

Who Benefits from Aid: Aid Effectiveness in Rwanda



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The government has taken strong ownership of development support, skilfully taking up DAC DP's rhetoric to exert leverage and bring its negotiating capital into play. It is one of two countries to be awarded an "A" grade in the OECD evaluation of the implementation of the Paris Agenda.

However, challenges remain and some ODAs and all other DPs are failing to fully engage with the aid effectiveness agenda.

There is, however, evidence that DPs do give assistance in line with EDPRS priorities even if the assistance is not always provided in the way the government would prefer. Given the strong relationship between the government and the major DPs it is not easy to determine what benefits aid is bringing independently of the development results generally. It is evident; however, that aid makes a strong contribution to the development results. Promoting genuine improvements in the life of the poor, inclusive growth, reducing poverty and inequalities and exclusion is central to government policy and the objectives of the DPs. The progress that has been made in recent years towards attaining development outcomes and results bears testament to the success of these policies.

There is strong evidence that a determined government with the support of its DPs has brought about significant improvements in the lives of ordinary Rwandans. However, some have benefitted more than others and reducing poverty and providing decent employment remain challenges.

What this case study demonstrates is that strong country ownership and leadership of the development agenda combined with supportive DPs can bring about genuine and sustainable progress even in the poorest countries. It provides strong indicative evidence that the effective management of aid enables the realisation of development outcomes and results.

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