

List of major changes from the original Joint Financing Arrangement (2004) to the Practical Guide to Joint Financing Arrangements (2007 version)

The Nordic+ Joint Financing Arrangement (February 2004) has been assessed. This has resulted in a revised version, the Practical Guide to Joint Financing Arrangements (2007 version). Suggestions received from field practitioners have been used as much as possible. The most relevant changes are:

1. The character of the Joint Financing Arrangement (JFA) has not changed: it is a versatile instrument that can be used for a broad range of aid modalities (budget support, the pooling of funds or projects). However, the JFA no longer covers joint financing co-operation (also known as silent partnership), since the Practical Guide to Delegated Co-operation has been developed in 2006.
2. The Nordic Plus the Joint Procurement Policy (JPP) of the Nordic Plus group is included in the JFA (JFA template paragraph 7). The options A to F mentioned in the template refer to the options in the JPP. The JPP procurement option decision tree has been annexed to the JFA guide. This flowchart is a tool to help select the procurement option for a specific situation.
3. It has been accepted as a good practice to promote predictability among donors that in principle disbursements in a certain year (n) will not be based on the results achieved in the previous year ($n-1$) but the year before that ($n-2$).
4. The flexibility of the JFA has been improved as far as standards to be used for the financial management and accounting are concerned (JFA template paragraph 2, 6 and 10). The JFA now refers to mutually accepted standards (international or national) instead of prescribing the use of international standards. As a result the standards can more easily be tailored for conditions of the particular situation. Suggestions for (international or national) standards can be found in the JFA guide.
5. The anti-corruption clause (template paragraph 12) has been extended to include all signatories (instead of just the recipient country).
6. An effort has been made to make the JFA more user-friendly, e.g. by adding an index; rewriting the disbursement section and introduction of the guide; removing footnotes and changing the layout.