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Evaluation Office  
United Nations Development Programme

# EVALUATION OF UN INTER-AGENCY POOLED FINANCING SERVICES

(Administered by the MPTFO)



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**Yogesh Bhatt, Independent Evaluation Office, UNDP**

# Snapshot of UN Inter-agency Pooled Funds managed by MPTFO



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## UN Inter- agency pooled financing



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> 11.5 billion USD in  
funding with 100+  
donors



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> 150 Funds and  
Programmes



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Activities in > 113  
countries



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52 participating UN  
organizations

# METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH: Theory based.

Iterative approach to gather and analyze multiple perspectives.  
Multiple methods to gather and triangulate evidence.



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**Desk reviews of relevant documents**



**Financial and portfolio analysis**



**Meta-analysis of evaluations, audits, UNDG and DOCO assessments**



**19 country case studies and field visits**



**3 global online surveys: PUNOs, NUNOs and Donors: 219 responses**



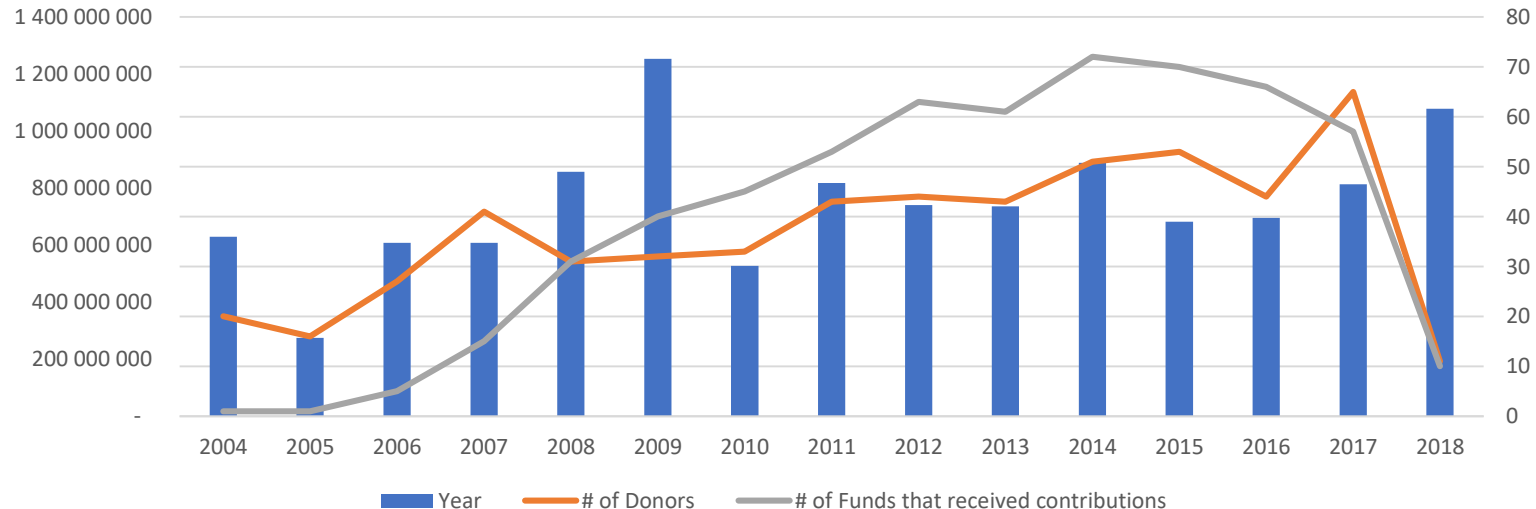
**> 260 interviews at the global, regional and country level (PUNOs, NUNOs and Donors)**



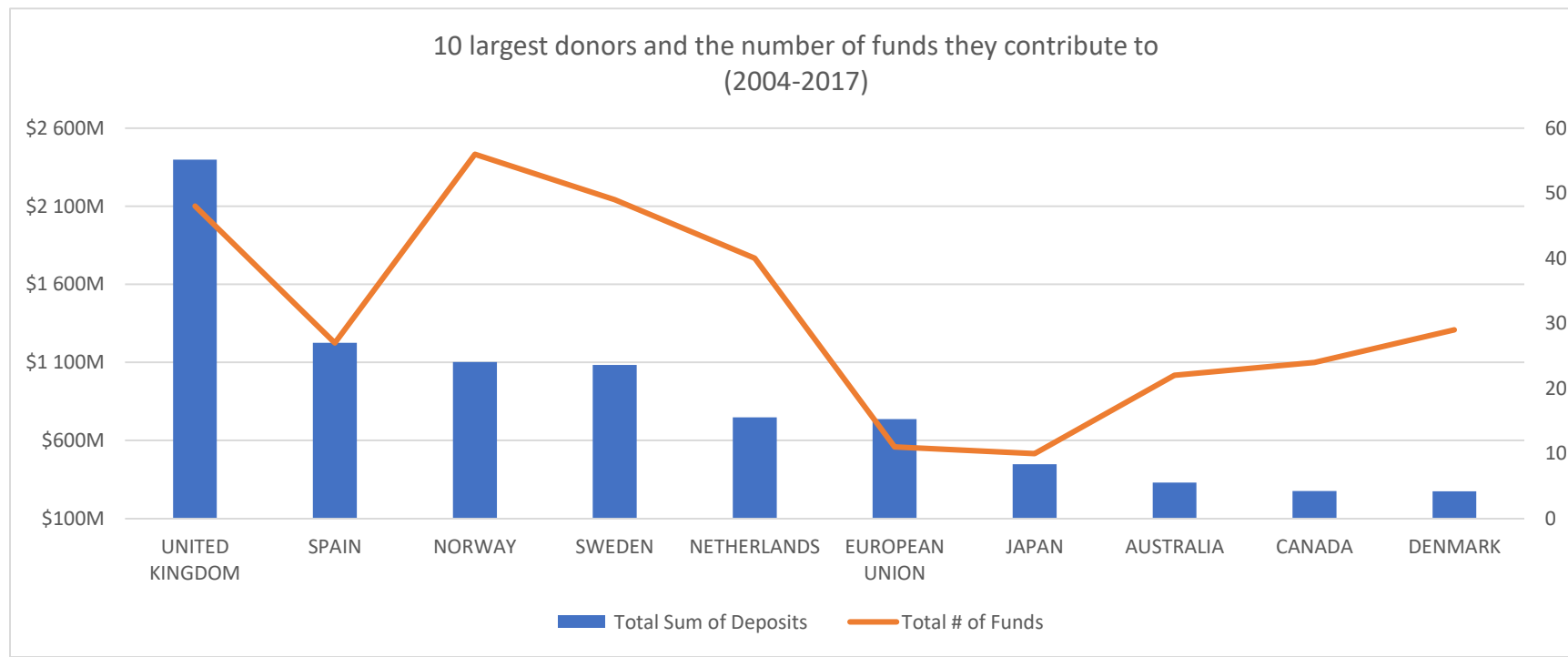
**Coverage: 53% countries, 60% PUNOs, 40% top 20 donors, 85% NUNOs**

- Pooled financing has become a well established mechanism over the past decade.
- Total value of annual contributions and the number of donors have increased over time, remaining stable between 2011-2017 with deposits in 2018 crossing over \$1 billion.

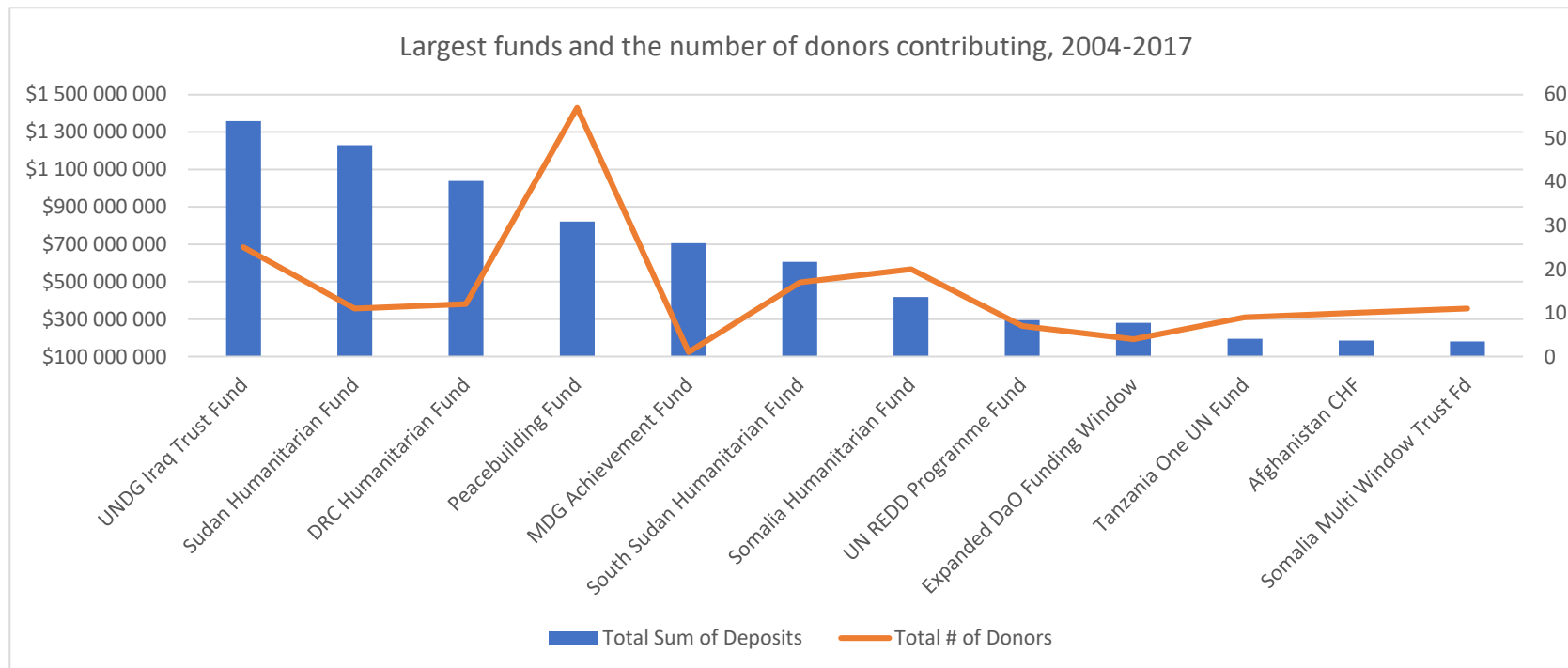
Donors, funds and contribution trends of MPTFO: 2004-2018



■ The donor pool remains top heavy. Nearly 100 countries have contributed to the funds. Five countries (UK, Spain, **Norway**, Sweden, and the Netherlands) accounted for **62%** of funding. **Top ten** donors contributed **85%** of the total, while **80 countries** provided a combined total of under **4%** of funds.

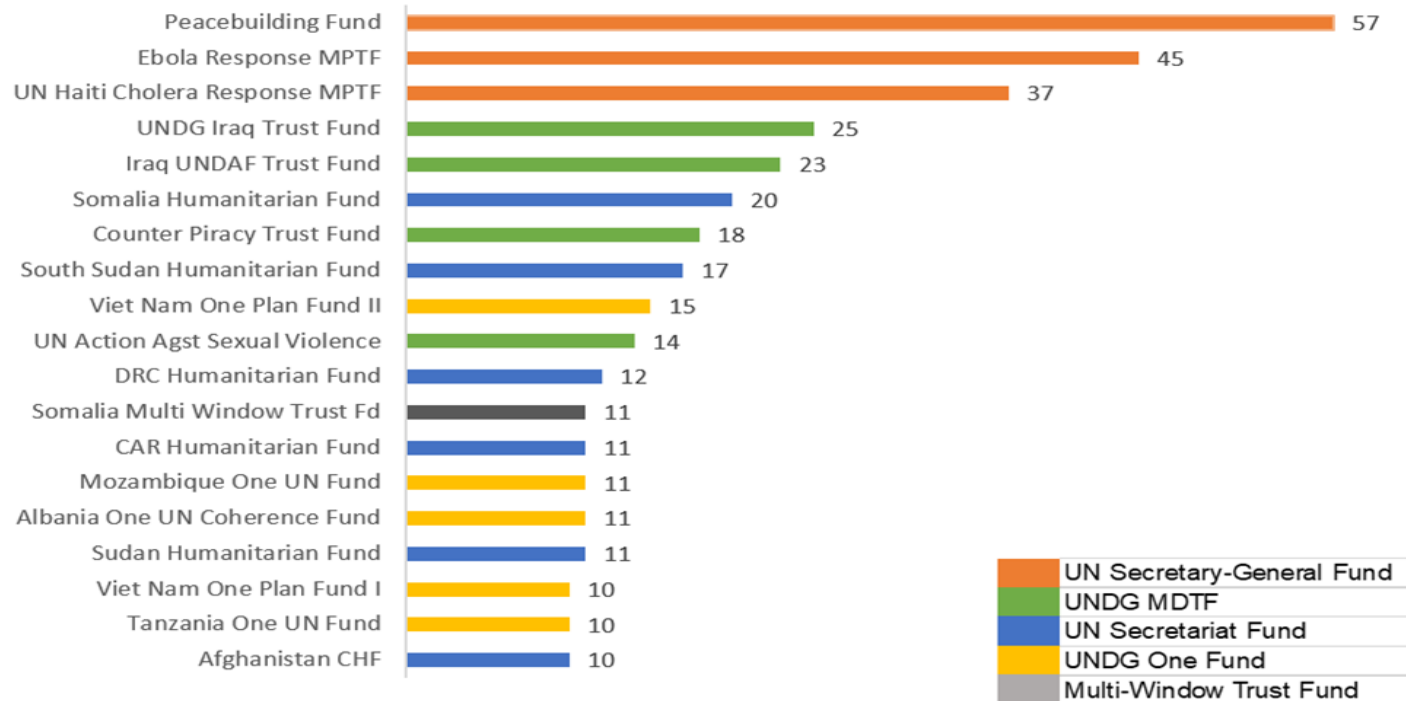


- The high value of the MPTF Office portfolio is due to contributions by a limited number of donors to the Iraq Trust Fund, humanitarian funds (Sudan, DRC, South Sudan and Somalia) and the MDG Fund

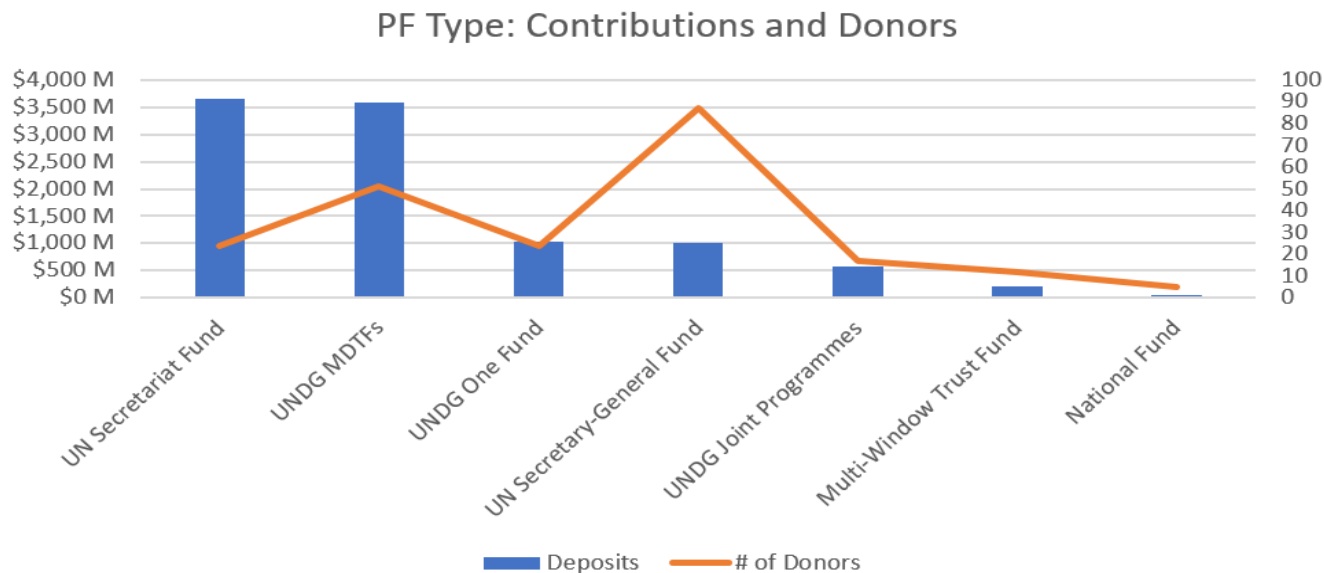


- Twenty funds received contributions from 10 or more donors; while 67 funds had only a single donor and five single donor funds had only one PUNO. The large number of donors overall, is due to support to the three Secretary-General funds.

### Funds with 10 or more donors: 2004-2017



- UN Secretariat funds (particularly humanitarian funds- Somalia, South Sudan, DRC, CAR, Sudan, Afghanistan) and UNDG MDTFs (Iraq, Counter-piracy, Action against sexual violence, etc.) attract more funding, while UN Secretary General Funds (PBF, Ebola, Haiti Cholera Response) attract more donors, primarily with small contributions

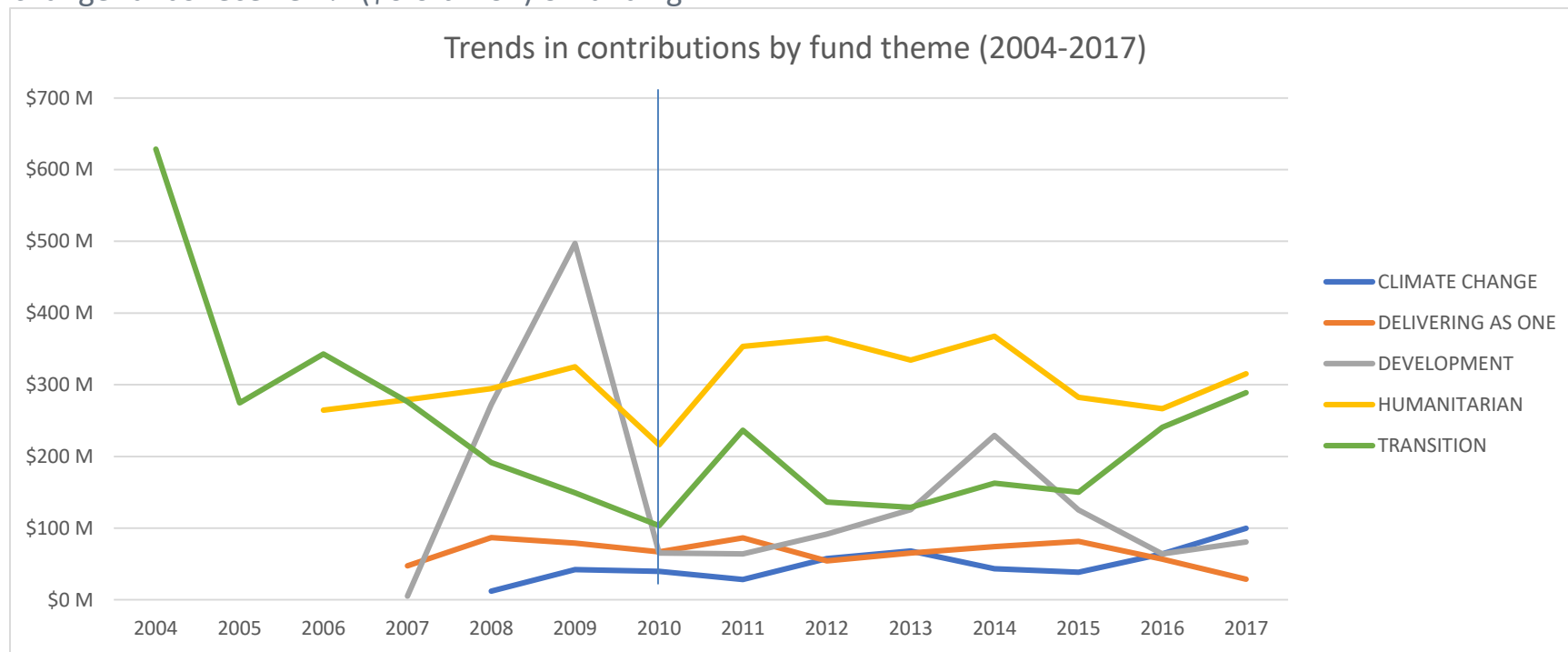




- There is a significant variation in donor contributions among fund themes. Between 2010-17, donor funding to transition, development and climate change has increased while delivering as one funds have seen a sharp decline.



- Of the total 148 funds, 6 humanitarian and 32 transition funds receive 70% of all total funding (\$6.9 billion). 66 development funds receive 15% of total funding (\$1.6 billion) and 13 climate change funds receive 4% (\$0.6 billion) of funding.



## Operational Performance and Efficiency: Assessed indicators



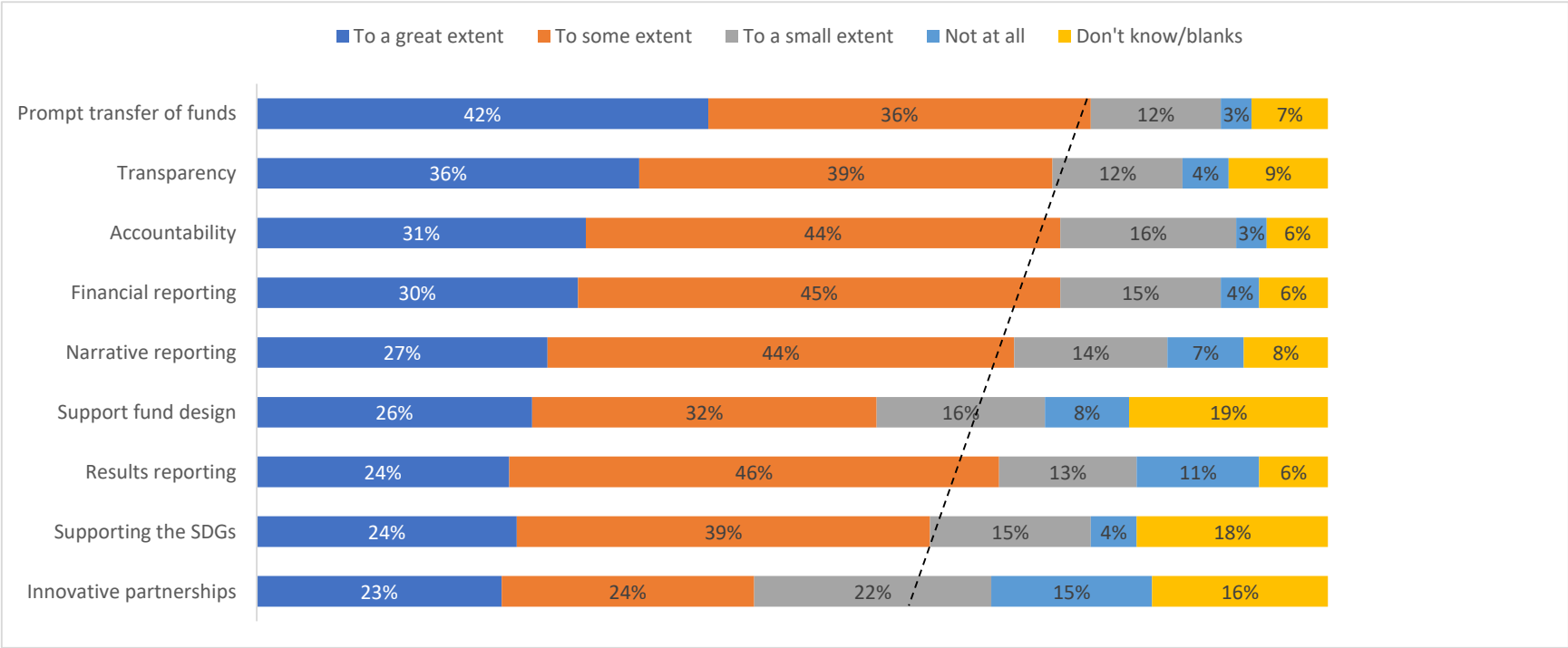
- ▶ Time to negotiate and agree on/ sign agreements (TOR/JPs development, SAA- Donor and MPTFO and MoU- MPTFO and PUNOs)
- ▶ Financial Transfers (to and from MPTFO)
- ▶ Transaction costs (Donors, Participating organizations-PUNOs/NUNOs, RC/HC and Government)
- ▶ Fund closures
- ▶ Quality of reporting- Financial, Narrative and Results
- ▶ Functioning of the firewall (MPTFO and UNDP)
- ▶ Transparency and accountability (MPTFO Gateway)

Stakeholder satisfaction on how MPTF Office-supported MDTFs meet the needs of stakeholders.

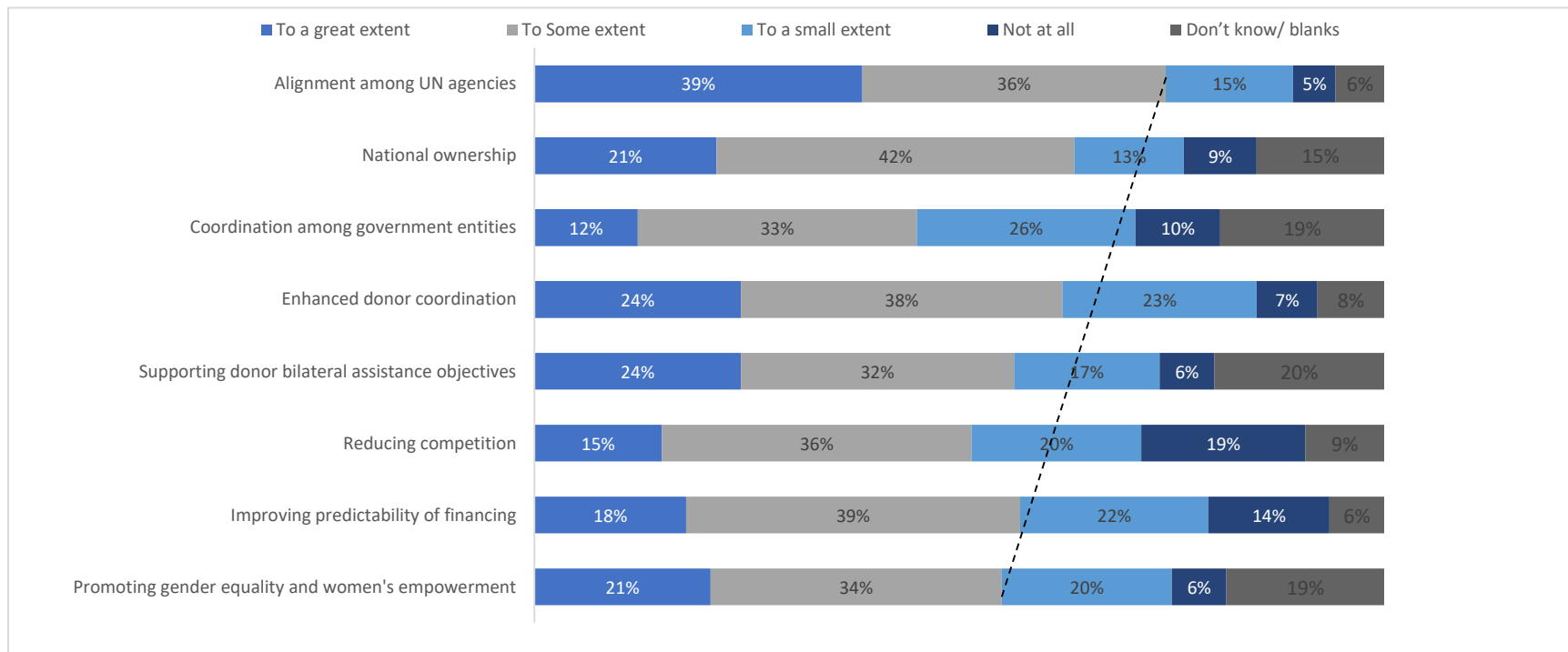


MPTFO gateway is recognized by stakeholders as a transparent tool for reporting information on don contributions

Reporting (financial and narrative) is generally found satisfactory, though results reporting can be improved.



Effectiveness: MPTF Office-supported UN pooled funds have positively contributed to promoting donor coordination and UN coherence, despite the increased competition for resources among participating UN organizations.



# Conclusions



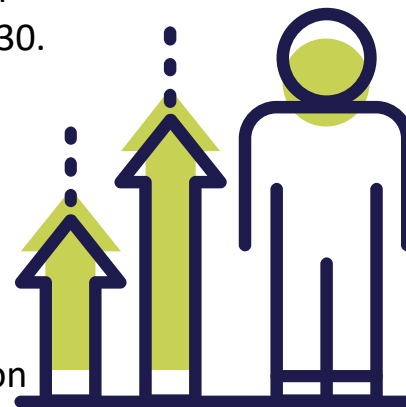
## *Trends in pooled financing*

Pooled financing has become a well-established mechanism over the past decade. Increasing the amount of donor funding via pooled funds and the effectiveness of the funded programmes are critical to support the implementation of Agenda 2030.

## *Design and governance*

MPTFO has established itself as a strong, credible and neutral provider of UN pooled financing services.

UNDP is recognized as the best institutional base for MPTFO. However, it's location can sometimes create a false perception on the system-wide nature of its services. For MPTFO to be truly seen as a service of the UN system there is a need to institutionalize a multi-stakeholder mechanism that includes partner UN agencies and donor representatives.



# Conclusions



## *Operational performance*

Financial transfers to and from MPTFO meet all performance indicators.

The firewall between the MPTFO as an AA and UNDP as a PUNO is working as it should.

Insufficient attention to fund closure undermines the efficiency and accountability in the use of the pooled funds. Stricter compliance by PUNOs would free up significant resources that could be potentially used by other organizations with active projects under the fund.

## *Role of pooled funds in supporting UNDS priorities at country level*

UN pooled funds play a key role in harmonizing aid in line with Paris Agreement and good donor practices. They promote coherence within the UN system, promote donor coordination and bring together multiple strengths of different UN entities, provide an opportunity to work at scale and help leverage resources. Concerns, however remain on results focus of some funds, donor visibility and fund utilization down the delivery chain.





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**Full evaluation report is available at-**  
[http://web.undp.org/evaluation/evaluations/thematic/interagency\\_pf.shtml](http://web.undp.org/evaluation/evaluations/thematic/interagency_pf.shtml)

**Thank You!**



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