



Guidelines to Effect Sustainability of the EIF Intervention at Country Level

Approved by EIF Board, November 2015



Background

- Sustainability and exit strategy is part of EIF project templates
- Concept note on key Sustainability parameters of EIF interventions and EIF National Implementation Arrangements (NIAs) elaborated in May 2012 through consultative meetings with LDCs, Donors, Agencies
- EIF evaluation findings on sustainability.
- WG's on sustainability, leveraging and ownership recommended measures to strengthen sustainability (2015)
- EIF Guidelines for Sustainability of EIF interventions were endorsed and effective for all projects under EIF Phase 2.

MTR and Evaluation findings

Sustainability:

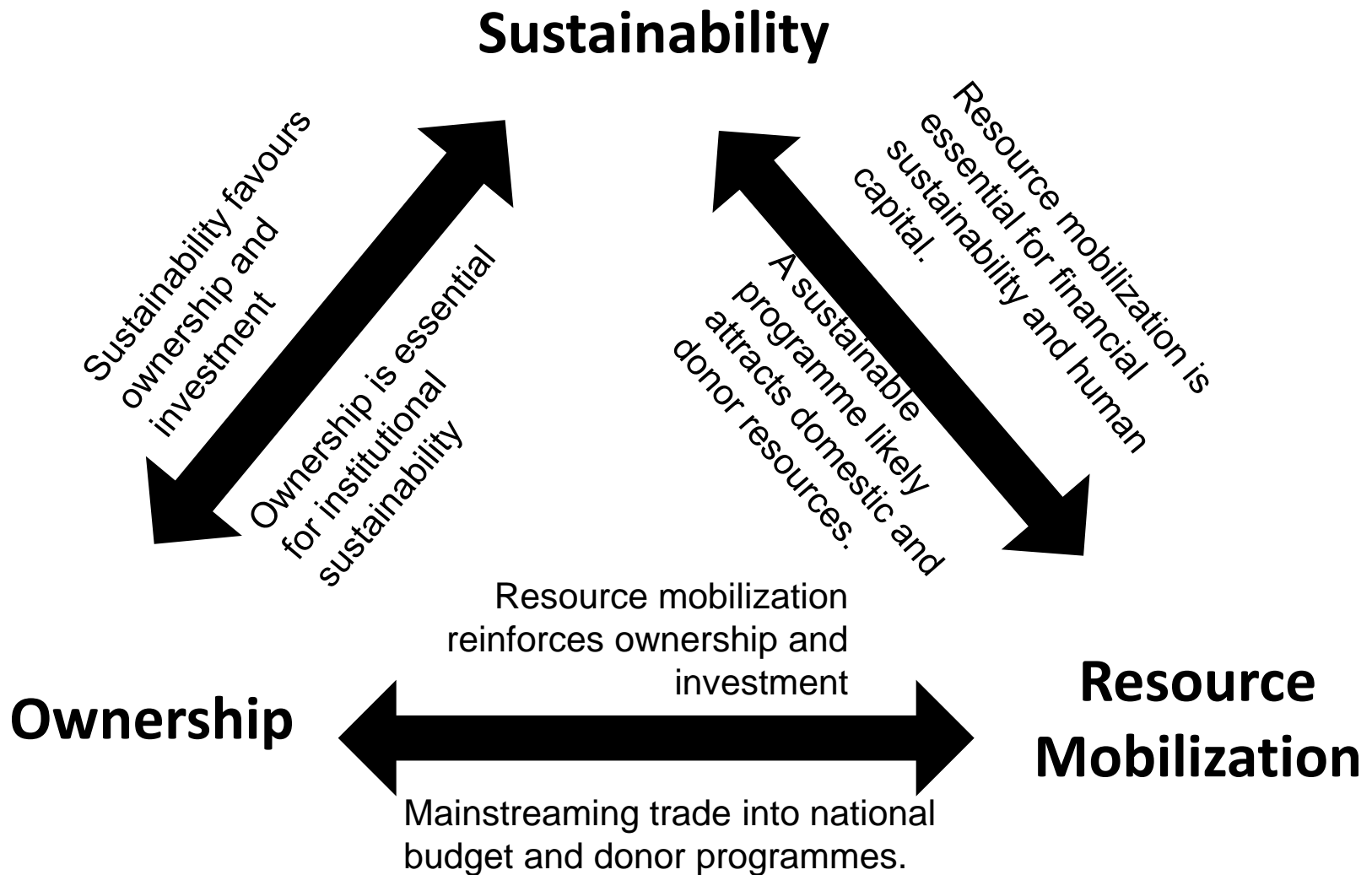
- Good indications of sustainable trade development and capacity building
- Weaker for donor/agency coordination and capacity building beyond the core stakeholders; often insufficient integration of the EIF in institutional structures
- EIF structures and processes: be more flexible and adaptive to emerging priorities.

Ownership:

- Substantial progress in ownership, but further strengthening necessary;
- EIF should be flexible to adapt to local conditions, improve resource mobilization and clarify roles of different partners.

Leveraging:

- Weak results in almost all countries;
- To achieve leveraging, the EIF partnership should determine collectively how to promote alignment and resource generation at the country level, with clear roles for the different partners.



Leveraging, ownership and sustainability in the EIF: interlinked and mutually reinforcing

Guidelines to effect sustainability of the EIF intervention at country level (1)

Sustainability in 3 dimensions: institutions, human resources, and financial sustainability

1. Institutional sustainability:

For both Tier 1 and Tier 2: Consolidating institutional sustainability through:

- Integration of NIAs (NIU and NSC) into existing national structures and mechanisms; linking up with Sector Working Group platforms
- Engagement of wider stakeholders (line ministries, professional associations, private sector...) as implementing partners to ensure ownership and sustainability of programme results.

Guidelines to effect sustainability of the EIF intervention at country level (2)

1. Institutional sustainability (cont'd):

Specific to Tier 1:

- NSC: should not be a stand-alone EIF project steering committee but integrated into a national consultative and coordination process/structure on trade + AfT
- NIUs: will transition the role from being a foothold for AfT implementation to integrating into main functions of the host Ministry and building local capacities to ensure the sustainability of implementation structures
- NIAs: Inclusive, flexible and responsive to emerging priorities

Guidelines to effect sustainability of the EIF intervention at country level (3)

2. Human Resources sustainability

For both Tier 1 and Tier 2: Human resources sustainability beyond the NIU:

- Training and institutional strengthening plans are required for all projects;
- CB should focus on institutions and functions rather than personal needs of NIU.
- Preferably using local expertise and local training institutions.
- Increased seconded government staff to the NIU; Salary top-up can be considered;
- Salaries paid should be more in line with the Government salaries, and not oriented on the UNDP grid.

Guidelines to effect sustainability of the EIF intervention at country level (4)

3. Financial Sustainability

Financial sustainability through an integrated and holistic approach to mobilise resources from national budgets and private sector and not exclusively from donors:

- For Tier 1:
 - Upstream dialogue with donors and private sector on country programming
 - Mainstream DTIS/MTP in budget support programmes
- For both Tier 1 and Tier 2:
 - Sector-wide approach and trust fund approach to foster resources suitability
 - Communication strategy to leverage financial resources

Implementation

Implementation:

- All existing Tier 1 and Tier 2 project should update the Sustainability and exit plan to reflect and implement the proposed guidelines;
- Handover of institutional memory and preparation of post-project trade mainstreaming workplan and AfT coordination should be carried out at least 12 months before the end of the project;
- Tier 1 extension into Phase 2 should outline specific steps to integrate the NIU/ NIU functions into the main structure and to sustain project results;
- Sustainability Support will be made upon the implementation of the Sustainability and exit plan and integration of the NIU. Funding programmatic costs rather than staff and admin costs.
- All projects to be approved from Jan 2016 need to follow the guidelines from the start.
- Application of the guidelines can be adapted to country specific context and stage of project implementation.

