## EU Joint Programming Guidance Pack

# 1. QUICK GUIDE

## What is Joint Programming?

- Joint programming means the **joint planning of development cooperation**[1] by the EU development partners working in a partner country. It includes a joint analysis of the country situation followed by a joint response setting out how EU development partners will provide support and measure progress. Joint analysis and joint response together are hereinafter called 'joint strategy'.[2]

- In Joint Programming, EU development partners develop together a **joint strategy** which responds to the partner country's national development plan and sets out the overall rationale and direction for their support. It also coordinates which sectors/areas each of them will work in, what the overall objectives for these sectors are, and gives provisional figures for their financing over the joint strategy period. The individual more detailed objectives, projects and programmes that each EU development partner will carry out in order to implement their contribution to the joint strategy are detailed in their own in-house programming and implementation plans.

- The timing of the joint strategy is **synchronised** to match the timing of the partner country's national plan so that EU development partners are planning and implementing at the same time and for the same period as the government and can therefore be more responsive to national needs.

- The joint strategy is developed at the **partner country level** by the EU Delegation, other EU Institutions field offices and EU Member States' staff to ensure that it provides the best possible response to the situation on the ground. This also allows close cooperation with the government, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders.

- **Non-EU development partners** who share the principles of joint programming are welcome to sign up to the strategy too. They will therefore need to agree to a division of labour, to synchronise their programming cycle if possible, and to provide indicative financial commitments for their support to each sector they will work in.

## Why is it a good idea?

- **Alignment** and national **ownership** could improve as the partner country government sets its strategy, and in response the EU development partners lay out their support for it, at the same time and for the same period. **Predictability** and **transparency** will increase as EU development partners plan together, setting out what overall objectives and sectors they are going to support in a single document.

- Joint Programming will lower **transaction costs** for government as they have only one country analysis and response strategy to deal with for all EU development partners. The strategy includes a clear and coherent division of labour across sectors and the timing is aligned to the national plan and its results framework.

[1] Bilateral government to government development cooperation, if possible also regional and thematic funds

[2] See EU Common Position for the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Busan, 29 November – 1 December 2011) - Council Conclusions https://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/126060.pdf

- There will be less aid fragmentation as EU development partners plan together, cutting out **gaps** and **overlaps**. This allows each to focus on the sectors where they can add the most value while ensuring that all bases are covered under the joint strategy.

- **Joint Programming can make Europe happen on the ground**, translating shared European values and policies on issues such as fundamental rights and good governance into coherent, targeted action in partner countries.

- We can expect higher **impact** aid and better **value for money** as EU development partners combine their resources. As together they make up more than half of official development aid funding (ODA) worldwide, this new approach is going to make a real **difference to global aid effectiveness**, improving how tens of billions of euros are spent each year.

- Joint Programming can help to **raise public image and accountability** of development aid among EU national constituencies.

- There will be more opportunities for **joint initiatives** on the ground, as EU development partners are planning at the same time and for the same period, and subsequent savings in terms of economies of scale and reduced overhead costs.

- EU development partners can show **more coherence** vis-à-vis government and other players as they work together and speak with a common voice, backed by a single EU strategy with a large overall funding envelope behind it.

- There should be more **visibility** for EU Development Partners support as a whole, with a single "EU brand" of high quality aid, plus more visibility for each participating Development Partners as they are associated with everything done under the joint response strategy. In addition, each Development Partner will still have their agency's recognition on the projects and programmes they are implementing.

- There should be **less domestic pressure** on each DP to tackle all of the sectors and issues in a given country that are in need of attention – they can now instead credibly demonstrate that they are part and parcel of a coherent Joint Programming which, through a division of labour, ensures that all relevant sectors and issues are being covered.

## What have we promised to do?

- The EU's **Lisbon Treaty** of 2009 promised more joint working and "whole of Europe" approaches, including on development policy. Joint programming is one of the key aid effectiveness commitments of EU development partners and features in the "**Agenda for Change**", the overall EU development policy agreed by EU Ministers in 2012. It is also committed to by all development partners in the current global aid and development effectiveness compact, **the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation**.

## How are we doing so far?

- Joint programming is currently **planned in 50 partner countries** across the world including more than 20 fragile states. In around 20 of these countries the process has already started. Please check here a detailed overview[3] on JP, country by country. You can find more background info on Joint Programming on http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/joint-programming/ .

[3] http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/joint-programming/minisite/country-cases/joint-programming-tracker .