

Asian Regional Forum on Aid Effectiveness



Group 1
Ownership

Purpose and structure of session

□ Purpose:

- Identify useful lessons for future action

□ Structure:

- Overview of thematic study
- Partner country perspectives
- Open discussion
- Conclusion – agree outputs from session

Outline: overview of thematic study

- What do we mean by 'ownership'?
- The country studies
- Broad conclusions
- Useful lessons for future action

Paris Definition - Ownership

“Partner countries exercise effective leadership over their development policies, and strategies and co-ordinate development actions”

‘Ownership’ within Paris Declaration

- ❑ Foundation stone of the Paris Declaration
- ❑ Paradigm shift in aid delivery
- ❑ Places primary responsibility on partner countries
- ❑ Places donors in a supportive role

Paris commitments on ownership

□ Partner countries:

- national development strategies, linked to budgets and results-oriented programmes
- coordinate aid and development dialogue

□ Donors:

- Respect country leadership
- Strengthen capacity

□ Alignment

- donors align with partner strategies and programmes
- donors use strengthened country systems

What are Programme Based Approaches (PBAs)?

- Paris target: 66% of aid flows
- Core principles
 - Country leadership
 - Single programming and budget framework
 - Progressive donor harmonisation
 - Increasing use of country systems
- Improved sectoral strategies and closer donor alignment develop in parallel

Three case studies

1. Vietnam: the Poverty Reduction Support Credit
2. India: the primary education SWAp
3. Pakistan: sectoral budget support for devolved social service delivery

Key conclusions

- Government stakeholders say that PBAs help strengthen policy dialogue
 - Vietnam: one platform for dialogue
 - India: donors provide critical feedback on policy
 - Pakistan: dialogue more open and direct
- PBAs are successful when they are flexible to different funding modalities
- The implementation of PBAs requires a long term approach
- PBAs do not reduce transaction costs in the short-medium term

Lessons for taking forward Paris

- ❑ Country partners determine the pace of change
- ❑ Supporting ownership requires capacity development in both policy and budgeting
- ❑ Supporting ownership requires support to coalitions for reform (including civil society)
- ❑ PBAs are effective in taking forward Paris – but need to be monitored closely to respond to challenges and opportunities

Lessons for taking forward Paris

- ❑ Unified policy dialogue at national and sector levels can improve quality
- ❑ Improving aid effectiveness requires donors and partners to align at national and sector levels
- ❑ Donors and partners should work to systems (not just policy) alignment
- ❑ Displacing country capacity with foreign expertise undermines ownership
- ❑ Demand-driven technical assistance, linked to policy, is more successful