A Brief Overview of Aid Transparency at USAID: Present and Future

2014 Winter Training Conference
International Consortium on Governmental Financial Management (ICGFM)
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Jeremiah Carew, USAID
I. Introduction to U.S. foreign assistance and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

II. Introduction to aid transparency & current U.S. efforts

III. Overview of efforts to increase aid transparency through improved information management
Introduction: U.S. Foreign Assistance

Distribution of US ODA by Agency: CY2012 Net Disbursements

Bilateral and Multilateral
$30,687

- USAID 54%
- Treasury 10%
- Peace Corps 1%
- State 17%
- Other 2%
- MCC 4%
- HHS 10%
- DoD 2%

Source: USAID Economic Analysis and Data Services (Prepared January 7, 2014)
Introduction: U.S. Foreign Assistance

Country break down of U.S. foreign assistance and top USAID recipients

Top 10 recipient of USAID-managed funding (FY 14 disbursements):
1. Afghanistan
2. Jordan
3. Pakistan
4. Kenya
5. Ethiopia
6. Nigeria
7. Syria
8. South Africa
9. Tanzania
10. Uganda

Sources: Heat map: Foreign Assistance Dashboard, FY 2015 Planned USAID Funding: Foreign Assistance Dashboard, FY 2014 disbursements, including Q4
USAID’s mission:
  • *We partner to end extreme poverty and to promote resilient, democratic societies while advancing our security and prosperity.*

By far, USAID is world’s largest bilateral donor; nevertheless, USG spends less than 1% of federal budget on foreign assistance

USAID is the U.S. Government’s primary development agency; began in 1961 with Foreign Assistance Act

Works across spectrum of humanitarian assistance, development assistance, and countries in transition

Independent federal government agency that receives overall foreign policy guidance from the Secretary of State
INTRO TO AID TRANSPARENCY & CURRENT U.S. EFFORTS
• November 2011: U.S. signs International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)

• IATI: voluntary, multi-stakeholder initiative (donors, partner countries, civil society):
  • Make information about foreign aid spending easier to access, use and understand.

• Major U.S. initiatives supporting IATI and aid transparency in general:
  • **Foreign Assistance Dashboard**: repository and official registry for all USG IATI data
  • **“Greenbook”**: complete historical record of all foreign assistance provided by U.S.
  • **Open Data**: based on Federal government policy, fuel entrepreneurship, innovation, and scientific discovery through access to machine-readable raw data accessible to public
  • **Reporting to OECD/DAC**: same definition used by all for ODA, so comparable data across donors, shows historical trends
Foreign Assistance Dashboard ([www.foreignassistance.gov](http://www.foreignassistance.gov))

### Filter Data:
- **FY**
- **Sector Framework**
- **Country**
- **Implementing Agent**

### Your Selections:

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<td><strong>Country</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Implementing Agent</strong></td>
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<td>GLAAS Migrated Contract</td>
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<td>$12,526,440</td>
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Showing 1 to 10 entries (Out of 38,237)
Greenbook (https://eads.usaid.gov/gbk/)

U.S. Overseas Loans and Grants

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This website provides a complete historical record of all foreign assistance provided by the United States to the rest of the world. It is a companion to the annual report to Congress, U.S. Overseas Loans and Grants, Obligations and Loan Authorizations - commonly known as the Greenbook.

Greenbook Data

![Graph showing data over time]
Open Data (www.usaid.gov/data)

- Executive Order (May 9, 2013): Making Open and Machine Readable the New Default for Government Information
- Agency policy to implement the EO issued 10/1/14

The Development Data Library (DDL) is USAID's public repository of Agency-funded, machine readable data. The DDL is part of USAID's commitment to evidence-based programming and rigorous evaluation, while supporting the principles of the President's Open Government Initiative.

Please see the DDL Submissions page for instructions on submitting data to the DDL.

Do you have feedback on any of these datasets or APIs? Please email USAID staff or submit your feedback (as a new "issue") on the USAID Github account.

Please read the brief statement below about the conditions under which USAID's data are released.

To save a file, right click and select save.

Don't know how to read an XML file?

- Save file in XML format
- Open Excel. On the DATA tab, in the Get External Tab section, click on "From Other Sources." Select XML.
- A dialogue box appears with a question about letting EXCEL create the Schema. Click Yes and you wind up with a spreadsheet.

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<th>OUR DATA</th>
<th>DATA</th>
<th>METADATA</th>
<th>DOCS</th>
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<tr>
<td>AidData 3.0</td>
<td>WWW</td>
<td>JSON</td>
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<td>Baseline Study of Title II Development Food Assistance Programs in Uganda</td>
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<td>Development Credit Authority Guarantee Data: Loan Transactions - Dictionary</td>
<td>CSV</td>
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<td>API</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development Credit Authority (DCA) Data: Guarantee Utilization and Claims - Dictionary</td>
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<td>Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC)</td>
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Introduction: Aid Transparency & Current U.S. Efforts

Reporting to OECD/DAC (https://eads.usaid.gov/usoda/)

U.S. Official Development Assistance

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This website provides U.S. Official Development Assistance (ODA) data as defined by the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), Development Assistance Committee (DAC). These data are compiled annually by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) for the U.S. Government and submitted to the OECD/DAC.

Because all donor countries use the same definition of "Official Development Assistance" when reporting to the DAC, these data are useful when comparing assistance across donor countries.

Development Assistance By Country
EFFORTS TO INCREASE AID TRANSPARENCY THROUGH IMPROVED INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
A number of very good systems individually, but:
- Lack of standardized processes
- Limited ability to aggregate data across systems
- Limited ability for systems to transfer data between each other
The Development Information Solution (DIS) Proposal

DIS Intended Outcomes:
- Standardized business processes (increasing data quality and policy compliance)
- Cost savings (eliminate uncoordinated IT development)
- Improved IT system security (fewer cuff systems)
- Better aid transparency data

Common Mission Portfolio Management Platforms

Common Washington Operating Unit Portfolio Management Platforms

Financial Management

Procurement

Budget Planning
Agency Portfolio Viewer to aggregate across OUs’ platforms
The Development Information Solution (DIS) Proposal

Results, geo info, budget, and procurement functionality

Common Mission Portfolio Management Platforms

80% similarity in design

Financial Management

Procurement

Budget Planning

Results, geo info, budget, and procurement functionality

Common Washington Operating Unit Portfolio Management Platforms
Field Standardization Project:
- 6 standardized MOs
- Business requirements developed
- 75% adoption rate of MOs

80% similarity in design

Functionality of:
- AidTracker Plus
- OPSmaster
- A&A Plan

The Development Information Solution (DIS) Proposal

Common Mission Portfolio Management Platforms

Financial Management

Procurement

Budget Planning

Common Washington Operating Unit Portfolio Management Platforms
Field Standardization Project:
- 6 standardized Mission Orders
- Business requirements developed
- 75% adoption rate of Mission Orders

Washington Standardization Project:
- Focus on E3 and GH
- 3 standardized Bureau Orders
- Business requirements developed

80% similarity in design

Common Washington Operating Unit Portfolio Management Platforms

The Development Information Solution (DIS) Proposal

Functionality of:
- AidTracker Plus, OPSmaster, A&A Plan
• Limitations of current aid transparency data:
  • Accurate and detailed financial data, but…
  • Limited links to results (but “Dollars to Results” website growing)
  • Geographic location data limited (i.e. subnational data); (maps.usaid.gov repository for current data)
  • No project docs, detailed description of project purpose, context (but dec.usaid.gov has 500k+ docs and mobile app)

• Our “To Be” vision will organize vast amounts of detailed data in similar formats to allow aggregation and sharing with the broader world.

• Until we arrive at the “To Be” vision, efforts to increase our aid transparency data will be ad hoc and rely on manual collection and aggregation processes

• The “To Be” vision is a multi-year effort, but substantial corporate interest and alignment to support aid transparency as well as other corporate objectives (use of evidence, intra-Agency coordination/transparency, etc.)