Multilateral Development Finance in the COVID-19 Era and Beyond

Perspectives from Around the World, Webinar Series, Starting October 26, 2020





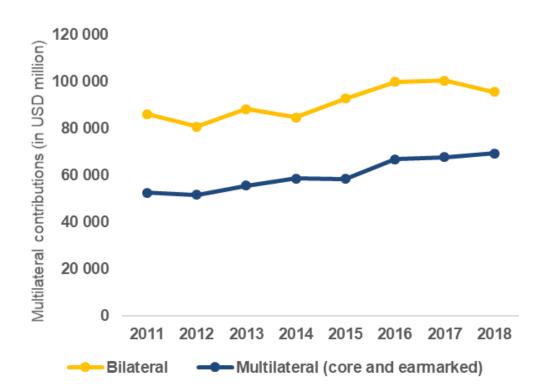
Multilateral Development Finance is on the Rise

COVID-19 reaffirms interconnectedness: Global problems require global solutions



The multilateral system is growing in importance as a channel of development co-operation

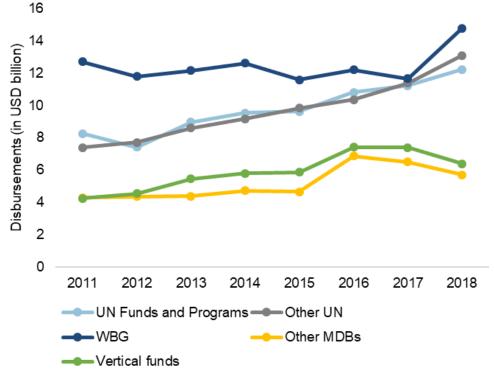
Multilateral development finance has been steadily growing and at faster pace than bilateral cooperation. Multilateral contributions reached an all-time high in 2018 at USD 71.9 billion (representing 42 percent of ODA)



Source: OECD Creditor Reporting System (2020)

The United Nations and the World Bank Group remain the two pillars of the multilateral development system, receiving more than three quarters of multilateral funding.

Regional development banks and vertical funds are slowly gaining ground in the multilateral development landscape.

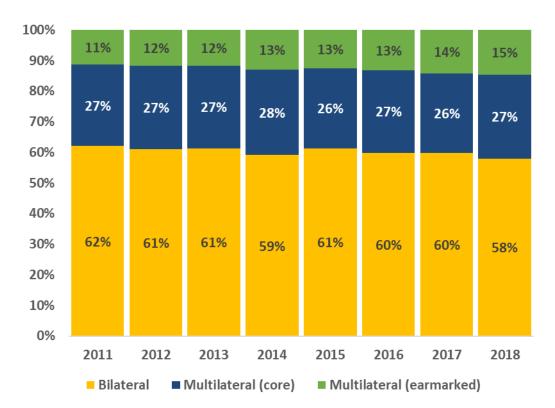




This growth is driven in part by increased earmarked funding and the emergence of new actors

Funding earmarked through the multilateral system seems to have grown at the expense of bilateral ODA. The share of core contributions remained relatively stable while earmarked funding steadily increased over the period.

1/3 top contributors are non-DAC, amounting ¼ total funding, with private actors now the 6th contributor to the UN development system. Despite the record-setting DAC contributions to the multilateral system, multilateral organizations are gradually broadening their donor base.



Source: OECD Creditor Reporting System (2020)

Top 25 contributors to the United Nations Development System in 2018 Contributions (in USD billion) China MCO & Dinate Weitherlands A Arab Emirales Jetical funds Deputic of Kores Canada Brazil

■ Core ■ Earmarked

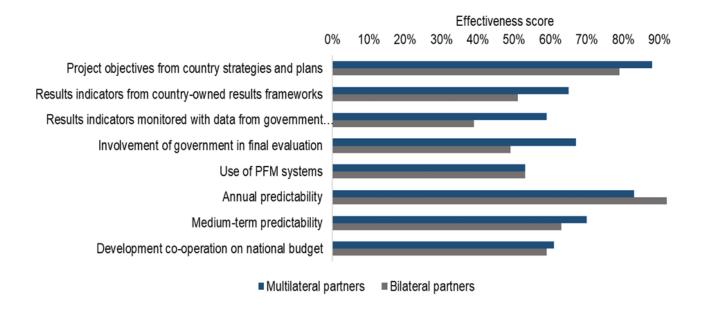
Source: UN DESA (2020)



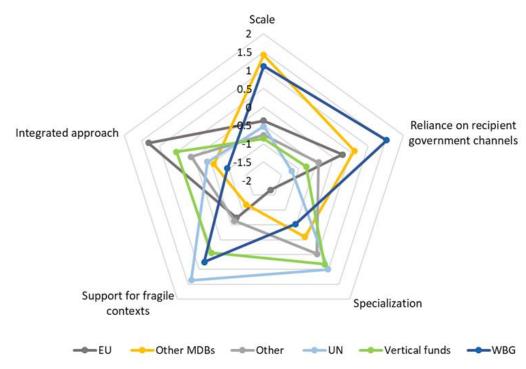
Multilateral organisations also appear more effective, with diverse and complementary comparative advantages

Effectiveness of multilateral organizations relies on better country-ownership, results monitoring and evaluation according to development partners (source: GPEDC monitoring round).

Each multilateral organization has its own set of comparative advantages.



Source: GPEDC monitoring round (2019)





Multilateral Development Finance is under Stress

The COVID-19 response imperative:

- In the short term: make the most of all available resources under stress
- In the medium-long term: build bak better and reform the system



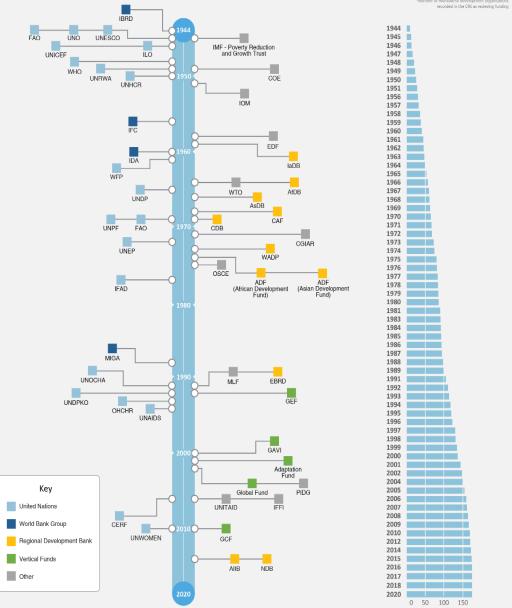
Trend 1:

The multilateral development system is an increasingly crowded and fragmented space

Source: Authors' design



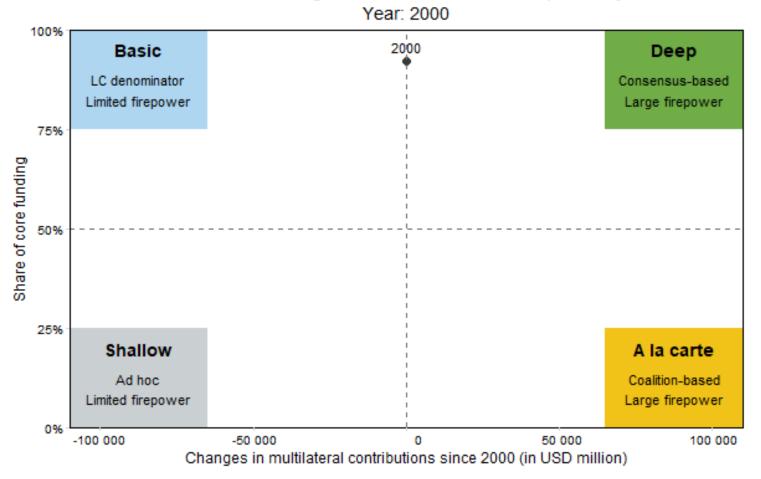




Trend 2. Towards a multilateral development system "à la carte"?

While funding to the system is steadily increasing, the share of core contributions is declining. The COVID-19 crisis could accelerate this trend if budget constraints and emergency needs translate into an increased use of earmarking modalities.

Evolution of funding to the multilateral development system

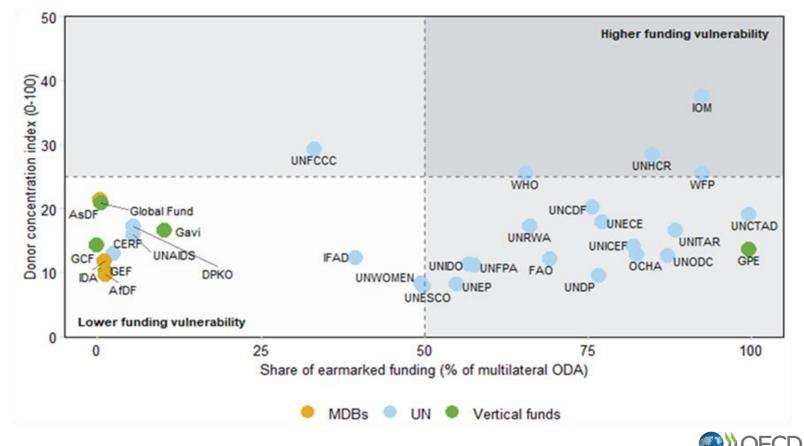




Several UN entities present high funding vulnerability

Vertical axis: concentration of multilateral organisations' donor base Horizontal axis: share of earmarked funding

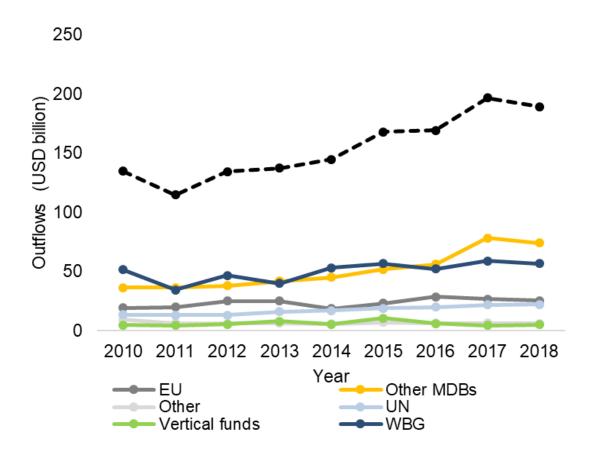
Entities with highly concentrated donor bases and poor funding quality are more vulnerable to the influence of individual donors



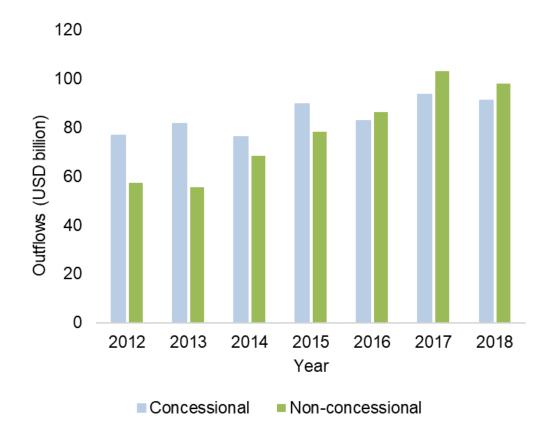


Trend 3. A steady increase hides disparities and a shift towards relatively less concessionality of outflows

Evolution of multilateral outflows by type of organisation (2010-2018)



Concessional versus non-concessional outflows (2010-2018)

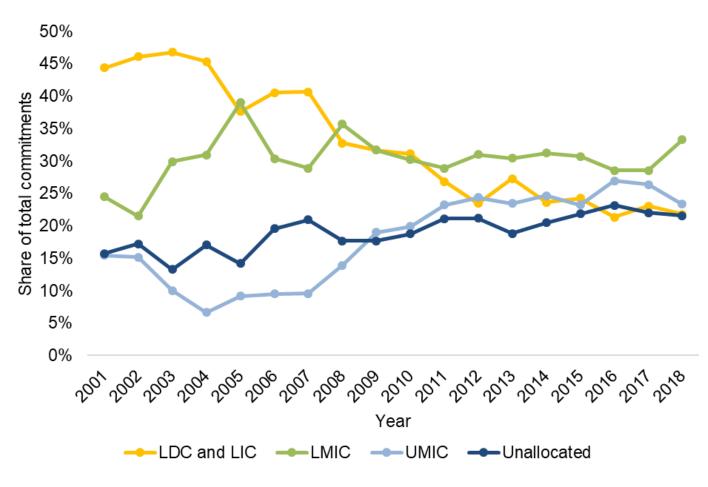


Note: Commitments in USD billion, 2018 prices



This shift is to the benefit of middle-income countries and to the detriment of low-income countries

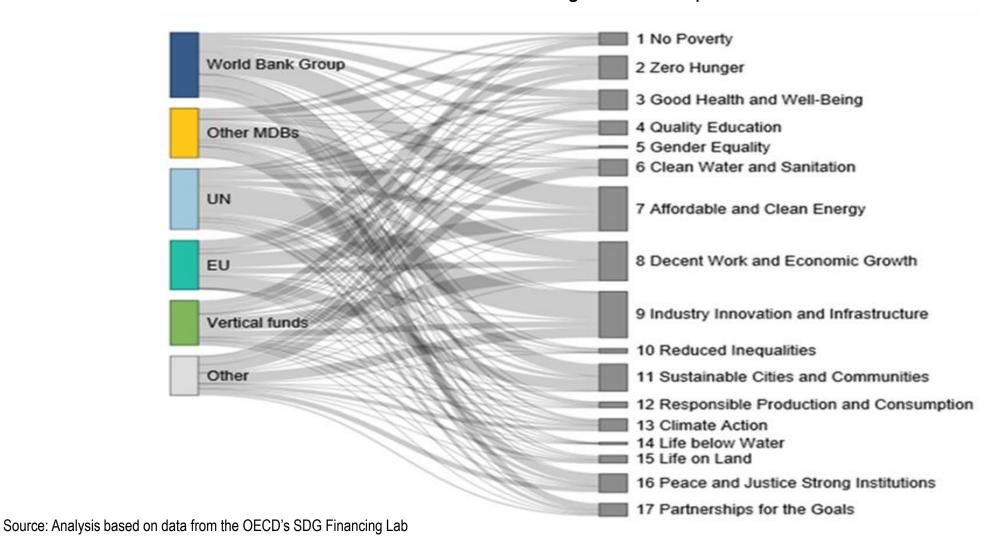
Share of total multilateral commitments





This shift also affects the distribution of spending across SDGs

The activities of multilateral organisations span all 17 SDGs





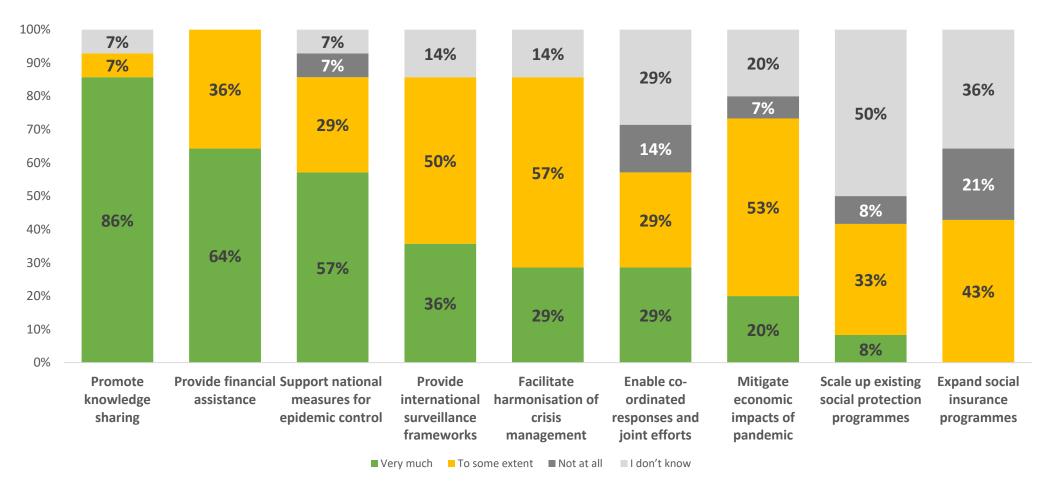
COVID-19: a time for multilateral innovation?

Multilateral stakeholders can use the current crisis as an opportunity to build a system that is better equipped to address new global development challenges



The multilateral system has played a key role in the response to the COVID-19 crisis

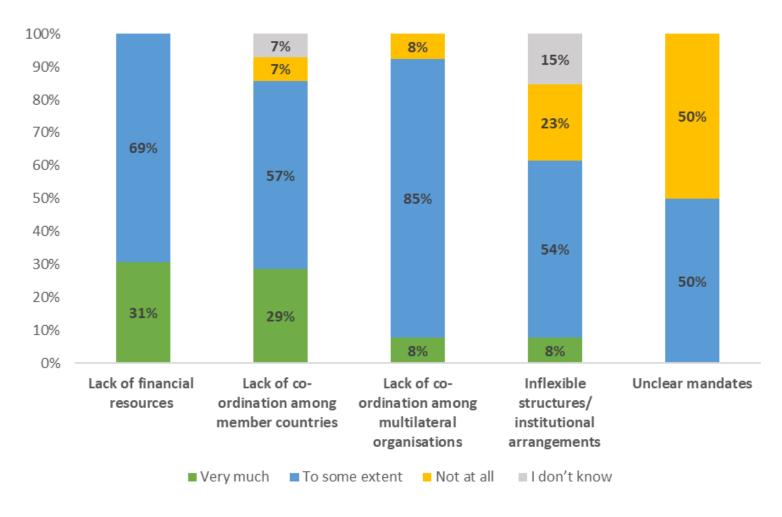
In light of the response to the current COVID 19 outbreak, in which areas has the multilateral system performed well?





The crisis has also exposed some limitations of the system

Has the COVID-19 response revealed any constraints to effective multilateral co-operation in the area of public health emergency and pandemic response, economic crisis management, etc.?





Scale of impact

Efficiency

Accountability

Building blocks

Transparency

- Identify key blind spots in multilateral development finance
- Improve the availability of comprehensive and comparable data on multilateral inflows and outflows
- Enhance multilateral organisations' communication on results and impact

Systemic coherence

- Clarify the division of labour among multilateral entities
- Identify and leverage potential synergies among multilateral organisations
- Sunset or merge multilateral entities with overlapping or obsolete mandates

Co-ordination

- Improve coordination among donors based on a common set of evidence
- Promote increased coordination and collaboration among multilateral organisations

Financial capacity

- Ensure that multilateral organisations are adequately capitalised and funded (quantitatively and qualitatively) to address new global challenges
- Increase the financial leverage of multilateral organisations and their capacity to mobilise private finance

Selectivity

- Improve the prioritisation of multilateral activities to optimise the use of scarce resources

Capacity of adaptation

Ensure that the constitution and funding of multilateral organisations provides them with sufficient flexibility to adapt to the rapidly evolving global environment



Thank you

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