

Using Fuzzy PROMETHEE to Select Countries for Developmental Aid

Eric Afful-Dadzie, Stephen Nabareseh,
Zuzana Komínková Oplatková and Peter Klimek

Abstract Wealthy nations continue to demonstrate their unwavering support to improving conditions and the general well-being of poor countries in spite of the recent economic crises. However, as developmental aid relatively shrinks, both Aid donors and recipient countries have shown keen interest in methodologies used in evaluating developmental assistance programs. Evaluation of aid programs is seen as a complex task mainly because of the several non-aid factors that tend to affect overall outcomes. Adding to the complexity are the subjective sets of criteria used in Aid evaluations programs. This paper proposes a two stage framework of fuzzy TOPSIS and sensitivity analysis to demonstrate how aid-recipient countries can be evaluated to deepen transparency, fairness, value for money and sustainability of such aid programs. Using the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) set of subjective criteria for evaluating aid programs; a numerical example pre-defined by linguistic terms parameterized by triangular fuzzy numbers is provided to evaluate aid programs. Fuzzy PROMETHEE is used in the first stage to evaluate and rank aid-recipients followed by a comparative analysis with Fuzzy VIKOR and Fuzzy TOPSIS to ascertain an accurateness of the method used. A sensitivity analysis is further added that anticipates possible influences from lobbyists and examines the effect of that bias in expert ratings on the evaluation process. The result shows a framework that can be employed in evaluating aid effectiveness of recipient-countries.

E. Afful-Dadzie · Z.K. Oplatková
Faculty of Applied Informatics, Tomas Bata University in Zlin,
Zlin, Czech Republic
e-mail: afful@fai.utb.cz

Z.K. Oplatková
e-mail: kominkova@fai.utb.cz

S. Nabareseh (✉) · P. Klimek
Faculty of Management and Economics, Tomas Bata University in Zlin,
Zlin, Czech Republic
e-mail: nabareseh@fame.utb.cz

P. Klimek
e-mail: klimek@fame.utb.cz

Keywords Developmental aid programs · Fuzzy set theory · Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) · Fuzzy PROMETHEE · Fuzzy VIKOR · Fuzzy TOPAIA · Fuzzy MCDM · Evaluation · Sensitivity analysis

1 Introduction

Despite the incessant call on donor countries for a budget reduction, most organisations still release billions in aid of developing and poor countries. Some of these organisations include the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), UK's Department for International Development (DFID), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Canada's Country Indicators for foreign Policy (CIFP), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the World Bank. A net amount of 132 billion dollars was spent jointly in 2012 and rose to 134 billion in 2013 by wealthy nations to reduce poverty and improve developmental conditions of poor nations [1]. The fall in developmental aid in the past years triggered stringent measures to ensure that donors and recipients alike are thoroughly evaluated to ensure the overall sustainability of developmental aid programs [2–4]. This phenomenon, adding to the lack of consensus among researchers about the impact of aid on economic growth [5–8] and the several instances of changes in aid allocation criteria [9, 10] explain the need for robust methodologies to evaluate developmental aid.

Most proposed criteria for appraising development aid are more often subjective apparently because of other non-aid inputs that have the propensity to influence total outcome. Economic recession, food and energy prices, interest rates, trade credits and among others are some non-aid factors capable of affecting the general outcome of an aid evaluation program [2]. The OECD currently adopts five subjective criteria in evaluating their developmental aid programs. These criteria are *relevance*, *effectiveness*, *efficiency*, *impact* and *sustainability* used to evaluate developmental aid programs for a particular country. The selection of beneficiaries for aid is sometimes challenging when fuzzy criteria is used. To address this challenge, this paper recommends a fuzzy PROMETHEE framework for evaluating countries involved in developmental aid program performance ranking. The method helps to track the progress of countries while ensuring that future aid allocations are based on performance of previous aid programs. The rest of the paper is presented as follows: Modeling uncertainty with fuzzy set theory is briefly explained followed by the definition, review of relevant literature and steps in fuzzy PROMETHEE method. Finally, a numerical example of how fuzzy PROMETHEE could help to evaluate and rank participating countries in developmental assistance programs is presented.

2 Modelling Uncertainty with Fuzzy Sets

Zadeh [11] introduced the fuzzy set theory to tackle issues of uncertainty, imprecision and vagueness in information that are not statistical in nature. The fuzzy sets concept is hinged on a relative graded membership and has been applied extensively in subjective modeling mostly in multi-criteria decision making (MCDM) environments. In fuzzy MCDM, the subjective criteria are represented by linguistic variables which are further expressed with linguistic terms [12]. The following presents the definitions with basic operations of the fuzzy set theory.

2.1 Fuzzy Set

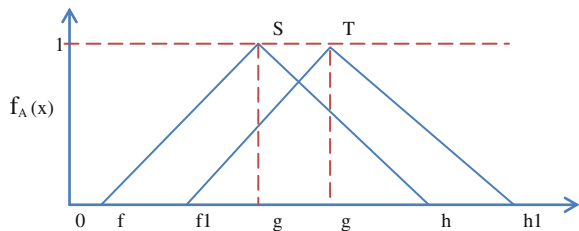
Let X be a nonempty set, the universe of discourse $X = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$. A fuzzy set A of X is a set of ordered pairs $\{(x_1, f_A(x_1)), (x_2, f_A(x_2)), \dots, (x_n, f_A(x_n))\}$, characterized by a membership function $f_A(x)$ that maps each element x in X to a real number in the interval $[0, 1]$. The function value $f_A(x)$ stands for the membership degree x in A . This paper uses the Triangular Fuzzy Number (TFN) defined below for evaluation.

2.2 Triangular Fuzzy Number

In triangular fuzzy number (TFN), the membership function is expressed as a triplet (f, g, h) . The membership function $f_A(x)$ of the triangular fuzzy number is illustrated in Fig. 1 and defined as:

$$f_A(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & x < f \\ \frac{x-f}{g-f}, & f \leq x \leq g \\ \frac{h-x}{h-g}, & g \leq x \leq h \\ 0 & x > h \end{cases}$$

Fig. 1 Two triangular fuzzy numbers



The value of x at g gives the maximal value of $f_A(x)$, that is $f_A(x) = 1$. The value x at f represents the minimal grade of $f_A(x)$, i.e. $f_A(x) = 0$. The constants f and h stand for the lower and upper bounds of the available area data respectively. According to [13], fuzzy models using TFNs are effective for solving decision-making problems with subjective and vague available information. The TFNs are used in very practical applications because of the computational efficiency and its simplicity.

2.3 Basic Fuzzy Sets Operations

Supposing $S = (f, g, h)$ and $T = (f_1, g_1, h_1)$ are two TFNs as shown in Fig. 1, then the basic operations on these two TFNs are as follows:

$$S \oplus T = (f, g, h) + (f_1, g_1, h_1) = (f + f_1, g + g_1, h + h_1) \tag{1}$$

$$S - T = (f, g, h) - (f_1, g_1, h_1) = (f - h_1, g - g_1, h - f_1) \tag{2}$$

$$S \times T = (f, g, h) \times (f_1, g_1, h_1) = (ff_1, gg_1, hh_1) \tag{3}$$

$$S \div T = (f, g, h) \div (f_1, g_1, h_1) = \left(\frac{f}{h_1}, \frac{g}{g_1}, \frac{h}{f_1} \right) \tag{4}$$

Let $S = (f, g, h)$ and $S = (f_1, g_1, h_1)$ be two TFNs depicted in Fig. 1. The distance between them is computed using the vertex method in Eq. 6:

$$d(S, T) = \sqrt[1/3]{(f - f_1)^2 + (g - g_1)^2 + (h - h_1)^2} \tag{5}$$

3 Fuzzy PROMETHEE

The Preference Ranking Organization Method for Enrichment (PROMETHEE) is an extensively accepted outranking methods in Multiple Criteria Decision Making (MCDM). Brans and Vincke [14] proposed the method which performs a pairwise comparison of pairs of alternatives and grades them between a [0, 1] interval [15] using a preference function. The PROMETHEE method is preferred in ranking and selecting alternatives due to its robustness in comparing the performances of alternatives and considers it in the composite ranking. Just as in other MCDM methods, there is a fuzzy extension of the PROMETHEE method when dealing with uncertain and subjective data. Fuzzy PROMETHEE has been applied in varied areas such as health care management [16], information systems outsourcing [15], logistics [17], customer reviews [18], landslide susceptibility mapping [19] among many others. Fuzzy PROMETHEE has equally seen improvements in a number of vari-

ants, that is versions (PROMETHEE I, II, III, IV, V, VI), and extensions as seen in [20–23].

This paper uses a combination of PROMETHEE I and II. PROMETHEE I deals with a partial ranking of alternatives [14, 21, 22]. The sum of indices, $\pi(m, l)$, initially determines the preference of alternative m over the other alternatives considered. This is referred to as the ‘leaving flow’ $\phi^+(m)$, and implies the relative good performance of m over the other alternatives. The alternative with the highest ‘leaving flow’ is pronounced the best in the evaluation. Likewise, the sum of indices, $\pi(l, m)$ is calculated to indicate the preferences of all other alternatives measured against m . This is also denoted as the ‘entering flow’ $\phi^-(m)$, and implies the dependency of alternative m in relation to the rest of the alternatives. PROMETHEE II however introduces a net flow $\phi(m)$ which denotes the difference between the leaving and the entering flows and helps to realize a full ranking. The alternative with the highest net flow is therefore declared the best alternative.

Below is a step by step outline of definitions and formulae of the fuzzy PROMETHEE methodology culled from [14, 15, 21, 22]. The methodology is adopted in the numerical example in selecting countries for developmental aid programs.

Step 1a: Determination of linguistic Variables (criteria), linguistic terms, alternatives and decision makers

The first step is to determine the linguistic variables and its associated linguistic terms, the alternatives and number of decision makers needed in the decision making process. This set of information is what is used to construct the decision matrix. The linguistic terms are translated into fuzzy numbers and used to rate the linguistic variables. The linguistic terms are qualitative words which reflect the subjective view of an expert or decision maker about the criteria per each alternative under consideration [12, 24, 25]. This linguistic terms with their TFNs for this paper are shown in Tables 1 and 2 respectively that captures on a scale of 0–1 the importance criteria and the alternatives.

Step 1b: Determination of Importance Criteria Weights

Decision makers determine the importance or weight of each criterion using the linguistic terms in Table 2. In Eq. 6 below, w_j denotes the weight of the j th criterion C_j based on the linguistic preference assigned by a decision maker. It is noted that each weight $\tilde{w}_j^k = (w_{j1}^k, w_{j2}^k, w_{j3}^k)$ is expressed as a TFN.

$$\tilde{W} = [\tilde{w}_1, \tilde{w}_2, \dots, \tilde{w}_n], \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, n \quad (6)$$

Step 2a: Construction of the fuzzy decision matrix

In a situation where m alternatives and n criteria are offered to k decision-makers, (D_1, D_2, \dots, D_k) to choose the best alternative, a fuzzy MCDM problem as seen in Eq. 7 can be stated in the form of a matrix.

Table 1 Linguistic scale for the importance of criterion

Linguistic terms	Triangular fuzzy number
Very Low (VL)	(0.0, 0.1, 0.3)
Low (L)	(0.1, 0.3, 0.5)
Medium (M)	(0.3, 0.5, 0.7)
High (H)	(0.5, 0.7, 0.9)
Very High (VH)	(0.7, 0.9, 1.0)

Source Authors'

Table 2 Linguistic terms for alternative ratings

Linguistic terms	Triangular fuzzy number
Very Low (VL)	(0.0, 0.0, 2.5)
Low (L)	(0.0, 2.5, 5.0)
High (H)	(2.5, 5.0, 7.5)
Very High (VH)	(5.0, 7.5, 10.0)
Extremely High (EH)	(7.5, 10.0, 10.0)

Source Authors'

$$\tilde{D} = \begin{matrix} & C_1 & C_2 & \dots & C_n \\ \begin{matrix} A_1 \\ A_2 \\ \vdots \\ A_m \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{x}_{11} & \tilde{x}_{12} & \dots & \tilde{x}_{1n} \\ \tilde{x}_{21} & \tilde{x}_{22} & \dots & \tilde{x}_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \tilde{x}_{m1} & \tilde{x}_{m2} & \dots & \tilde{x}_{mn} \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m; j = 1, 2, \dots, n \quad (7)$$

where \tilde{x}_{ij} is the rating of alternative A_i with respect to criterion, both expressed in TFNs. This implies that the rating of a decision maker k is $\tilde{x}_{ij}^k = (r_{ij}^k, u_{ij}^k, v_{ij}^k)$.

Step 2b: Aggregation of decisions

This stage aggregates the fuzzy weights of the criteria and the alternative ratings. This is done respectively by using the interval valued technique as illustrated in Eqs. 8 and 9 below.

$$\tilde{w}_j = \frac{1}{n} [\tilde{w}_j^1 + \tilde{w}_j^2 + \dots, +\tilde{w}_j^n] \quad (8)$$

$$\tilde{x}_{ij} = \frac{1}{n} [\tilde{x}_{ij}^1 + \tilde{x}_{ij}^2 + \dots, +\tilde{x}_{ij}^n] \quad (9)$$

Step 3: Normalization of the decision matrix

This step normalizes the aggregated fuzzy decision matrix gotten from step 2b above. The normalized fuzzy decision matrix is defined as in Eq. 10 and computed using Eq. 11 below. The result of the normalized matrix is still a TFN.

$$\tilde{S} = [\tilde{s}_{ij}]_{m \times n}, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m; j = 1, 2, \dots, n \quad (10)$$

$$\tilde{s}_{ij} = \left(\frac{\tilde{r}_{ij}}{v_j^+}, \frac{\tilde{u}_{ij}}{v_j^+}, \frac{\tilde{v}_{ij}}{v_j^+} \right) v_j^+ = \max_i v_{ij} \quad (11)$$

Step 4: Construction of the fuzzy preference function

The fuzzy preference function $\tilde{P}_j(m, n)$ is calculated to describe the decision-makers' preference among the pairs of alternatives in this step. The usual-criterion, quasi-criterion, criterion with linear preference, level-criterion, criterion with Linear Preference and indifference area, and the Gaussian-criteria are six different types of preference functions that range between [0, 1] as presented by [14]. The usual-criterion function (Type I) is employed in the paper and defined in Eq. 12 below.

$$\tilde{P}_j(m, n) = \begin{cases} 0, & \tilde{s}_{mj} \leq \tilde{s}_{nj} \\ 1 & \tilde{s}_{mj} > \tilde{s}_{nj} \end{cases} \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, k \quad (12)$$

Step 5: Computation of weighted aggregated preference function

The weighted aggregated preference function is computed using Eq. 13 below.

$$\tilde{\pi}(m, l) = \sum_{j=1}^k \tilde{P}_j(m, n) \tilde{w}_j \quad (13)$$

where \tilde{w}_j signifies the importance weight of the criteria

Step 6: Computation of the leaving, entering and net flows

In this step, each alternative is related to $(n - 1)$ alternatives that results in either a positive or negative flow [16, 23]. The approach calculates the leaving, entering and net flows using Eqs. 14, 15 and 16 below respectively.

$$\text{Leaving flow: } \tilde{\phi}^+(m) = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{m \neq l} \tilde{\pi}(m, l), \quad \forall m, l \in A, \quad (14)$$

$$\text{Entering flow: } \tilde{\phi}^-(m) = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{m \neq l} \tilde{\pi}(l, m), \quad \forall m, l \in A, \quad (15)$$

where n is the number of alternatives.

Step 7: Establishing ranking

This step uses PROMETHEE II for a full ranking using the net flow as shown in Eq. 16.

$$\text{Net flow: } \tilde{\phi}(m) = \tilde{\phi}^+(m) - \tilde{\phi}^-(m), \quad \forall m \in A. \quad (16)$$

4 Application

The fuzzy PROMETHEE method is applied in this numerical example to evaluate countries applying for developmental aid programmes. The example adopts the OECD criteria currently used in evaluating developmental aid programs. The said set of criteria are *relevance*, *effectiveness*, *efficiency*, *impact* and *sustainability* presented in the framework in Fig. 2 below. We use the five criteria by the OECD and eight arbitrary alternatives (Countries) within the lower middle income group of the World Bank. Alternatives used in this numerical example are Nepal, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Somalia Benin, Chad, Ethiopia and Haiti in no particular order.

The first step of the fuzzy PROMETHEE method illustrated above is the determination of the linguistic variables, linguistic terms, the alternatives and the decision makers. Tables 1 and 2 below present the linguistic terms for the importance criteria and the alternative ratings respectively and their respective TFNs. Figure 2 further outlines the criteria and alternatives adopted in this paper.

Using the TFNs in Table 1 and the criteria ratings by decision makers in Table 3, the importance weights are computed by using Eq. 6. The aggregation is done with Eq. 8. Criteria 4 (C4) is rated as the most important criterion in evaluating and selection countries for developmental aid as seen in Table 3 below. This is followed by C3, C5, C2 and C1 in that order.

The second step in the fuzzy PROMETHEE method is constructing a decision matrix using Eq. 7 and aggregated with Eq. 9. The 5-set linguistic terms in Table 2 (*Very Low-VL*; *Low-L*; *High-H*; *Very High-VH*; *Extremely High-EH*) were used by the decision makers in assessing countries for developmental aid. Table 4 presents the decision matrix of the three decision makers used in this example.

The third step normalized the aggregated decision matrix using Eq. 11. Computation of the preference function to describe the decision-makers' aggregated preference between pairs of alternatives is presented in the fourth step. As indicated above, the paper adopted the 'usual criterion' presented in Eq. 12 for the computation. The pairwise preferences are presented in Table 5 below.

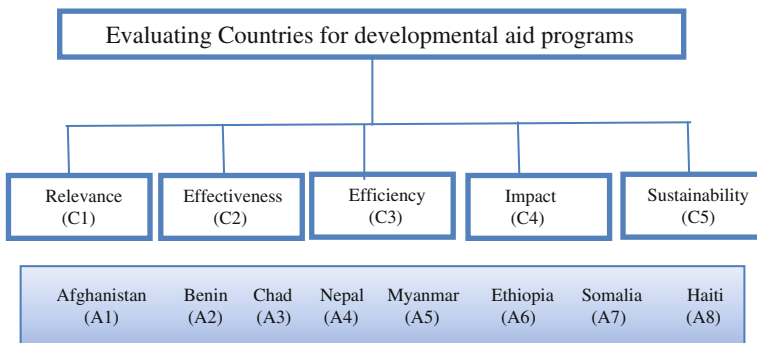


Fig. 2 Conceptual framework for selecting beneficiaries. Source Authors'

Table 3 Importance weight criterion

	D1	D2	D3	Importance weight
C1	L	L	VL	(0, 0.233, 0.5)
C2	M	L	M	(0.1, 0.433, 0.07)
C3	H	H	M	(0.1, 0.633, 0.9)
C4	VH	VH	H	(0.5, 0.833, 1)
C5	L	H	M	(0.1, 0.500, 0.9)

Source Authors'

Table 4 Alternative ratings by decision makers

<i>Decision maker 1</i>								
	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8
C1	VL	L	H	VH	H	VL	EH	H
C2	H	H	VH	H	VL	L	EH	H
C3	L	VL	L	H	H	H	VH	L
C4	H	VH	L	EH	VL	L	VH	L
C5	VL	VH	L	H	L	VL	VH	H
<i>Decision maker 2</i>								
	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8
C1	VH	H	VH	L	VL	H	EH	VH
C2	VL	EH	H	VH	L	H	VH	H
C3	EH	H	L	VL	H	VH	VH	H
C4	VL	H	L	H	H	VH	VH	L
C5	EH	H	L	VH	EH	H	EH	EH
<i>Decision maker 3</i>								
	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8
C1	EH	H	H	VL	L	L	VH	EH
C2	H	VH	H	L	L	H	VH	L
C3	H	EH	VL	L	VH	L	VH	H
C4	H	VL	H	H	EH	H	VH	VL
C5	VL	L	VH	EH	L	L	VH	H

Source Authors'

The weighted aggregated preference function is then calculated in step five using Eq. 13 and presented below in Table 6.

Step six computes the leaving, entering and net flows Eqs. 14–16 respectively. Table 7 below presents the computed leaving, entering, net flows and the alternative ranking. Figure 3 also presents the partial preorder outranking and the preorder outranking giving alternative 7 (A7) as the best alternative.

The partial preorder outranking is denoted by Fig. 3a as a partial ranking of alternatives while Fig. 3b is the full ranking that signifies the best alternative with chronological succeeding alternatives.

Table 5 Pairwise preference functions for alternatives

	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5
P(A1, A2)	1	0	0	0	0
P(A1, A3)	0	0	1	0	0
P(A1, A4)	0	0	1	0	0
P(A1, A5)	1	1	0	0	0
P(A1, A6)	1	0	0	0	1
P(A1, A7)	0	0	0	0	0
P(A1, A8)	0	0	1	1	0
P(A2, A1)	0	1	0	1	0
P(A2, A3)	0	0	1	1	0
P(A2, A4)	0	0	1	0	0
P(A2, A5)	0	1	0	0	0
P(A2, A6)	0	1	0	0	1
P(A2, A7)	0	0	0	0	0
P(A2, A8)	0	1	1	1	0
P(A3, A1)	1	1	1	1	1
P(A3, A2)	0	1	1	1	1
P(A3, A4)	0	0	0	0	0
P(A3, A5)	1	1	0	0	0
P(A3, A6)	1	1	0	0	1
P(A3, A7)	0	0	0	0	0
P(A3, A8)	0	1	0	1	0
P(A4, A1)	0	1	0	1	0
P(A4, A2)	1	0	0	0	0
P(A4, A3)	0	0	1	1	0
P(A4, A5)	1	1	0	0	0
P(A4, A6)	1	1	0	0	0
P(A4, A7)	0	0	0	0	0
P(A4, A8)	0	1	0	1	0
P(A5, A1)	0	0	0	1	0
P(A5, A2)	0	0	0	0	0
P(A5, A3)	0	0	1	1	0
P(A5, A4)	0	0	1	0	0
P(A5, A6)	0	0	0	0	1
P(A5, A7)	0	0	0	0	0
P(A5, A8)	0	0	1	1	0
P(A6, A1)	0	0	0	1	0
P(A6, A2)	0	0	0	0	0
P(A6, A3)	0	0	1	1	0
P(A6, A4)	0	0	1	0	0
P(A6, A5)	0	1	0	0	0

(continued)

Table 5 (continued)

	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5
P(A6, A7)	0	0	0	0	0
P(A6, A8)	0	0	1	1	0
P(A7, A1)	0	1	0	1	0
P(A7, A2)	1	0	0	0	0
P(A7, A3)	0	0	1	1	0
P(A7, A4)	0	0	1	0	0
P(A7, A5)	1	1	0	0	1
P(A7, A6)	1	1	0	0	1
P(A7, A8)	0	1	1	1	0
P(A8, A1)	0	0	0	0	0
P(A8, A2)	1	0	0	0	0
P(A8, A3)	0	0	1	0	0
P(A8, A4)	0	0	0	0	0
P(A8, A5)	0	1	0	0	0
P(A8, A6)	1	0	0	0	1
P(A8, A7)	0	0	0	0	0

Source Authors'

Table 6 Weighted aggregated preference function

	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8
A1		0.733	1.633	1.633	1.970	2.230	0	3.970
A2	3.567		3.967	1.633	1.230	2.730	0	5.200
A3	7.433	6.7		0	1.970	3.470	0	3.570
A4	3.567	0.733	3.967		1.970	1.970	0	3.570
A5	2.333	0	3.967	1.633		1.500	0	3.970
A6	2.333	0	3.967	1.633	1.230		0	3.970
A7	3.567	0.733	3.967	1.633	3.470	3.470		5.2000
A8	0	0.733	1.633	0	1.230	2.230	0	

Source Authors'

5 Comparative Analysis

5.1 Fuzzy TOPSIS

Since Yoon and Hwang [25] introduced the Technique for Order Preference by Similarity to Ideal Solution (TOPSIS) method, it has become one of the industry standards widely applied in the area of Multiple Criteria Decision Making (MCDM). To determine the best alternative measured against sets of criteria, the TOPSIS method does this by introducing concurrently the shortest distance from the Fuzzy Positive Ideal

Table 7 The leaving/entering, net flows and alternatives ranking

	Leaving flow ($\phi^+(m)$)	Entering flow ($\phi^-(m)$)	Net Flow	Ranking
A1	1.7381	3.257143	-1.51905	7
A2	2.61905	1.37619	1.24286	2
A3	3.30476	3.30000	0.00476	5
A4	2.25238	1.166667	1.08571	3
A5	1.91429	1.866667	0.04762	4
A6	1.87619	2.514286	-0.63810	6
A7	3.14762	0	3.14762	1
A8	0.83333	4.204762	-3.37143	8

Source Authors'

Solution (FPIS) and the farthest distance from the Fuzzy Negative Ideal Solution (FNIS). The FNIS works by maximizing the cost criteria and minimizing the benefit criteria, while the FPIS seeks to maximize the benefit criteria while minimizing the cost criteria (Afful-Dadzie et al. [12]). The alternatives are evaluated and subsequently selected by ranking their relative closeness combining two distance measures. The numerical example used above is applied in TOPSIS to compare the ranking of the methods.

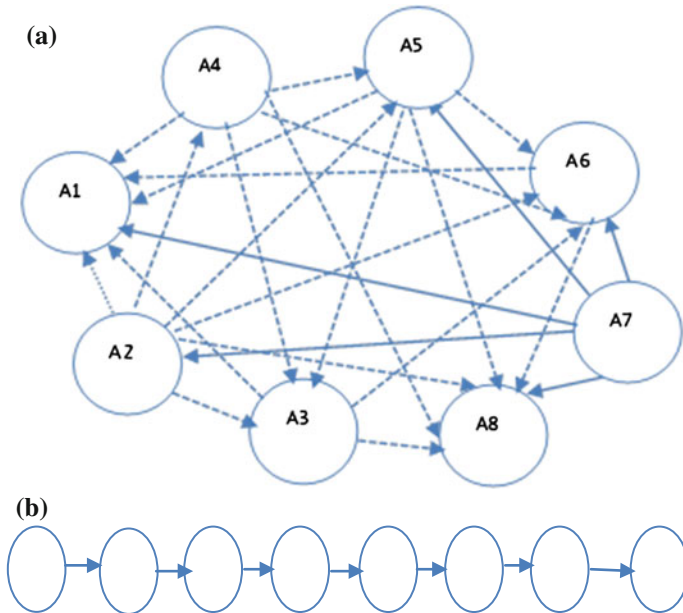


Fig. 3 (a) Partial preorder outranking; (b) Full preorder outranking

Table 8 Weights of each criteria

	TFN			BNP
C1	0	0.233	0.5	0.244
C2	0.1	0.433	0.7	0.411
C3	0.1	0.633	0.9	0.544
C4	0.5	0.833	1	0.778
C5	0.1	0.500	0.9	0.500

Source Authors’

The numerical example uses the same criteria, number of decision makers and alternatives as used in PROMETHEE. However, the TOPSIS method and the procedure in coming out with the ranking of the alternatives is quite different.

The judgements on the importance weights are made by the three decision makers, aggregated using the graded mean integration method is used to aggregate each criterion while the Center of Area (COA) technique is applied in calculating the BNP. The criteria weights are presented in Table 8 below.

The alternative ratings produced by the three decision makers in Table 4 are aggregated before normalization. The linguistic terms in Table 2 are applied to the alternative ratings and aggregated using the graded mean integration. The results of the aggregated alternative ratings is shown in Table 9.

The next step is the normalization of the aggregated decision matrix using Eq. 17 below. The results of the normalized decision matrix is shown in Table 10.

$$\tilde{r}_{ij} = \left(\frac{\tilde{f}_{ij}}{h_j^+}, \frac{\tilde{g}_{ij}}{h_j^+}, \frac{\tilde{h}_{ij}}{h_j^+} \right) h_j^+ = \max_i h_{ij} \tag{17}$$

The fuzzy normalized matrix is then weighted using the BNP values generated in Table 11. The weighted normalized fuzzy decision matrix is presented in Table 11.

The fuzzy positive and fuzzy negative ideal solutions are determined. The relative closeness coefficient is calculated based on the fuzzy positive and fuzzy negative ideal solutions. Table 12 presents the distance measurement including the associated ranks of all the alternatives used.

Based on the results in Table 12, alternative A7 is ranked top followed by A4 and A2 respectively.

5.2 Fuzzy VIKOR

The ‘ViseKriterijumska Optimizacija I Kompromisno Resenje’ technique in MCDM consist of a multi-criteria optimization and compromise solution. The technique was extended in the fuzzy environment so as to address subjectivity and impreciseness in data. In this technique, a compromise ranking is established using weight intervals,

Table 9 Fuzzy aggregated decision matrix

	A1		A2		A3		A4		A5		A6		A7		A8								
C1	0.0	5.8	10.0	0.0	4.2	7.5	2.5	5.8	10.0	0.0	3.3	10.0	0.0	2.5	7.5	0.0	2.5	9.2	10.0	2.5	7.5	10.0	
C2	0.0	3.3	7.5	2.5	7.5	10.0	2.5	5.8	10.0	0.0	5.0	10.0	0.0	4.2	5.0	0.0	4.2	8.3	10.0	0.0	4.2	7.5	10.0
C3	0.0	5.8	10.0	0.0	5.0	10.0	0.0	1.7	5.0	0.0	2.5	7.5	2.5	5.0	10.0	0.0	5.0	7.5	10.0	0.0	4.2	7.5	10.0
C4	0.0	3.3	7.5	0.0	4.2	10.0	0.0	3.3	7.5	2.5	6.7	10.0	0.0	5.0	10.0	0.0	5.0	7.5	10.0	0.0	1.7	5.0	10.0
C5	0.0	3.3	10.0	0.0	5.0	10.0	0.0	4.2	10.0	2.5	7.5	10.0	0.0	2.5	7.5	0.0	2.5	8.3	10.0	2.5	6.7	10.0	10.0

Source Authors'

Table 10 Normalized fuzzy decision matrix

	A1		A2		A3		A4		A5		A6		A7		A8				
C1	0.00	0.58	1.00	0.00	0.42	0.75	1.00	0.00	0.33	1.00	0.00	0.25	0.75	0.50	0.92	1.00	0.25	0.75	1.00
C2	0.00	0.33	0.75	0.25	0.75	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.50	1.00	0.00	0.17	0.50	0.50	0.83	1.00	0.00	0.42	0.75
C3	0.00	0.58	1.00	0.00	0.50	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.75	0.25	0.58	1.00	0.00	0.50	1.00	0.00	0.42	0.75
C4	0.00	0.33	0.75	0.00	0.42	1.00	0.00	0.33	0.75	1.00	0.00	0.50	1.00	0.50	0.75	1.00	0.00	0.17	0.50
C5	0.00	0.33	1.00	0.00	0.50	1.00	0.42	1.00	0.25	0.75	1.00	0.00	0.25	0.75	0.83	1.00	0.25	0.67	1.00

Source Authors'

Table 11 Weighted normalized fuzzy decision matrix

	A1			A2			A3			A4			A5			A6			A7			A8						
C1	0.00	0.14	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.38	0.00	0.14	0.50	0.00	0.08	0.50	0.00	0.06	0.38	0.00	0.06	0.38	0.00	0.06	0.38	0.00	0.21	0.50	0.00	0.18	0.50
C2	0.00	0.14	0.53	0.03	0.03	0.33	0.70	0.03	0.25	0.70	0.00	0.22	0.70	0.00	0.07	0.35	0.00	0.18	0.53	0.05	0.36	0.70	0.00	0.36	0.70	0.00	0.18	0.53
C3	0.00	0.37	0.90	0.00	0.32	0.90	0.90	0.00	0.11	0.45	0.00	0.16	0.68	0.03	0.37	0.90	0.00	0.32	0.90	0.05	0.48	0.90	0.00	0.48	0.90	0.00	0.26	0.68
C4	0.00	0.28	0.75	0.00	0.35	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.28	0.75	0.13	0.56	1.00	0.00	0.42	1.00	0.00	0.42	1.00	0.25	0.63	1.00	0.00	0.63	1.00	0.00	0.14	0.50
C5	0.00	0.17	0.90	0.00	0.25	0.90	0.90	0.00	0.21	0.90	0.03	0.38	0.90	0.00	0.25	0.90	0.00	0.13	0.68	0.05	0.42	0.90	0.00	0.42	0.90	0.03	0.33	0.90

Source Authors'

Table 12 The distance measurement

	d_i^+	d_i^-	CC_i	Rank
A1	3.79	2.17	0.3637	4
A2	3.68	2.37	0.3919	3
A3	3.85	1.99	0.3410	7
A4	3.61	2.34	0.3939	2
A5	3.81	2.15	0.3610	5
A6	3.83	2.11	0.3557	6
A7	3.23	2.63	0.4484	1
A8	3.84	1.90	0.3310	8

Source Authors'

Table 13 Fuzzy best value f_j^+ and fuzzy worst value f_j^-

Fuzzy best value			Fuzzy worst value		
5.00	9.17	10.00	0.00	2.50	7.50
5.00	8.33	10.00	0.00	1.67	5.00
5.00	7.50	10.00	0.00	2.50	5.00
5.00	7.50	10.00	0.00	1.67	5.00
5.00	8.33	10.00	0.00	2.50	7.50

Source Authors'

the fuzzy best and fuzzy worst solutions. The fuzzy VIKOR method deals with ranking of alternatives with multi-conflicting or non-commensurable criteria [26].

Adapting the same criteria, number of decision makers, alternatives and fuzzy decisions, a numerical example is presented below for comparison with the fuzzy PROMETHEE and fuzzy TOPSIS results above.

Based on the aggregated fuzzy decisions in Table 9, the fuzzy best and fuzzy worst values are calculated using Eqs. 18 and 19. The results are stated in Table 13.

$$\tilde{f}_j^+ = \max_i \tilde{x}_{ij}, f_j^- = \min_i \tilde{x}_{ij}, \text{ for } j \in B \tag{18}$$

$$\tilde{f}_j^+ = \min_i \tilde{x}_{ij}, f_j^- = \max_i \tilde{x}_{ij}, \text{ for } j \in C \tag{19}$$

The fuzzy decisions are then normalized and weighted using Eqs. 20 and 21. The results are detailed in Tables 14(a, b) and 15(a, b) below.

$$\tilde{d}_{ij} = (\tilde{f}_j^* - \tilde{x}_{ij}) / (c_j^* - a_j^\circ) \text{ for } j \in B \tag{20}$$

$$\tilde{d}_{ij} = (\tilde{x}_{ij} - \tilde{f}_j^*) / (c_j^\circ - a_j^*) \text{ for } j \in C \tag{21}$$

where B is the benefit criteria and C , the cost criteria.

Table 14 Normalized fuzzy difference

(a)												
	A1- fj*-xij			A2- fj*-xij			A3- fj*-xij			A4- fj*-xij		
C1	-2.50	6.67	10.00	-2.50	5.00	10.00	-5.00	3.33	10.00	-5.00	5.83	10.00
C2	0.00	6.67	10.00	-5.00	0.83	7.50	-2.50	5.00	10.00	-5.00	3.33	10.00
C3	-5.00	1.67	7.50	-5.00	2.50	10.00	-5.00	1.67	10.00	-2.50	5.00	10.00
C4	-5.00	2.50	10.00	-5.00	3.33	10.00	-2.50	4.17	10.00	-5.00	0.83	7.50
C5	-5.00	3.33	10.00	-5.00	3.33	10.00	-5.00	5.00	10.00	-5.00	0.83	7.50
(b)												
	A5- fj*-xij			A6- fj*-xij			A7- fj*-xij			A8- fj*-xij		
C1	-2.50	6.67	10.00	-5.00	3.33	7.50	-5.00	0.00	5.00	-5.00	1.67	7.50
C2	-2.50	4.17	10.00	-5.00	2.50	7.50	-5.00	0.00	5.00	-2.50	4.17	10.00
C3	-5.00	2.50	10.00	0.00	5.83	10.00	-5.00	0.00	5.00	-2.50	3.33	10.00
C4	-5.00	2.50	10.00	-2.50	4.17	10.00	-5.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	5.83	10.00
C5	-2.50	5.83	10.00	-5.00	4.17	10.00	-5.00	0.00	5.00	-5.00	1.67	7.50

Source Authors'

Table 15 Weighted normalized fuzzy difference

(a)												
	Weighted A1			Weighted A2			Weighted A3			Weighted A4		
C1	0.0	1.6	5.0	0.0	1.2	5.0	0.0	0.8	5.0	0.0	1.4	5.0
C2	0.0	2.9	7.0	-0.5	0.4	5.3	-0.3	2.2	7.0	-0.5	1.4	7.0
C3	-0.5	1.1	6.8	-0.5	1.6	9.0	0.5	1.1	9.0	-0.3	3.2	9.0
C4	-2.5	2.1	10.0	-2.5	2.8	10.0	-1.3	3.5	10.0	-2.5	0.7	7.5
C5	-0.5	1.7	9.0	-0.5	1.7	9.0	-0.5	2.5	9.0	-0.5	0.4	6.8
(b)												
	Weighted A5			Weighted A6			Weighted A7			Weighted A8		
C1	0.0	1.6	5.0	0.0	0.8	3.8	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.4	3.8
C2	-0.3	1.8	7.0	-0.5	1.1	5.3	-0.5	0.0	3.5	-0.3	1.8	7.0
C3	-0.5	1.6	9.0	0.0	3.7	9.0	-0.5	0.0	4.5	-0.3	2.1	9.0
C4	-2.5	2.1	10.0	-1.3	3.5	10.0	-2.5	0.0	5.0	0.0	4.9	10.0
C5	-0.3	2.9	9.0	-0.5	2.1	9.0	-0.5	0.0	4.5	-0.5	0.8	6.8

Source Authors'

Computing the separation measures of \tilde{S}_i and \tilde{R}_i are calculated from the fuzzy best and fuzzy worst values. The results of the measures is presented in Table 16(a, b) below.

The next step is to compute the value of \tilde{Q}_i with Eq. 22

$$\tilde{Q}_i = v(\tilde{S}_i - \tilde{S}^*) / (S^{oc} - S^{*a}) \oplus (1 - v)(\tilde{R}_i - \tilde{R}^*) / (R^{oc} - R^{*a}) \quad (22)$$

Table 16 Separation measures of \tilde{S}_i and \tilde{R}_i

(a)												
	dA1			dA2			dA3			dA4		
C1	0.00	0.16	0.50	0.00	0.12	0.50	0.00	0.08	0.50	0.00	0.14	0.50
C2	0.00	0.29	0.70	-0.05	0.04	0.53	-0.03	0.22	0.70	-0.05	0.14	0.70
C3	-0.05	0.11	0.68	-0.05	0.16	0.90	-0.05	0.11	0.90	-0.03	0.32	0.90
C4	-0.25	0.21	1.00	-0.25	0.28	1.00	-0.13	0.35	1.00	-0.25	0.07	0.75
C5	-0.05	0.17	0.90	-0.05	0.17	0.90	-0.05	0.25	0.90	-0.05	0.04	0.68
\tilde{S}_j	-0.35	0.93	3.78	-0.40	0.76	3.83	-0.25	1.00	4.00	-0.38	0.71	3.53
\tilde{R}_j	0.00	0.29	1.00	0.00	0.28	1.00	0.00	0.35	1.00	0.00	0.32	0.90
(b)												
	dA5			dA6			dA7			dA8		
C1	0.00	0.16	0.50	0.00	0.08	0.38	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.04	0.38
C2	-0.03	0.18	0.70	-0.05	0.11	0.53	-0.05	0.00	0.35	-0.03	0.18	0.70
C3	-0.05	0.16	0.90	0.00	0.37	0.90	-0.05	0.00	0.45	-0.03	0.21	0.90
C4	-0.25	0.21	1.00	-0.13	0.35	1.00	-0.25	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.49	1.00
C5	-0.03	0.29	0.90	-0.05	0.21	0.90	-0.05	0.00	0.45	-0.05	0.08	0.68
\tilde{S}_j	-0.35	0.99	4.00	-0.23	1.11	3.70	-0.40	0.00	2.00	-0.10	1.00	3.65
\tilde{R}_j	0.00	0.29	1.00	0.00	0.37	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.49	1.00

Source Authors'

Table 17 The value of q

	Q		
A1	-0.52	0.25	0.97
A2	-0.52	0.22	0.98
A3	-0.51	0.29	1
A4	-0.52	0.24	0.9
A5	-0.52	0.26	1
A6	-0.5	0.31	0.97
A7	-0.52	0	0.52
A8	-0.49	0.36	0.96

Source Authors'

where $\tilde{S}^* = \text{MIN}_i \tilde{S}_i$, $S^{\text{oc}} = \text{MAX}_i S_i^c$, $\tilde{R}^* = \text{MIN}_i \tilde{R}_i$, $R^{\text{oc}} = \text{MAX}_i R_i^c$ and $v(v = n + 1/2n)$. The computed values of \tilde{Q}_i are presented in Table 17.

The values of \tilde{Q}_i , \tilde{S}_i and \tilde{R}_i are then defuzzified. The fuzzy numbers are converted into crisp values using the Center of Area method. The values are then ranked with the smaller value of \tilde{Q}_i being the best ranked alternative as seen in Table 18.

The comparative ranks of the three techniques; fuzzy PROMETHEE, fuzzy TOPSIS and fuzzy VIKOR are presented in Table 19.

Table 18 The defuzified values and the respective ranks

	<i>Q</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>Q</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>R</i>
A1	0.24	1.45	0.43	4	4	3
A2	0.23	1.39	0.43	3	3	2
A3	0.26	1.58	1.58	7	8	8
A4	0.2	1.29	1.29	2	2	6
A5	0.25	1.55	1.55	5	7	7
A6	0.26	1.53	0.46	6	6	4
A7	0	0.53	0.17	1	1	1
A8	0.28	1.52	0.5	8	5	5

Source Authors'

Table 19 Comparative ranks

	PROMETHEE	TOPSIS	VIKOR
A1	7	4	4
A2	2	3	3
A3	5	7	7
A4	3	2	2
A5	4	5	5
A6	6	6	6
A7	1	1	1
A8	8	8	8

Source Authors'

From Table 19, the fuzzy TOPSIS and fuzzy VIKOR methods give us the same ranking. This is so because the two methods are distance based measures with similar methodology. Fuzzy PROMETHEE has different ranks from A1 to A5.

6 Sensitivity Analysis

This section of the paper analyses the cross effect of influenced decisions on the alternatives ratings by the three decision makers. The sensitivity analysis seeks to find out the impact on the ranking if a decision maker is perceived to have been influenced. The alternative ratings by the decision makers in Table 4, the ratings of the first three alternatives (A7, A4 and A2) in Table 12 and the top three criteria (C4, C3, and C5) in Table 3 are used in the sensitivity analysis for the three scenarios and nine cases as seen in Table 20. The alternative ratings of VH and EH for these alternatives and criteria are altered to L.

In scenario 1 case 1, the alternative ratings for decision maker 1 for A7 are altered for the top three criteria (c4, c3, c5) from VH (5.0, 7.5, 10.0) and EH (7.5, 10.0, 10.0) to L (0.0, 2.5, 5.0). All other alternative ratings for the criteria remain the same

Table 20 Comparative ranks

Case	(Changes made in Alternatives, At), A = A1, A2, ..., A8, t = 1, 2, 3, ..., 8	
Scenario 1 (DM 1)	Case 1	A7 (c4, c3, c5) = (0, 2.5, 5), A1–A6, A8
	Case 2	A4 (c4, c3, c5) = (0, 2.5, 5), A1–A3, A5–A8
	Case 3	A2 (c4, c3, c5) = (0, 2.5, 5), A1, A3–A8
Scenario 2 (DM 2)	Case 4	A7 (c4, c3, c5) = (0, 2.5, 5), A1–A6, A8
	Case 5	A4 (c4, c3, c5) = (0, 2.5, 5), A1–A3, A5–A8
	Case 6	A2 (c4, c3, c5) = (0, 2.5, 5), A1, A3–A8
Scenario 3 (DM 2)	Case 7	A7 (c4, c3, c5) = (0, 2.5, 5), A1–A6, A8
	Case 8	A4 (c4, c3, c5) = (0, 2.5, 5), A1–A3, A5–A8
	Case 9	A2 (c4, c3, c5) = (0, 2.5, 5), A1, A3–A8

Source Authors'

for decision maker 1 and the other decision makers. In case 2, criteria (c4, c3, c5) for A7 of decision maker 1 are replaced from VH (5.0, 7.5, 10.0) and EH (7.5, 10.0, 10.0) to L (0.0, 2.5, 5.0) while other criteria remain the same for the other alternative ratings for all other decision makers. In case 3, alternative ratings of criteria (c4, c3, c5) for A2 for decision maker 1 are also replaced from VH (5.0, 7.5, 10.0) and EH (7.5, 10.0, 10.0) to L (0.0, 2.5, 5.0) while other criteria remain the same for the other alternative ratings for all other decision makers.

The same format is applied to scenarios 2 and 3 and for cases 4 to 9, for the criteria (c4, c3, c5) and alternatives A7, A4 and A2. Linguistics terms of VH (5.0, 7.5, 10.0) and EH (7.5, 10.0, 10.0) are replaced with L (0.0, 2.5, 5.0) on separate basis for decision makers 2 and 3 as shown in Table 10. Steps 5–9 are carried out on separate basis for each case under the scenarios and compared with the original ranking to ascertain whether an influenced decision can affect the ranking of the alternatives.

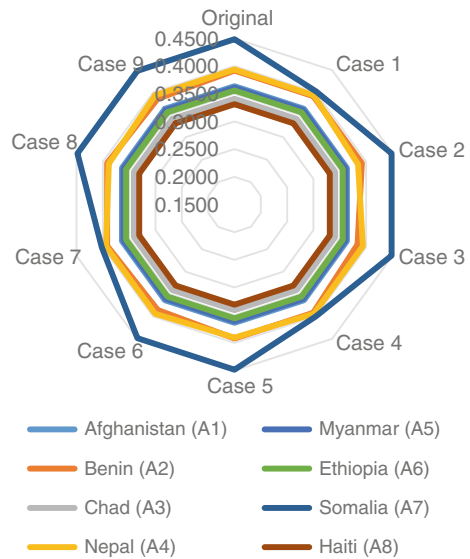
From Table 11 and Fig. 4, the effect of the alterations of the cases for the three scenarios on the rankings of the alternatives are shown with the original ranking. The symbol 'c1' stands for case 1, 'c2' for case 2 and so on. A change in the alternative ratings of the three top criteria (c4, c3, c5) for alternatives A7, A4 and A2 by a decision maker results in few changes in the alternative rankings of A4 and A2 as seen in Table 21 and Fig. 4 below. Alternative 7 remains the top ranked alternative throughout the three scenarios and nine cases as in the original ranking. Alternative 4 also remains the second ranked except for scenario 1(c2), scenario 2(c5) and scenario 3 (c8) where the ranking of the alternative was changed to third. Alternative 2 remained the third ranked except for scenario 1 (c2), scenario 2 (c5) and scenario 3 (c8) which encountered some changes. The rest of the alternatives remained unchanged as seen in Table 11 and Fig. 4 below. From the sensitivity analysis, the ranking of the alternatives in the proposed model will not be affected by an influence of an individual decision maker when the same criteria weights are applied.

Table 21 Comparative ranks

Alternatives	Original	SCENARIO 1 = DM1 = L			SCENARIO 2 = DM2 = L			SCENARIO 3 = DM3 = L		
		c1	c2	c3	c4	c5	c6	c7	c8	c9
		Rank	Rank	Rank	Rank	Rank	Rank	Rank	Rank	Rank
(A1)	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
(A2)	3	3	2	3	3	2	3	3	2	3
(A3)	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
(A4)	2	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	3	2
(A5)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
(A6)	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
(A7)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
(A8)	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8

Source Authors'

Fig. 4 Plot of result of sensitivity analysis on criteria. Source Authors'



7 Conclusion

The paper designed a four-stage MCDM framework of Fuzzy PROMETHEE, fuzzy VIKOR, Fuzzy TOPSIS and a novel sensitivity analysis to help evaluate developmental aid programs sponsored by aid-donors around the world. With a numerical example, the framework demonstrates how donor-recipient countries participating in developmental aid program can be evaluated to ascertain progress made and therefore which countries should deserve future funding based on previous performances. The study relied on a set of 5-criteria evaluation format used by OECD countries in evaluating developmental aid programs to model the proposed evaluation technique. With a custom-made rating scale, the framework relies on the experience and the exper-

tise of country development officers and executives in evaluating the performance of participating countries against the set criteria. The strength of the proposed model is seen in how aid-recipient countries can be evaluated by ranking them on their performances thereby ensuring fairness, value for money and sustainability of aid programs. The use of the evaluation process where sensitivity analysis is employed strengthens the framework by ensuring that bias in expert ratings are easily detected to warrant resetting the process again.

Acknowledgments This work was supported by GACR P103/15/06700S, NPU I No. MSMT-7778/2014, CEBIA-Tech No. CZ.1.05/2.1.00/03.0089. It was also supported by Internal Grant Agency of TBU under the project Nos. IGA/FAI/2015/054, IGA/FaME/2016/019 and IGA/FaME/2015/023.

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