

Mapping the Global Partnership for Development: Country-level mappings of global issues, external policies and country contexts

A DFID-ODI-UNDP initiative

Introduction

A country's development prospects depend in large part on its climate and physical geography, its resource endowments, the policy choices it makes, and its institutional capacities and governance. But in a globalizing world, a country's development prospects are shaped increasingly by a number of global issues such as trade, migration and climate change that are driven and governed in part by the policies and actions of players situated outside that country's borders.

If developing countries are to make faster progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable human development more broadly, they need to respond effectively to the challenges and opportunities that globalization presents. And developed countries need to ensure – in-line with their commitments to build a global partnership for development – that their policies on a range of global issues, including those which go “beyond aid”, are coherent and supportive of development, and allow developing countries the policy space they need to respond to the global issues that they face.

What is the aim of this initiative?

The specific aim of the initiative is to design and pilot a tool to systematically map the ways in which a range of global issues impact on poverty, in particular country contexts. The tool will be used to generate evidence to support pro-poor policy-making on global issues, both in developing and more developed countries.

A country-level mapping will capture information about the global issues that matter for a particular country and about how those issues play out in the context of that country. The mapping will consider a number of issues in the round, mirroring the challenge faced by policy-makers in developing (and developed) countries.

Who might use a country-level mapping and for what?

The evidence generated through these country-level mappings will be used to stimulate discussion in relation to two broad questions:

- How might particular developing countries respond to the global issues that matter for them, including through their participation in regional and multilateral fora?
- What might policy-makers, particularly in the developed world, do, both to support particular countries' responses to global issues, and to make their own policies on a particular global issue more “development-friendly”?

The primary users of the evidence generated will be stakeholders in the developing country in question. Government policy-makers might use such evidence to make decisions about what policies to put in place to respond to the global issues that matter for their country. For instance, a mapping might provide evidence that the loss of nurses to the developed world is having a major impact on a country's ability to deliver basic health services and that this is not compensated by remittances and other positive impacts, leading the government to take steps to stem the flow. Beyond government policy-makers, Civil Society Organisations might use the evidence generated by a country-level mapping to inform their domestic and international policy advocacy.

Policy-makers in developed countries might also use the evidence generated by country-level mappings to inform their bilateral relations with, and the support they provide to, particular developing countries. For example, can the UK Government's policy and practice in relation to trade, or to arms exports to the country in question, be made more sensitive to development concerns; and, is a particular form of support needed to enable a developing country partner to respond more effectively to the challenges of climate change?

Finally, once a number of country-level mappings have been completed, the evidence generated might be used to inform policy discussions in developed countries and at a global level about what constitutes “development-friendly” policy in relation to a number of global issues.

What will a country-level mapping look like and what will it entail?

The output from a country-level mapping will be a concise report of no more than 30 pages, comprised of three major elements: a short profile of the country in terms of its economic, political, social, and environmental context; an assessment of the impact of the country's engagement with a range of global issues; and, an analysis of the possible implications for domestic and international policy.

Each country-level mapping will provide quantitative and qualitative information about the impacts in a particular country of a number of global issues. The qualitative data will deliver rich and detailed analytical accounts. The quantitative data will enable some cross-issue and cross-country comparison, and track the compliance of external actors with their international commitments.

Guided by templates that set out our understanding of the ways in which each global issue impacts on development, and that suggest indicators and data sources, the research process will involve collecting information about four linked components:




- Component 1 – Global issues and their associated flows: Identifying the most important global issues and the cross-border flows associated with the issue and their importance for the country in question. To take migration for instance, this might entail teasing out three flows relating to migration – emigration, immigration and return migration, and remittances – and assessing their importance relative to the size of the country's population or economy.
- Component 2 – External policies and actions: Looking upstream to identify the policies and actions of external actors which may be expected to shape the size (quantity) and nature (quality) of the flows associated with the specific global issue. For investment this might include policies to promote investment (quantity) and to regulate the social impact of any investment (quality).
- Component 3 – Country context: Looking downstream to identify the ways in which various aspects of country context mediate the impact of the global issue and its associated flows. This includes both the relatively static aspects of country context such as a country's physical geography and environment, and those aspects of country context such as policies and institutions which governments can – if they have sufficient policy space – shape in order to better respond to the opportunities and challenges presented by the global issues.
- Component 4 – Impacts: Looking further downstream to identify the impacts of the global issue and its associated flows. This will entail looking for both macro-level impacts on GDP, employment and trade, and micro-level impacts on the behaviour and welfare of particular groups of people.

What are the next steps and what is the timetable?

In the next phase of the initiative, the methodology will be piloted in three countries. In the pre-country preparation phase, basic information about the country will be collected, along with basic information about the ways in which a number of global issues play out in the country concerned. During the in-country research phase, ODI and UNDP will work with carefully selected Country Research Teams to systematically gather additional evidence about the impacts of a range of global issues. This will be done through a series of participatory research workshops and meetings with stakeholders and experts, and further data collection guided by our templates about how each global issue impacts on poverty.

Once the pilot studies have been completed, the three country-level mappings will be brought together, first to encourage south-south learning, second to produce a synthesis report including policy recommendations for external actors, and third to reflect on, revise and improve the mapping tool. Country case studies will begin in Spring 2008 with the initiative concluding by the end of 2008.

For updates see www.odi.org.uk/country_mappings

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