 of this report, the following are unplanned results:

**Table 5. Summary of Unplanned Results**

Targets	Unplanned Results
<b>Immediate Outcome 1:</b> Strengthened country level mechanisms for EDC engagement	
1.1 CSO-generated evidence on EDC country level implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generated robust evidence on EDC country-level implementation in relation to COVID-19 response</li> </ul>
1.2 CSO recommendations and submissions on development partners' national programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generated recommendations to development partners' national programmes in relation to COVID-19 response</li> </ul>
1.3 Country CSO platforms for EDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthened country CSO platforms in relation to COVID-19 response in 33 countries</li> </ul>
<b>Immediate Outcome 2:</b> Reinforced application and recognition of CSO DE principles	
2.1 Evidence base for CSO DE practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial evidence base for CSO DE situation and practice in the context of COVID-19 pandemic (Unplanned)</li> </ul>
2.2 Global and country-level CSO and multi-stakeholder unities on CSO effectiveness and enabling environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advanced CSO and multi-stakeholder unities on CSO DE and EE in relation to COVID-19 response</li> </ul>
<b>Immediate Outcome 3:</b> Increased awareness of development actors on EDC principles application in crisis situation	
3.1 CSO consensus on policy positions and submissions related to EDC nexus issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Built consensus around policy positions and submissions in relation to COVID-19 and EDC (Unplanned)</li> </ul>

The unplanned result for this year was generated largely through the extensive work on COVID-19. The allocation for the Global Policy Research on Conflict and the Effectiveness of Humanitarian Aid was split into two to conduct the research and address the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Research Study on Evidencing Effectiveness in COVID-19 Response.** CPDE conducted a Research Study on Evidencing Effectiveness in Covid-19 Response to capture the application of effective development cooperation principles in national and sectoral strategies and policies

for COVID-19 response from August to November 2020. These 29 studies were prepared by 30 countries and were initially presented, discussed, and validated via regional and sectoral webinars in late 2020. A webinar entitled, "World in Lockdown, Development on Hold: A special CPDE report on the (in)effectiveness of COVID-19 response" was conducted on 31 March 2021 which also featured the launch of the report response as part of the platform's commitment to work for EDC and contribute to the attainment of the SDGs. Joining CPDE in the webinar were Dr. Mike Ryan of the World Health Organization (WHO), Gabriella Fesus of the European Commission, Ulrika Modeer of United Nations Development Programme - UNDP, Helen Holm of Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Beverly Longid, CPDE Co-Chair, Josefina Villegas of the CPDE Youth Sector, Monica Asuna of the Kenyan Government, and independent researcher for the CPDE International CSOs sector Catherine Turner. The webinar was moderated by Mr. Justin Kilcullen, CPDE Co-Chair. **Annex 23** presents the publication. The webinar proceedings will be reported in full in the next report.

***Webinar on Why Effectiveness Matters in the Response to COVID-19.*** A webinar was conducted for CPDE members to discuss why effectiveness matters in the time of Covid-19 on 30 June 2020. Later, CPDE released its framework paper, *Why Effectiveness Matters in the Response to COVID-19*. **Annex 24** contains all related documents on the webinar including the agenda, list of attendees, presentations, and communication products.

The pandemic has also prompted the platform to implement initiatives to address the issues that affect its constituencies, members, and communities as COVID-19 spreads. These included (i) a survey to know how its communities were doing and how the pandemic affected its organisations; and (ii) communication products such as the statement released in March 2020 to point out that Covid-19 is a wake-up call to reverse inequality and a challenge to leave no one behind and the framework paper mentioned above, among others.

## 5.0 CONCLUDING REMARKS

The pandemic and shrinking civic space affected the implementation of activities and, consequently, the achievement of programme initiatives to varying degrees. In most cases, these two have made the work of CSOs more difficult. CPDE adopted new ways of working and reviewed prioritisation of initiatives to situate its mandate within the drastically evolving and challenging context.

On one hand, doing so meant acceptance of some slippage in the delivery of planned outputs for the year. On the other hand, this has reinvigorated engagement of constituencies to the agenda as well as paved the way for some of the most powerful policy messaging of the platform since its inception. In the end, while the results of the programme may not be as originally intended, it is certainly more grounded in the realities faced by CPDE's constituencies. Arguably, this achievement is more important than implementing the original plan on time.

In the face of the pandemic and shrinking civic space, CPDE not only exhibited agility in adjusting its operations (a no mean feat for a global platform). More importantly, we highlighted the importance and relevance, perhaps now more than ever, of effective development cooperation.