Foreword

The annual Development Co-operation Report brings new evidence, analysis and ideas on sustainable development to members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and the international community more broadly. The objectives are to promote best practices and innovation in development co-operation and to inform and shape policy reform and behaviour change to realise better lives and the sustainable development goals for all. Each year, the report analyses a policy issue that is timely, relevant or challenging for development co-operation policy and finance. It also includes annual “development co-operation at a glance” data for over 80 providers of development co-operation including members of the OECD, the DAC, other countries and philanthropic foundations.

This 57th edition is intended to align development co-operation with today’s most urgent global priorities, from the rising threat of climate change to the flagging response to the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda. The report provides OECD members and other development actors with evidence, analysis and examples that will help them to reinvigorate public and political debates at home and build momentum for the global solutions that today’s challenges demand.

The OECD Development Co-operation Directorate decided to produce a different report compared to previous editions in response to requests from member states to tell a more comprehensive story about development co-operation today – why it matters, what it achieves, and how and what it can do better. We were challenged to tell a story that will reach new audiences such as the passionate activists of all ages – and especially youth – who are demanding action for a better tomorrow. Building on the analysis, evidence and recommendations from a series of reports the Directorate published in 2019, this Development Co-operation Report reviews progress towards sustainable development and concludes with recommendations to bring the full capacities and resources of the development system to bear on the immense challenges of our time.

The report comprises two chapters. The first chapter tells an upbeat story, packed with evidence and examples, about development co-operation today. It makes the case for a change of course that features a new narrative and more tangible action. The second chapter contains one-page infographics that provide an overview of emerging trends and insights regarding official development finance and presents individual profiles with key data and policy priorities of official and philanthropic providers of aid, official development assistance and development finance.

The full report is published in English and French and in the form of multilingual summaries. An electronic version, together with other supporting material, is available on line at https://www.oecd.org/dac/development-cooperation-report/.