Development Initiatives Poverty Research

International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)

Scoping paper for consultation, February 2009

Executive summary

The International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) aims to make information about public and private aid more available and accessible, so increasing the accountability, predictability and effectiveness of aid and reducing transactions costs. It does not envisage the development of a new database but rather the adoption by donors of ways of recording and reporting information that will enable existing databases –and potential future services – to provide more detailed, timely and accessible information about aid.

"Transparency promotes accountability and provides information for citizens about what their government is doing. Information maintained by the Federal Government is a national asset. My administration will take appropriate action, consistent with law and policy, to disclose information rapidly in forms that the public can readily find and use. Executive departments and agencies should harness new technologies to put information about their operations and decisions online and readily available to the public."

President Obama's memo on transparency, 21 January, 2009

This scoping paper is the basis of a consultation about how the IATI should be taken forward. It summarises the main requirements of stakeholders for better information. It considers the main existing reporting mechanisms for aid information. It then considers the main opportunities for the IATI to make this information accessible – most notably through the adoption of an 'IATI standard', including agreement on what should be published plus a code of conduct covering its implementation.

Main requirements

There are many stakeholders that want access to better information about aid. Developing country governments (particularly finance ministries, line ministries and central banks) need information for budget planning and execution, effective service delivery and macroeconomic management. Donors and non-government organisations (NGOs) need information about each others' current and planned activities. Parliaments, civil society organisations (CSOs) and the media play a key role in using information about resources to hold governments and donors to account. Community groups and citizens – the intended beneficiaries of aid programmes – use information about aid to provide feedback about whether services meet their needs and to increase accountability of government and CSOs.

These different stakeholders have different information needs. A central bank may be interested in the exact timing of when aid will arrive; a CSO may be interested in the conditions attached to aid and in tracing exactly how it is being delivered; and a community group may be less interested in the precise timing but more in the exact location of the investment and in its environmental impact, for example. Researchers and academics, international NGOs, and taxpayers who ultimately fund the aid may want information that is comparable across countries to enable them to compare the effectiveness and efficiency of different approaches. Although these groups have different needs, there is commonality in the type of information that will meet these needs.

The main requirements are for:

- **detailed** information about where aid is spent, when it is spent, how it is spent, and what it is spent on
- **timely** information

- reliable information on **future aid flows**
- information about any **conditions** attached to aid
- assessments of the **expected outputs**, together with economic and environmental appraisals and other **supporting analysis**
- a mechanism to **trace aid** through the system from donor to intended beneficiary
- **sufficiently detailed classifications** so that aid can be matched up to local budgeting systems as well as common international classifications
- a **common data format** that enables the information to be integrated electronically into local systems
- information from **a wider range of donors**, including non-OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) donors, multilateral organisations, foundations and private charities.

The challenge for donors is to provide information that meets all these different needs while avoiding unnecessary duplicate reporting and preventing the publication of conflicting or inaccurate information.

Main reporting mechanisms

There are many positive platforms on which to build solutions in response to the challenge:

- donors have already established common standards and systems for making information available in a comparable format through the *DAC's Creditor Reporting System (CRS)*
- donors already capture a great deal of information about aid in their own management information systems and financial management systems
- donors are generally positive about the need for transparency and publish a large amount of information either on websites or in annual reports
- new technologies are making it easier to publish, access and re-use information
- there is considerable expertise within donor agencies and the DAC on the challenges and opportunities for improving statistical reporting – as well as a great deal of enthusiasm for doing so.

The most comprehensive source of information about aid is at present the *DAC CRS*. Donors report to the CRS against a common set of definitions. It is intended as a platform for sharing information between donors and to hold them to account for the commitments that they make; it is not intended or designed to provide information for country aid management systems, or for stakeholders to use for improving accountability in developing countries. This means, for example, that the data in the CRS is arranged by calendar year and according to DAC classifications, which of course do not match fiscal years or budget definitions in some partner countries.

46 countries that we know of have *aid information management systems (AIMs)*. This information is compiled separately in-country by gathering information from donor representatives. The information in these systems can be less accurate and comprehensive than the DAC CRS but is often more timely, detailed and forward looking. The classifications are, by design, more useful for the partner government and other local stakeholders. However, only 24 of these systems are currently open to parliaments and the public.

Some donors also publish information on their activities on their own *websites and in annual reports* as part of their accountability to their own domestic stakeholders such as congress, parliament and taxpayers. However, very little information is published about *forward-spending plans* and about *expected outcomes and outputs*. This information is much in demand from developing country stakeholders. In addition, there is very little information currently available from NGOs, *foundations, and non-DAC emerging donors* such as Brazil, India and China.

The fragmented way in which information is currently published imposes large and sometimes insurmountable costs on actual and potential users of information, including recipient governments, CSOs and intermediaries such as the DAC. It is very time-consuming to assemble published data from different sources – and often technically impossible to assemble it into a common data set. In addition to having to collect and collate information from this variety of sources, users often have to reconcile the information (which might vary due to difference in definitions and/or accuracy). The information then has to be interpreted. This all generates large – and growing – numbers of increasingly diverse requests for information and assistance from donors, who consequently find themselves confronted by increased transaction costs.

But rather than attempting to meet the information and transparency challenge through the extension of existing databases or the creation of a single 'one-size-fits-all' database – which would be unwieldy and unlikely to be able to meet the specific needs of all users – the IATI is proposing that: *donors should agree the list of information to be covered by IATI; combine and extend the existing classifications and formats into a common aid information standard that substantially meets all the various different data needs*; and agree a code of conduct covering implementation and compliance Donors would then make adjustments to their own systems and processes to collect and publish this information in the common format. This would allow a wide variety of different users to access the information they need – and then to present it in a format that is suitable for their particular purpose.

Opportunities for IATI to improve aid transparency

The adoption of an IATI standard would commit donors to improving their aid data collection and reporting to enable them to provide information that would be substantially rich enough to meet all the different stakeholder needs. Intermediary services – such as databases, websites, accounting systems and statistical packages – would then be able to access, aggregate and present the information in a way that is relevant for particular users. Such a system of tagging aid with a common set of identifiers would also enable aid to be traced as it moves between organisations. Currently, a lot of aid passes through more than one organisation (e.g. where a donor contributes to a shared trust fund, or subcontracts to an international NGO), which makes it very difficult to avoid double counting and to be able to trace aid from the donor to the intended beneficiary.

For IATI to be a success, donors would need to:

- **collect and report information that is not currently available**, such as the name of the implementing agency, import content, conditions and expected outputs
- **improve the detail of information**, for example, more detailed sector classifications, geographic locations and exact disbursement dates (rather than just the year)
- **improve the timeliness of information that is reported** (reducing delays before publication)
- **improve coverage** (particularly to include non-DAC donors, foundations and NGOs)

- **make information more accessible** (electronic publication of data in a common format would enable it to be used and presented in ways that make it more accessible to a wide range of users, particularly in developing countries – this is much more practical than trying to present information in a single, one-size-fits-all database that attempts to meet all needs)
- **make aid traceable from donor to intended beneficiary** (a common system of project identifiers would enable aid money to be tracked from one organisation to another.

The challenges to agreeing and implementing a common, more detailed reporting standard are not primarily technical – the technology is available and most donors have sufficiently good information systems to achieve the IATI goals. Rather, the challenges are political and cultural, and relate to the real difficulties and costs of updating internal processes. Some investment in systems and technology would be required. But more importantly, implementing a common standard would require the time, commitment and training of donor agency staff. A crucial role for IATI will be to create the political drive to make the required investments.

Potential next steps

The proposed next steps are for IATI to:

- **define what type of information should be included in an 'IATI standard'** - this could be split into two phases (see Appendix C for further details)
  - Phase 1 – to include information that meets a basic need for most stakeholders and that is likely to be currently available within donor systems
  - Phase 2 – to cover additional information need
- **agree common definitions** – the IATI standard should incorporate existing reporting formats, such as the DAC CRS, and extend them to respond to the data needs of a broader range of stakeholders
- **establish a data format –**IATI needs to define and agree a technical data format to enable the information to be effectively shared**.** Further work is required in order to identify the appropriate technology
- **agree code of conduct** – in order to set out what, when, how and where information should be published, how users can expect to access it, and how donors will be held accountable
- **define how the IATI standard should be implemented, governed, supported, updated and managed**
- **support donors to implement the IATI standard** – providing technical support and, where necessary, additional labour to enable donors to report against the standard
- **support users in access to and use of information made available by the IATI standard** – notably to work with organisations that will access the data to help them to design systems that meet their users' needs
- **consider whether additional capacity-building is needed –** for example to assist local stakeholders in accessing the data
- **identify short-term opportunities for improvements in data accessibility**

Introduction

1. The IATI aims to deliver a step shift in the public availability and accessibility of information on aid flows and activities to increase the effectiveness of aid in reducing poverty. It does this by bringing together donors, partner countries, civil society and other users of aid information to agree a set of common information standards applicable to all aid flows. These standards will build on existing national and international standards and reporting systems.
2. This paper identifies the potential scope of IATI by outlining the categories of information that could be covered, examining the current mechanisms for publishing this information, and reviewing existing initiatives to improve transparency. It concludes by identifying the existing gaps in availability and accessibility of information and making recommendations as to how IATI should tackle these gaps.

Who are the different users of information?

3. Aid information is used by a wide range of actors in both donor and partner countries, including partner country ministries and central banks, civil society organisations, parliamentarians, academics, researchers, journalists, donor agencies and citizens themselves.
4. Over the next six months, the IATI Steering Committee will consult each major stakeholder group including partner countries, CSOs and donors. The results of these consultation exercises (plus further detailed research on individual use cases) will help the IATI Steering Committee to build a clearer picture of different user needs and priorities, and these in turn will help to shape the future development of the IATI standard. Meanwhile, on the basis of existing research, we have attempted to summarise the broad information needs of different users below.

What information do users need?

Partner countries

5. There are considerable variations in the use of aid information both within and between partner countries but there is commonality in terms of the types of information they need. Finance ministries and budget departments are primarily interested in data that can easily be integrated into their own systems in order to assist with planning and accounting processes. For this, they need comprehensive, up to date statistical data on aid disbursements (which goes beyond a statement of aggregate funding allocated to a sector and shows the actual financial flows to intermediaries and agencies that comprise that funding allocation), and reliable estimates of future aid spending. Consistency with their own budget classifications – or at least the ability to easily map aid spending to these classifications – is important, and clarity on exact disbursement dates is critical for monetary management, particularly in the case of large disbursements that could fall on either side of their fiscal year. Ensuring that as much aid as possible is delivered 'on budget' (i.e. recorded in the recipient government's budget) is a high priority, since this strengthens national ownership of aid, increases transparency and accountability and facilitates better management. Improving performance in this area was recognised as a priority in the Paris Declaration, which set a target of 85% of aid to be on budget by 2010. To date, progress has been slow, with the 2008 Paris Monitoring Survey recording that only 48% of aid was recorded in

government budgets in 2007 – a small increase from the 42% recorded in the 2006 Baseline Survey.

6. Detailed information about which donors are delivering which projects, and where, (identifying specific locations where possible) is essential for partner country governments to coordinate aid efforts, and to assist them in allocating resources to the sectors and regions in greatest need. This is a particular concern for line ministries involved in service delivery, such as health and education. They too need detailed information about current aid expenditure and reliable information on future donor spending in order to plan their budgets. In Malawi, both the education and health ministries gave examples of having to cut planned programmes when anticipated aid disbursements failed to materialise.

7. Being able to reconcile nationally-held data on aid with the data published internationally is important for a range of actors in partner countries, as inconsistent data undermines accountability and causes confusion and additional work. This is also important as a means of ensuring that funds promised by donors arrive in country and are spent on their intended purpose.

8. Central banks are primarily interested in aggregate flows, so timely information on current and near-future aid transactions is important to them, especially in countries where aid flows are high relative to other flows. A Bank of Uganda official attending a December 2008 statistics workshop hosted by aidinfo and Development Research and Training (DRT) in Kampala noted that "There are wide gaps between projections about aid inflows and the actual project aid received, both in timing and actual realisations".

CSOs

9. CSOs in the south and the north play many key roles including holding governments to account, delivering services and advocating on behalf of the people and organisations they represent and work with. In each of these roles, access to detailed and timely information on aid can be mission-critical. This was widely recognised by participants at the Kampala statistics workshop, who readily identified the potential power of aid statistics to inform their work in many different ways including: to assist public expenditure tracking; to promote and advocate pro-poor policies; to improve harmonisation, good planning and monitoring of resources; to identify actual inflows (balance of payments analysis); and to improve local level monitoring of programmes.

10. Access to current and future aid information helps service-delivery NGOs to plan programmes that complement those of other actors, including government departments and donors. Transparent information on contracts to be awarded would increase their ability to bid for funding. Improved access to information helps implementing NGOs to increase their effectiveness. Detailed information about implementing channels helps to increase mutual accountability between NGOs and governments in both partner and donor countries. As IATI's founding statement makes clear, the ambition in the longer term is for the same standards of transparency to be adopted by all providers of aid, including private foundations and NGOs themselves.

11. CSOs – especially those working at community level – potentially have a key role to play in tracking aid expenditure through the system, from initial commitment through to final expenditure. If the necessary statistical data to promote this kind of traceability was readily available – including detailed project descriptions, exact locations and implementing agents –

this would increase accountability in both directions – downwards to intended beneficiaries and upwards towards taxpayers in donor countries. Enabling community-based organisations (CBOs) and citizens themselves to be effective watchdogs would reduce the risk of waste, inefficiency and corruption. At present, however, much of the necessary data is simply not available to them, and the barriers to access are impossibly high for most CBOs. IATI will need to consider what additional help and support will be required to assist local stakeholders in accessing and understanding the data it makes available.

12. For NGOs engaged in advocacy, access to timely and comparable data is essential in order to be able to hold donors to account. For example, both African Monitor and ONE need this kind of information to monitor whether donors are delivering on the various pledges they have made to increase aid to Africa. Statistical data that is 12-18 months out of date by the time it is published impairs that advocacy effort and reduces its potential effectiveness.

13. Many NGOs are engaged in sector-specific and/or country-specific advocacy – and suitably disaggregated data is essential. In one of the case studies quoted below, WaterAid's attempt to monitor spending on sanitation in two African countries was hampered by CRS codes that that did not distinguish between spending on sanitation and water, and by statistics that were not easily disaggregated by country.

14. Some NGOs in both donor and partner countries also want to monitor commitments related to aid effectiveness, for example efforts to untie aid and reduce conditionality. For them, access to detailed project documents and contracts is vitally important.

Parliamentarians

15. The role of parliamentarians in holding governments to account is widely recognised in both donor and partner countries. In partner countries they can, like CSOs, play a key role in driving improvements in public services. But to do so, they need access to detailed, timely, comprehensive and consistent data from national governments and donors alike – data which at present is often missing, incomplete or not readily accessible to them. In donor countries too, parliamentarians need access to timely and comparable data in order to monitor their governments' performance against stated commitments to aid quantity and aid quality. Public accounts committees have a particular remit for ensuring value for money and may need detailed information about individual projects and contracts, including those currently out to tender, as well as information on aid expenditure linked to measurable outputs and outcomes.

Academics, researchers and journalists

16. Impartial, evidence-based research on aid by academics, think tanks and others can play an important role in shaping future policy in partner countries and donor institutions alike as these routinely commission such research themselves. For such studies to useful, researchers need access to statistical data that is up to date, detailed, consistent and complete. Because current data on official aid flows does not reveal the finance that has been *received* by a partner country, analysis of the macro-economic impact of aid is seriously hampered. Again, access to project documents and aid contracts is often vital. Any gaps in the evidence base potentially undermine the findings. For example, a DAC-commissioned study on the effectiveness of untied aid by Overseas Development Institute (ODI) has struggled with incomplete reporting by some

DAC donors on the one hand and limited data on non-DAC donors, who are playing an increasingly important role, on the other.

17. For journalists, timely data is always at a premium. Similarly, access to data that is comparable for all donors, easily disaggregated by country and by sector, as well as easy to find and reuse is clearly important. This is particularly important for those that are neither aid specialists nor technical experts.

Donor institutions

18. As well as providing aid information both directly and indirectly (e.g. via the DAC), donor agencies also have an interest in using each other's information. They need access to this data in order to inform their own decisions in the interest of avoiding duplication and in increasing both co-ordination and harmonisation (Paris targets). To maximise the potential efficiency gains, they need access to data that is detailed, timely and consistent. The proliferation of donors also increases the importance of having access to comprehensive data that includes all key actors – not just the DAC donors and the major multilateral institutions.

19. As donors increase the emphasis on measuring the results of their assistance, there is a growing demand within individual agencies for standardised output and outcome indicators that can be aggregated and compared. There would be even greater gains if these indicators could be standardised between agencies as well as within them, especially at the country level. As well as allowing comparisons between donors, this would reduce transaction costs for those who have to measure and report those outputs.

20. Donors also need transparent aid information to help them make the case for aid in their own countries. Being able to demonstrate the positive impact of their aid interventions, and to counter negative perceptions (e.g. about corruption), is critical to maintaining both public and political support for aid. Where donors make a considerable investment in programme aid, such as budget support, empowering CSOs in developing countries to demand improvements in the allocation and use of resources is an essential complement to the provision of resources to the government. This helps CSOs in developing countries to hold their own governments to account, and also helps to create a feedback loop between the citizens in developing countries and the citizens in donor countries.

Citizens

21. Last but not least, improved public access to transparent aid data would enable citizens in both partner and donor countries to monitor both sides of the aid equation and hold their governments to account. The intended beneficiaries of specific aid programmes and projects could report on the impact on the ground, while taxpayers in donor countries could see where their money was being spent. Tiri's report on Afghanistan: *Bringing Accountability Back In: From Subjects of Aid to Citizens of the State* notes that "The participation of communities in aid delivery as been seen through our surveys as both increasing the effectiveness and the accountability of aid".[1] For this to happen, aid information must be publicly accessible in user-friendly formats, and the obvious barriers to access – language, costs, computer literacy and internet access – must be overcome.

[1] http://www.iwaweb.org/BringingAccountabilitybackin.pdf

Summary of user needs

22. While it is clear that different users need aid information for different purposes, it appears that a rather simple, limited set of information, which can be reported only once, is required to fulfil the majority of these needs. The following table attempts to summarise the most commonly identified user needs on the basis of the information we currently have, and indicates what kind of information, and what improvements to current reporting practices, are required to fulfil these needs.

Commonly identified user needs	Additional information plus improvements to reporting required to fulfil these needs
Much more detailed information about aid flows including: • exactly where aid is spent • precisely when it is spent • what it is spent on	Access to financial transaction level data including: • country, sub-country and local level data • commitment and disbursement dates • improved sector classifications, more detailed long descriptions of projects and access to project documents
What conditions are attached	Contract details, with all conditions listed
Anticipated outputs and outcomes	Standard output and outcome indicators
Ability to trace aid through the system from donor to intended beneficiary	Details of implementing agencies and channels of delivery, use of common project identifiers (equivalent to ISBN or barcode) throughout the supply chain and commitment to transparency standards by implementing agents
Ability to assess aid against commonly agreed policy markers (ie against the extent to which aid contributes to agreed policy objectives) - both existing, such as the Rio markers agreed by the DAC in 199? and new, such as future markers on climate change	Agreement on policy markers plus flexibility to include multiple markers, and to agree new markers in response to demand
Information on future contracts	Publication of contracts out to tender
Reliable information on future aid flows	Transparent schedules of planned donor expenditure with anticipated disbursement dates
More rapid publication of data	Reporting deadlines brought forward and data available in a common format that can be read electronically
Data that is complete, consistent and comparable	Compliance with reporting directives, and agreement on common definitions and data formats
Broader coverage that includes non-traditional donors	Aid information available from non-DAC donors and all multilaterals, plus foundations and large NGOs
Easier access to information in formats than can be integrated into local systems	Commitment to make aid information publicly accessible and agreement on common data formats

As indicated above, this information needs to be supplemented by further research and reviewed following the various consultation exercises planned, including consultation on this paper. (A full list of potential information areas to be covered by IATI is attached in Appendix C.)

What Information is currently available?

Scope

23. Donors are not secretive about their activities and significant data about projects and aid flows can be found in many places, such as on project websites, in project documents available through websites and in donor reports. However, much of this information is hard to access and use. In other cases, the data that users need – for example on conditions and output/outcome

indicators – is not currently captured systematically, so the relevant data simply does not exist. This paper focuses on online sources of information and data that bring together details of a range of development activities, often from multiple donors, and make them available and accessible in a structured, consistent way.

Where is aid information currently available?

24. Information about aid projects is currently available through four categories of online information provider. (See table in Appendix E for more details.)

    a. **The DAC CRS** is the most comprehensive and reliable resource for project data. It contains data from all DAC donors as well as aggregate data from most multilaterals and project level data from some. The information contained within CRS is considered official aid information and involves extensive quality assurance and validation procedures before it is published. The CRS was designed to enable donors to work together and be accountable for the commitments they make – not specifically to provide information to stakeholders in developing countries. The CRS reports the outflow from donors rather than the inflow to partner countries, and it focuses on donor standards and targets, such as ODA eligibility, tying status and progress towards the 0.7% GNI target. The main goal is to provide statistics for year-on-year comparison of aid flows from DAC donors, rather than a comprehensive information repository for transparency and accountability. The DAC also publishes comprehensives aggregate statistics which are the industry standard for analysis and commentary on aid volume and allocation.

    b. **Other aggregators.** The major other aggregator of aid information is the Accessible Information on Development Activities (AIDA) run by Development Gateway, which aims to collect more timely project data from wider range of donor sources (DAC and some non-DAC donors such as Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, Soros/OSI, Institut Européan de Coopération et de Développement (IECD) and OPEC), but contains less detailed information than CRS. It aims to be a comprehensive project registry but does not attempt to provide data for statistics – it points clearly to the DAC for this. Another well used resource is OCHA's Financial Tracking System (FTS) which focuses on information for humanitarian assistance projects.

    c. **Recipient government systems.** Partner governments are increasingly developing their own systems to manage aid projects, known collectively as Aid Information Management Systems or AIMs. The objectives of AIMs are typically to enable recipient governments to manage and report on their aid programmes and, in some cases, to support project management. At least 46 different AIMs have been implemented in partner countries, and the most common systems are the development assistance databases (DADs) and Development Gateway's aid management platforms (AMPs)[2] – there are 27 DADs and 13 AMPs). Of the 46 AIMS, only 24 (inc. 17 of the DADs) are publicly accessible.

    d. **Donor websites**. Some donors make information about the projects they fund available through their websites. Examples include: World Bank, CIDA, IDRC, IADB, ASDB, EBRD, Germany, France, MacArthur Foundation (for project details). Other donors publish documents (US), details of research projects (UK) and details of contracts (EC, World Bank).

[2] There are other such as ODAMoz (Mozambique), ODANic (Nicaragua). See Appendix E for more details and information on which ones are publicly available

25. It is worth noting that each of the information providers has different objectives for the collection and publication of aid information, and that not all share the primary goal of increasing transparency. Many are collecting information for other purposes, such as production of aid statistics (DAC) or to support internal processes (AIMs), and make the data available as a public good only as a by-product of these information collection processes. Many of the AIMs are not publicly available at all. Even where they are, the barriers to access remain high.

Availability	Accessibility *	Timeliness
DAC/CRS		
Source: DAC donors and multilaterals covers between 95% and 100% of DAC donors' aid flows **Data:** project titles and descriptions, recipient country, type of aid, sectors and other policy markers, annual project expenditure, commitments made during the year and channel of delivery	**Finding data:** *multiple sources (all DAC donors) in one place* **Usability:** for expert users **Presentation:** allows search, and provides aggregation charting tools **Reusability:** Excel export, machine API[3] **Standards:** CRS directives are currently standard for aid data, including DAC sector codes[4]	Available annually in December for the previous year. Data 11- 23 months old. Preliminary data reported three months after calendar year end
AIDA		
Source: CRS + other sources (Appendix C has details) **Data:** core project info, with aggregated commitments & disbursements (no policy markers, channel of delivery)	**Finding data:** *multiple sources in one place* **Usability:** for intermediate users **Presentation:** Browse and search **Reusability:** Excel export **Standards:** Uses IDML data format, approximately half of sector codes used are aligned with DAC codes	Varied. Depends on provider. DFID published weekly, World Bank, IFAD and IADB publish on a monthly or quarterly basis
AIMS (using DADs, the most commonly available AIMS, as the example)		
Source: wider range of donors[5] Note: Many AIMs are not publicly available (Appendix E has details) **Data in DADs:** more detailed project information: inc more detailed descriptions, more specific sector coding and geographic location, detailed breakdown of commitment, detailed disbursement / transaction details, details of implementing agencies responsible, (and occasionally) Paris harmonisation indicators, project outputs, project docs	**Finding data:** effective for an individual country analysis of data **Usability:** for expert users **Presentation:** search, includes comprehensive charting tools **Reusability:** DADs have Excel export **Standards:** Most DADs have locally defined sector codes, AMPs are based on IDML data format	Varied. Typically updated on a monthly or quarterly basis
Donor websites		
Source: individual donors (Appendix E has details) **Data:** generally offer a smaller subset of data limited to the core project details. Some donors (World Bank and US) publish docs. Some donors (World Bank and EC) publish awarded contracts	**Finding data:** effective for an individual donors analysis **Usability:** varied**,** intermediate users **Presentation:** Varied, browse and search **Reusability:** varied, some Excel export, some XML **Standards:** none	Varied. typically updated on a regular basis, at least monthly

*Accessing information from any of the providers listed above requires a high level of competence including language, IT and statistical skills. This excludes many local stakeholders.

[3] An API is an interface that can used to programmatically access the raw data. Available via QWIDS, but as yet, no guidance is available
[4] The CRS directives are here. The DAC sector codes are available here
[5] Vietnam DAD contains information from 200 funding agencies (donors, NGOs, foundations etc.), including donors such as China

Existing reporting mechanisms for donors

DAC reporting

26. Donors report aggregate statistics to the DAC database once a year.[6] In addition, they report project details to the CRS, which should be submitted quarterly, but, in practice are reported annually by most.[7]. In future, an improved system (CRS ++) will allow the DAC's aggregate statistics to be built up from detailed project information, and so guarantee consistency, increase accuracy and comprehensiveness and reduce transactions costs. Most donors are now reporting in CRS++ format[8].

A Malawi case study revealed the primary means of data collection on aid allocations to be a spreadsheet-based return that the Ministry of Finance sends out to donors on a monthly basis. Line ministries in Malawi, including education and health, also request data directly from donors on relevant projects to assist their national planning.

These parallel requests for information result in discrepancies, with both education and health ministries reporting that the information they were given by donors did not match the information on expected disbursements from the Ministry of Finance, which were generally lower.

27. For most donors, DAC -reporting is a time consuming and labour-intensive process, usually coordinated by a central statistics unit that often has to collate data from multiple agencies and code this manually in line with DAC standards.

28. Despite this effort, the results are far from perfect. The data is published with a considerable time lag, insufficient detail, partial compliance by donors, and there are persistent issues over the quality and completeness of data. However, these shortcomings should not be seen as a criticism of the DAC, or of individual DAC reporters. Instead, it reflects the relatively low priority given to statistical reporting by some donors combined with the inherent inadequacies of their reporting systems.

Other reporting processes

29. AIMs rely on a manual process, asking individual donor country offices for information. This represents a significant transaction cost overhead[9] for both recipient governments, which have to do a lot of chasing and manual entry, and donor country offices, which have to compile the information for AIMs as well as report centrally. This often results in inconsistencies between what is reported to AIMs from country offices and from donor HQ to DAC.

International Development Markup Language (IDML) is a data format developed by the Development Gateway for the automated exchange of development project information to populate AIDA. It is an example of a standard data format designed to be machine readable and reusable for different applications. There are other standards, such as SDMX (for the exchange of statistical information), that might be relevant to IATI.

30. The publication of information through other information providers tends to vary: some donors (such as DFID and World Bank) provide AIDA with an automatic data feed based on IDML (see box), whilst others provide a spreadsheet which is mapped to IDML. In some instances, the AIDA team collects the

[6] Preliminary figures for the previous year are published in April, final figures in October, and the data is released in December
[7] Some donors do report CRS data to the DAC on a more frequent basis, but the data is only published annually
[8] In 2007, 15 donors reported in CRS++ format. 12 were DAC members, representing 71% of all DAC bilateral ODA
[9] Development Gateway estimates that manual collection, data validation, and input of data in one country can take up to 2300 days effort from recipient Governments and up to 225 collectively from donors per year (this assumes that government is fully responsible for data entry - the clerical data entry process itself is only a fraction of the total transaction costs)

information from websites using screen scraping technology. [10]

31. Reporting to FTS is also a manual process. A spreadsheet is produced by each donor and sent to OCHA on a monthly basis, and this is manually entered into the database. EC-based donors report to ECHO, which then transfers the data to FTS. Reporting to donor websites is usually a separate process and varies from donor to donor.

32. In addition to these reporting requests, donors face a plethora of additional requests for information, from regular organisational and parliamentary reporting, to a wide range of ad hoc requests from NGOs and internationally agencies.[11]

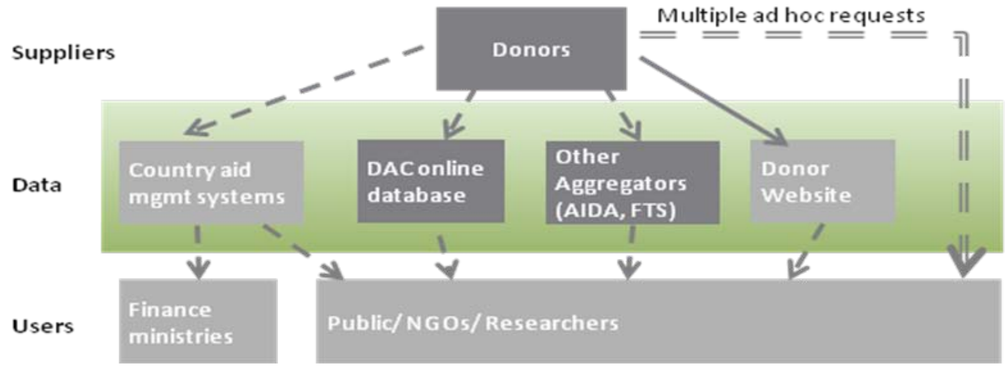

Figure 1: an illustration of the multiple donor reporting channels, nearly all of which are manual

Donor Systems

33. All donors have their own internal financial and management information systems, which contain financial and transaction details on aid flows. Most have a separate DAC reporting database, in some cases fed directly from their own systems, in other cases entirely stand-alone. In many cases, the basic data required by the DAC (title, descriptions, country, sectors, dates, commitments, disbursements) already exists within central financial systems. It is the lack of consistent formats and definitions, the specialist nature of DAC policy markers, and the emphasis on quality control that contribute to the high transaction costs.

Existing transparency initiatives

34. There are a number of initiatives underway that aim to contribute to improved access to information and greater transparency, which involve established as well as new information providers. These initiatives typically involve capturing data from a wider range of donors, focussing on providing more detailed information and/or on improving accessibility of the information. The table below provides an overview. Details can be found in Appendix B.

[10] Screen scraping is a technique in which a computer programme extracts data from the display output of another programme
[11] One representative at the DAC working party of statistics highlighted they had 200 requests for data in 2007

Initiative	Run by	Objective
CRS and QWIDS	DAC	Improved accessibility via new QWIDS user interface. Additional data sources
AIDA	Development Gateway Foundation	CRS data & new data sources & more timely data. Improved user interface.
PLAID	William & Mary College & Brigham Young University	CRS data & new data sources, comprehensive descriptions, and detailed sector coding
TR-AID	EC Joint Research Centre	Database from multiple sources.
Grantsfire		aggregator of real-time information on grants available from foundations
UNDCF	DRI	Database on South-South development cooperation
International Action for Health	Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation	CRS data & additional sources
GFINDER	George Institute for International Health	information on investment into research and development for neglected diseases
Recipient AIMs	Various	New country implementations. More publicly available systems
Donors	Various	Some looking to improve transparency by publishing project info to their website
Global Development Commons	USAID	utilising open web standards to create online services to improve access to info

Overview of gaps and opportunities

35. Having summarised user needs and the main reporting systems for aid information, this section provides an overview of the gaps between the two, focussing on the gaps in availability, timeliness and accessibility of information.

Availability

36. At present, there is a significant lack of publicly available information in many of the areas identified as being required to meet the needs of users, including: **Forward planning data; financial transaction level data** (disaggregated details about individual disbursements)***; detailed geographic classifications; outputs and outcomes; conditions; harmonization data; implementing agencies; contract information; and project documents.*** Much of this information is available in donor's internal systems and within project documentation, but not publicly available through easy-to-find means.

37. In some cases, donors have already committed to act on this with immediate effect – for example, the Accra Agenda for Action includes explicit commitments to make public all conditions linked to disbursements; to provide full and timely data on annual commitments and disbursements so that partner countries can record all aid in their budget estimates; and to provide regular and timely information on their rolling three-to-five year forward expenditure and/or implementation plans, with at least indicative resource allocations.

IATI need	Aggregator databases	Recipient databases	Donor Websites	Donor internal systems
Basic project data	√	√	?	√
Expenditure data aggregated to project level	√	√	?	√
Transaction details	X	√	X	√
Sector information	√	√	?	√
Channel of Delivery	?	√	X	√
Detailed geographic info	X	√	X	X
Forward planning data By country	X	X	X	?
By sector	X	X	X	?
By project	?	?	X	√
Project outputs and outcomes	X	?	X	?
Conditions	X	X	X	?
Harmonization data (Paris targets)	X	?	X	?
Project documents	X	?	?	√
Contract Information	?	X	?	√

√	Data is readily available
?	Data is available in some cases
X	Data is not, or rarely, available

38. Many recipient government AIMs are set up to capture a data wide set of information, but the quality and comprehensiveness of the information is variable. Detailed geographic locations and disbursement transaction details are consistently available. Collection of Paris Indicators for projects is common in some countries' systems, such as Pakistan, but non-existent for many. The output and outcome indicator fields are rarely populated. Many AIMs are not available to the public (22 of the 46 AIMs we know about are not available).

A case study on WaterAid's attempt to monitor spending on sanitation in two African countries showed it was impossible to disaggregate sanitation spending due to lack of detailed sector codes and difficult to isolate spending for each country in question.

It was also difficult to reconcile commitment and disbursement data, and establish exactly how much was spent each year.

Finally, the problems that WaterAid faced were compounded by the variety of information sources, which often yielded inconsistent results.

39. An important information gap is the lack of information on current and **future aid flows, essential for planning and budgeting.** The DAC annual Survey on Aid Allocation Policies and Indicative Forward Spending Plans[12] found that most donors operate multi-year programming frameworks, particularly for priority countries. This suggests that it should be possible for donors to publish data on future aid flows in line with their Accra commitment to provide developing countries with regular and timely information on their three-to-five year forward expenditure and/or implementation plans, and to address any constraints to providing this information.

40. It is widely recognised that **published aid information is not comprehensive in terms of coverage** – for example, the CRS and DAC databases focus almost exclusively on DAC donors,

[12] http://www.oecd.org/document/30/0,3343,en_2649_33721_40638238_1_1_1_1,00.html

excluding the funds provided by most non-DAC governments, foundations, NGOs and some multinational agencies.

41. The **information currently available is often not detailed enough and is often incomplete**. The Water Aid case study outlines limitation with the sectors codes, specific country information, and a lack of detailed descriptions for disbursement data.

"Because we do not know the value of project support given to Rwanda, we had to use a guesstimate in Rwanda's macroeconomic framework – a meaningless number"

Kampeta Sayinzoga, Director of Macroeconomic Policy Unit at the Rwandan Finance Ministry

42. The quality of information available in the CRS varies and many donors fail to provide some information fields at all. Detailed descriptions and channel of delivery can be particularly variable, for example, approx 15% of projects had no long descriptions or long descriptions that are the same as the short descriptions (an improvement from 30% in 2006). However as many as 68% of short descriptions are the same as the sector codes and approx. 80% of disbursements do not include the channel of delivery details (with approx 30% having no description at all, and 50% using the general classifications)[13]

Timeliness

43. Much of the information that is available is not up-to-date. The considerable time-lag in publishing aid information, for example through the DAC database and CRS, is viewed with frustration by many users, including developing countries and advocacy organisations. (see box on DATA/ONE)

DATA/ONE produces an annual report measuring the G8's progress against the targets agreed at Gleneagles. Because of a lack of timely information, the report has to rely on sector-spending figures that are 18 months out of date by the time of publication, which limits advocacy impact.

44. Although AIDA provides the ability for donors to publish information more frequently, few donors have taken this opportunity.[14]

Accessibility

45. Firstly, it is clear that the information on aid currently available is not widely used, particularly by local stakeholders. Experience to date suggests that simply putting the information "out there" will not be enough: interested individuals and organisations are not currently using much of the information that is already available. (eg a survey of participants attending the recent statistics workshop in Kampala revealed that over half had not heard of the DAC and CRS databases). It seems likely that once an IATI standard is agreed and implemented, further work will be required to support potentially interested individuals and groups to find, use and re-use that information.

The lack of a common method for identifying projects or standard ID, like ISBN as a unique identifier for books, makes comparability between projects across the range of information sources a complex manual task, as each system typically allocates its own identifier to a project (there is a DAC ID, a donor ID, an AIDA ID, a DAD ID etc). There have been some attempts to link these IDs between systems, but this has been inconstantly applied – even within the CRS it can be challenging to compare project detail year to year.

46. A common problem for those who do use the available information is that it can be found in a **variety of sources**, and is often inconsistent and/or incomparable. There are often significant discrepancies between what is reported to the CRS and what is contained within country systems - for example, there is a gross

[13] Based on 2007 data
[14] DFID, World Bank, IADB, UNFPA

discrepancy of 22% between ODAMoz (Mozambique's aid management systems) and the figures reported to the DAC: in 2006 the UK reported 5% more to ODAMoz than to the DAC CRS; while the US reported 30% (US$35 million) less. It is difficult to undertake a project-by-project analysis of this as the definition of a project and level of aggregation differs greatly between systems[15]. As outlined in the Water Aid case study, this lack of comparability between systems makes it difficult for users to judge which figures they should rely on.

47. **Data published is often in different formats,** has inconsistent definitions and is not in a form that can be used at country level - over half of recipient government AIMs have – quite understandably - defined their own sector and thematic classifications in order to reflect government budget classifications, as have some donors, which indicates that the CRS codes do not meet their needs – hardly surprisingly, since this the CRS was never intended to be used for this purpose. The different allocation models, where some allow aid to be reported against multiple sector codes and others (like the DAC) do not, exacerbate the comparability problems.

48. On the whole, the available information is presented in a way that makes it difficult for users to get answers to the specific questions they want to ask, especially if they have no prior knowledge of that particular database. As noted above, using the existing databases and websites requires a high level of competence that places this information beyond the reach of many stakeholders even when it is theoretically available. As the Tiri report on Afghanistan notes "Although the Donor Assistance Database and the ISAF database are nominally accessible to the public, these have no value for the majority of Afghans, who are not computer-literate, have no access to the internet and do not speak English". In the case of users who do have the necessary skill-set, there is little in the way of visualisation or inventive ways of presenting the information to make it more accessible.

49. As noted in the Afghanistan example above, language barriers are a common problem for many stakeholders. The CRS directives state that the reporting language must be English or French, but some donors like Germany, Spain, and Netherlands report titles and descriptions in their native language. Naturally, developing countries are keen that information should be available in their domestic languages.

50. **The data is not readily available in re-usable formats**. Often data is made available in Excel, which allows individuals to manually export the data and use it to create charts, aggregate etc. However, no providers offer a machine programmable interface into the data that would allow it to be automatically extracted, merged[16] with other datasets (known as a mash-up) or re-purposed to provide a new service. Surprisingly, very few of the existing providers offer RSS[17] feeds for projects, which is a basic means of sharing information between websites and users.

Impact

51. The lack of the available, timely and accessible information impacts stakeholders in different ways:

[15] For example, the CRS contains 193 agriculture activities within Vietnam, while the Vietnam DAD has just 83
[16] This is where real value can be added, for example by taking CRS data and comparing with MDG data
[17] RSS feeds allow you to see new content without having to visit the websites you have taken the feed from

a. Partner country governments cannot plan their budgets and manage their aid programmes effectively, maximising the proportion of aid deliver on budget, because they do not have access to the data they need
b. CSOs and parliamentarians are prevented from holding donor and partner country governments to account as effectively as they could because they too lack access to detailed and timely data
c. Donors have to respond to many ad-hoc requests for data resulting in a high transaction cost to release the same information several times in different ways, and this in turn leads to the publication of inconsistent, contradictory data
d. Lack of traceability from donor disbursement through partner country expenditure to intended beneficiary undermines the accountability of the entire system
e. Even when information is nominally available, it is often inaccessible to local stakeholders who simply do not have the capacity, skills and technology to make use of it.

Opportunities

52. **At the same time, there are many positive aspects of the current situation that can be built on** to achieve IATI's goals:

a. There is strong political commitment to increase the transparency and timeliness of aid information, as set out in the Accra Agenda for Action and the IATI Statement for Accra.

b. There are existing standards-setting initiatives (e.g. DAC & IDML) to build on and learn from.

c. Many donors already capture more detailed information internally than they publish externally, including transaction level data and future spending plans – this could be made available in accessible formats.

d. Even where data is not being captured systematically within donor systems it is often under consideration. (e.g. the World Bank, US and DFID have developed a standard set of output indicators). This represents an opportunity to develop a solution collectively before donors institutionalise individual indicators of their own.

e. New innovative visualisation and mapping tools are making the presentation of information increasingly simple and effective.[18] Technology is also now available to easily enable the re-use and re-purposing of data, and this is increasingly common practice. This is reflected by strong movements in UK and US for greater access to government to enable the development of innovative new services[19]

53. As we have identified, there is also significant **momentum behind efforts to improve access and availability of data.** These existing efforts are each collecting their own information from donors and are not as joined up as they could be, leading to the risk of overloading donors with parallel requests. IATI provides an opportunity to address these issues collectively and coherently in order to develop a common solution, overcome some of the gaps, and establish a situation where aid information is widely available and publicly accessible.

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[18] For example see Gapminder (http://www.gapminder.org/) for compelling visualisations; Health Map (http://www.healthmap.org/) which takes data from WHO and others to provide the latest updates on diseases and outbreaks; and the World Bank (http://geo.worldbank.org/) mapping / presentation tool

[19] 1) Follow the Oil Money (http://oilmoney.priceofoil.org/) and www.theyworkforyou.com are interesting examples. 2) The UK Government recently funded a competition for the best ideas for services and websites that could be built using Government data (http://www.showusabetterway.co.uk/call/).

54. The method of publishing and reporting aid information needs to be re-considered. Key to this is the recognition that there are diverse needs for different types and methods accessing it, and that these needs are unlikely to be met by a single reporting process or database. However, if donors were to agree a common set of information and make this information available electronically in an agreed form, the users of information, including DAC and recipient governments, would be able to access and use it in the way they need.

55. To achieve this, we suggest that there are three key steps that need to be taken:

    a. Adoption of a common aid information standard that expands on existing reporting mechanisms in order to meet the priority needs of all stakeholders;

    b. A shift in reporting culture to one where donors proactively provide access to the necessary data once, classified according to commonly agreed definitions and in a common format that can be used and re-used by diverse stakeholders, rather than reacting to multiple un-coordinated requests for information;

    c. Promotion of this standard to all users and potential users, accompanied by measures aimed at increasing their capacity to access the data and re-purpose it to meet their own needs.

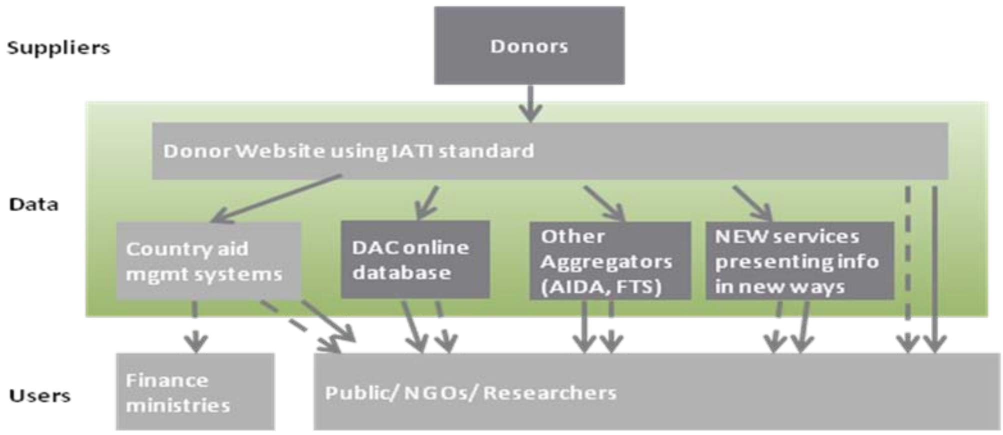

Figure 2 highlights that donors could have just one reporting channel, and multiple users and information providers use the same data to need their needs and create new information serviced. Many of the information flows could be automated.

An IATI standard would comprise four related components:

*a. An **agreement of what information donors will publish***
*b. **common definitions of aid information**, designed to meet diverse needs of users of aid information from developing country governments to, NGOs and academics*
*c. **A common data format**, designed to facilitate easy and rapid electronic interchange of information;*
*d. **A code of conduct** which describes information should be published and , how users may expect to access that information*

Where IATI can add value

56. IATI should establish a common standard for aid information as detailed above. The biggest challenges for IATI are not technical, but relate to changes in internal processes and culture. Although a modest investment is likely to be required, most donors are reasonably well placed to meet the IATI goals from a systems perspective Continuing political leadership will be required to achieve this change and IATI can provide the required impetus.

57. IATI will provide space for the users and providers of information, as well as existing transparency initiatives, to come together and define collectively what transparency of aid information should look like, and agree an achievable, practical set of steps to work towards this

vision. As noted above, full consultation with key stakeholders including partner countries, CSOs and donors is already underway.

58. We propose that IATI **agrees the categories of information to be covered by the standard and common definitions for the classification of this data.** To achieve this without imposing additional reporting obligations on donors IATI should: build on existing reporting formats and develop common definitions which will meet the needs not only of DAC members but all stakeholders, particularly those in partner countries.

Recommendation 1

Firstly, IATI should draw up a comprehensive list of the categories of information to be covered by the standard – this could be split into two phases (see Appendix C for further details)

- *Phase 1 – to include information that meets a basic need for most stakeholders and that is likely to be currently available within donor systems*
- *Phase 2 – to cover additional information need*

Consideration should be given to:

- *how to ensure transparency of financial transaction level data, including disbursement dates and channels of delivery*
- *how financial commitments and forward planning information should be covered*
- *the type of classification required for projects and aid flows*
- how the more knowledge-based information such as project documents, contracts available, contracts awarded, conditions and harmonisation Paris targets should be tackled.

Recommendation 2

Secondly, IATI should agree common definitions to cover all of information categories agreed above. Particular consideration should be given to:

- *how to define a common set of sectoral and thematic classifications, ensuring alignment with existing DAC CRS codes and policy markers, plus ability to map to partner country budget classifications*
- *how to enable a consistent means of identifying projects (equivalent to an ISBN number or barcode used by donor, recipient country, implementing agency)*
- *incorporating more detailed geographic classifications*
- *review existing DAC CRS standard to establish where IATI can add value by extending basic definitions eg for title, descriptions, dates and type of aid*
- *how to address language issues.*

Appendix C contains a full list of potential information areas to be covered by IATI

59. Thirdly, IATI should establish a **common data format** for this information. This would enable aid information to be shared electronically, eliminating the need for donors to report individually and separately to a variety of country-based systems. By publishing information in an open format, a wide variety of different applications can be developed to meet diverse needs of different users.

Recommendation 3

IATI should define and agree a consistent data format to enable this information to be effectively shared. Existing standards such as IDML and SDMX should be learnt from and adopted where appropriate. Further work is required to identify the appropriate technology

60. The final component of an aid information standard would be a ***Code of Conduct*** agreed by those who adopt the standard which sets what information donors will publish, plus when and how it should be published, how users can expect to access this information, and how donors will be held to account for compliance. In particular, consideration should be given to the value of distinguishing between mandatory information, that all signatories undertake to publish as a minimum core standard,, and voluntary information which goes beyond this. It may also be practical to include a short -term commitment to publish information already captured by internal systems, with a longer- term commitment to publish further categories of information.

Recommendation 4

IATI members should agree a Code of Conduct that sets out what information they will publish, plus how and when it will be published. Points to address might include:

- *Agreement on a publication timetable for the mandatory, extended and quality assured (validated) information sets.*
  - *Consideration should be given to phasing implementation, starting with the publication of a core set of information at an early date, and extended in a later phase.*
  - *Appendix C highlights which information could be included in this core set, that is information that: a) meets a basic need for most stakeholders and b) is likely to be currently available within donor systems.*
- *How validated and unvalidated information should be distinguished: for some donors, the publication of information in a timely manner may require the publication of unvalidated information.*
- *How these transparency standards are pushed through the supply chain, by requiring similar standards of reporting by implementing agents.*
- *How this information should be made available (e.g. Through the donor website, or held in a central repository etc.)*
- *Agree how users should expect to access information.*
- *Whether to enable users of the data to comment and/or correct published information, thereby providing decentralised quality control.*

61. Issues around the **implementation**, **governance and management** of the IATI standard should also be addressed

Recommendation 5

- *Agreed mechanisms should be established for updating the common standards over time and arbitrating disputes (for example if a user believes that the code has not been fully implemented). As part of the code of conduct, donors should agree to participate and cooperate in these shared processes.*
- *Consideration should also be given to the ongoing promotion of the standard and its adoption by new donors.*

62. Provision should be made to s**upport donors with the implementation of IATI**

Recommendation 6

- *Further analysis should be undertaken to identify what donors need to do in order to implement IATI proposals, and what support they may require. This analysis should consider:*
  - *The comprehensiveness and quality of information currently captured within internal systems*
  - *The ability to publish this information in a timely manner*
  - *The priority given by donors to changing internal processes and culture, and allocation of necessary resources to achieve these changes.*
- *Provide support and technical advice to help donors to implement the IATI standard.*
- *The IATI technical assurance group should consider developing a data mapping / translation tool to support donors with translation of internal definitions and systems to IATI standards.*
- *Consider developing specific IATI tools for smaller donors to help collect the information required.*
- *Development of shared good practice for donors' reporting systems, processes and culture.*

63. Further work will be required to support the users of aid information in accessing this data in order to meet their specific needs. The IATI standard could become a 'kitemark' of approval for products or services – for example, donor websites, AIMS, intermediaries or implementing agents that adopt the IATI standards could carry the IATI kitemark as a badge of compliance

Recommendation 7

- *Consider whether additional capacity-building is needed – for example to assist local stakeholders in accessing the data*
- *Additionally, new and existing intermediaries should be encouraged to use, re-purpose and find innovative way of presenting the available information.*
- *Explore the value and practicality of introducing an IATI kitemark*

64. Finally, consideration should be given to short-term opportunities to improve availability and accessibility of information

Recommendation 8

Identify short term opportunities to improve the availability of information. For example consideration might be given to:

- *Improving CRS long descriptions*
- *Publishing basic project information to AIDA on a regular basis*

Implications for donors

65. Donors have many competing claims on scarce resources, and many statistics and reporting units are vastly under resourced. It is therefore important that proposals to collect and publish more information about aid do not impose costs that are disproportionate to the benefits. Although in the short term implementation is likely to require a modest investment by donors, the elimination of duplication and parallel reporting processes that IATI delivers should counteract these costs.

66. Much of the core project data required is already captured within donors' central management information/financial systems, and the publication of this data in a timely manner (quality control notwithstanding) should be relatively simple. No significant changes to internal systems should be necessary, as it will be case of performing a mapping of the data and undertaking a technical translation. For donor countries that have multiple agencies providing ODA and/or use implementing agencies for delivery of ODA, there will be more of a challenge to publish 100% of ODA, although it may still be possible to publish a large proportion.

67. For all donors, there will still be a significant amount of information that is required by users, but not currently captured in a systematic way: for example forward planning budgets; sub-country geographic info; output and outcome indictors; conditions; harmonization data; project documents. Publishing this data will be more complex and challenging for many donors, and will depend on the flexibility of internal systems and processes. Further work is required to assess the impact and feasibility of this.

68. So, whilst it is likely that many donors could partially comply with IATI with little additional effort – for example by publishing core project information for a large proportion of ODA - it is likely that to fully comply with IATI, many donors will need to consider a modest investment in their reporting systems.There are some common lessons and good practice emerging from the donor assessments that might help inform donors:

    a. The best donor reporting processes have core internal management information systems that are designed to meet external reporting requirements. As donors upgrade, improve and implement new management information systems and processes, there is an opportunity to ensure these systems and processes are designed to meet the needs of IATI without imposing any additional costs.

    b. For many donors, the project staff capturing the information are unaware that it will be published externally and used by many key stakeholders. Raising awareness and emphasising that this is an aid effectiveness issue, not just an internal corporate compliance issue, will increase the quality of information.

    c. A change of culture is required: providing information about multi-million dollar aid projects should not be seen as a burden that gets in the way of project objectives, but an important part of achieving them (in the same way as financial reporting is).

    d. Some donors have significantly improved information quality by introducing automated validation into their systems and into project approval processes.

    e. The most effective way of getting all ODA giving agencies within country to report in a common format and to an agreed quality is to get a high level political mandate.

    f. In the short term, it is likely that getting high quality, timely information is going to be extremely challenging for a small proportion of ODA, and a potential bottleneck. Reporting 80% of ODA in a more timely and transparent way would be a significant improvement.

    g. Central donor agencies might consider decentralising reporting by asking all ODA giving agencies to provide IATI compliant information. Each agency will have similar systems and in principle the issues shouldn't be different for them.

Appendix A – FAQ and Common Concerns

1. **The existing information needs are potentially huge and the 'ask' is too ambitious for many donors.**
   It may be sensible to establish a minimum core standard, an extended core standard, niche reporting requirements set etc.. A potential advantage of establishing a common standard is that it should be the starting point for future data requests and information needs. Anything requested beyond this, will have to have a very strong reason for doing so.

2. **The information needs change over time.**
   The standard should be flexible to include ad-hoc reporting when required. New requests for data should be coordinated and the information needs from an new policy initiative should be considered early.

3. **Increased availability of data doesn't mean it will be accessible.**
   If the data is made available in standard and reusable formats, then this creates a wide open playing field for new entrants to create new services that make the data accessible, and will need to be considered as a phase of IATI.

4. **Improved accessibility does not mean that people will use the information.**
   Effective communications, capacity building and a change in culture will also be needed.

5. **Donor systems might lack flexibility.**
   Most donors have the basic information required and could publish without too much effort. However, investment, and commitment will be required. Development of shared good practice for internal systems might help with this.

6. **Capturing different information has potentially large organisational change implications for donors.**
   Not a huge overhead – not different than financial reporting, it is important and worth it.

7. **The publication of data in real-time will be impossible due to the amount of quality control required.**
   It should be possible to publish both verified and unverified information, ensuring the latter is clearly labelled and linked to the latest verified data (e.g. in CRS). Once data is being published the quality of information being captured is likely to rise, which means that quality control will be less of an issue. Also exposing this information allows quality control to be decentralised – allowing others to comment/ correct etc.

Appendix B - Existing Transparency Initiatives

DAC

The DAC are continuing to improve their online statistics resources. They have recently introduced a new user interface, called QWIDS (Query Wizard for International development Statistics) to help users navigate the complex data set more effectively, and are seeking to expand the data sources to include more multilaterals such as World Bank and some Foundations

Development Gateway - AIDA

AIDA has also recently implemented a new and improved the user interface which allows and use to browse through a selection of filters, as well as search) and are constantly looking for new sources of data, as well as offering opportunity for DAC donors to report on a regular basis.

PLAID

The Project level Aid Information Database (PLAID) is being developed by William & Mary University and Brigham Young University. They are taking data from existing sources such as DAC and augmenting by adding more comprehensive descriptions, additional information on co-financers and more detailed sector coding, including assessment of health and environmental impacts. They are also looking to include other sources from non-DAC donors and aid information that falls outside ODA. This resource is currently being used for research purposes and is not widely available, but through a Gates and Hewlett Foundation grant there is currently work underway to develop a new user interface and make it public early 2010.

TR-AID

Transparent- AID (TR_AID) run by the Joint Research Centre in the EC, is another new initiative to establish an aid database. The objective is to create a platform to enable donor coordination, by bringing development and humanitarian aid data from multiple sources together into one platform. The database currently has data from DAC, EC, World Bank, FTS. They currently take the data in its original form and perform a manual mapping process to import the data in the TR-AID database, so the barrier for donors to participate is low.

Donors

Some donors are also looking at ways to improve the availability and accessibility of project information. For example DFID is about to launch a projects database on its website, which will include rss and data feed.

Grantsfire

Grantsfire is a new initiative aiming to collect real-time information on grants available from foundations. They have designed a standard format for foundations to publish grant information to their website and can use feeds from the sites to bring this information together. It currently only covers a basic set of information (dates, descriptions, country, region, $amount), but is interesting because it represents a similar model to the IATI proposal.

UN Development Cooperation Forum

As part of the work of the UN ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum, Development Finance International has conducted work to begin to build a database on South-South development cooperation. It currently contains information on country allocations, types, sectors and concessionality, for 20 major South-South providers. In the next phase of the DCF (2009-11), the plan is, in cooperation with Southern providers, to expand the number of providers covered by the data, create a time series and make presentation more standardised, while keeping it in a simple accessible database. [20]

Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME)

IHME have a programme to track all international investments for improving health in low and middle income countries. The International Action for Health programme uses the CRS as the starting point to gather data on development assistance for health from public and private donors from 1990 to the present. The CRS data from bilateral donors is augmented with information on assistance from development banks, UN agencies, and other multilateral actors in the health field. This information comes from a combination of online grants databases, annual reports, financial documents and custom data feeds.

George Institute for International Health

The **G-FINDER** project run by the George Institute aims to provide consistent, comparable and comprehensive information on investment into research and development for neglected diseases. This information is being gathered through annual surveys and published in reports.

Global Development Commons

Finally, there are groups like Global Development Commons (USAID)[21] that are working on related-but-slightly-different initiatives but talking about achieving this using similar concepts of utilising open and transparent web technical standards to creating online services to increase and improve access to information

[20] The initial analytical results of the data are in http://www.un.org/ecosoc/docs/pdfs/South-South_cooperation.pdf

[21] Global Development Commons http://www.developmentcommons.org/wiki/index.php/Main_Page

Appendix C – Potential Information Categories for full IATI standard

Including potential options for a Phase 1 core standard, based on whether a) the information is currently available in donor systems and b) would meet the basic needs of most stakeholders

Information	Notes	Phase 1
Basic project data		
Project ID	A consistent method of identifying projects is essential. This needs some further work	Y
Project Title & Purpose/ Description	Reported to CRS and AIDA	Y
Project Dates	Captured in AIDA	Y
Project Status / Stage	Reported to CRS and AIDA	Y
Project Classification		
Country / Destination	Reported to CRS and AIDA	Y
Detailed geographic info	(e.g. region, town, village) Preferably geo coded. Not generally available in donor systems	N
General / Detailed Sector	DAC donor already report DAC sectors codes Further work is required to agree definitions. (e.g. Allow multiple codes. Flexibility to meet country specific needs is required)	Y DAC codes
Funding Type \ Type of aid flow	Reported to CRS	Y
Tied Aid Status	Reported to CRS	Y
Other Policy Markers	**To be defined**. e.g. CRS Gender / Environment / PDGG/ Biodiversiry/ climate change / desertification/ Rio markers	?
Financial		
Funding Country/Agency/ Organisation & Type	Reported to CRS	Y
Total project cost	Often captured within donor system	Y
Total amount committed	Often captured within donor system	Y
annual budget	Including planned disbursement dates Often captured within donor system	Y
Individual commitment date & value	Often captured within donor system	Y
Disbursement dates and value		
Implementing Agency / channel of delivery		
Annual forward planning budgets (preferably multi year): By country; sector	Further work is required to agree how this should be handled	Y
Harmonisation		
Paris indicators		N
Conditions		

Conditions	**To be defined** (e.g. whether conditions are attached, what they are, and whether funding has been withdrawn because of conditions) Often held within project documents, not in structured format or linked to project / finance systems	**N**
Results		
Standard indicators for expected project outputs and outcomes	**To be defined.** Not currently available for most donors	**N**
Project Documents		
Concept notes	Available in donors systems, but often not systematically linked to project/finance systems	**?**
Project design docs / logframes		
Project appraisals (e.g. environment, gender)		
Project evaluations		
Contract / procurement information		
Contracts awarded for project	**To be defined.** Available in donors systems, but often not systematically linked to project / finance systems	**N**
Future funding opportunities		**N**
Others		
Project contacts		**?**
Website	Links to project websites and other relevant resources	**Y**

Appendix D - What is an aid information standard and what would it include?

The Accra Agenda for Action committed the partners to *"disclose regular, detailed and timely information on all our aid flows"* and *"support information systems for managing aid"*. The signatories of the International Aid Transparency Initiative committed themselves to *"share more detailed and up-to-date information about aid in a form that makes information more accessible to all relevant stakeholders."* The signatories committed themselves to *"build on and extend existing standards and reporting systems, consulting partner governments, civil society organisations, parliamentarians and other users of aid information, in order to agree, by end 2009, common definitions and a format to facilitate sharing of aid information."*

This note considers in more detail what is involved in setting an aid information standard. The exact details of what will be included in an aid information standard, and in what form, will depend on the process now underway to identify what information donors can provide without disproportionate cost, and the needs and priorities of users of aid information.

Four components of an aid information standard

An aid information standard would comprise four related components:

a. **Agreement on the types of information to be covered by the standard**
b. **Common definitions of aid information**, designed to meet diverse needs of users of aid information inc. developing country governments to the private sector, NGOs and academics
c. **A common data format**, designed to facilitate easy and rapid electronic interchange of data;
d. **A code of conduct** which describes what information donors will publish and how frequently, how users may expect to access that information, arrangements for verification and quality control, and how donors will be held accountable for compliance.

A. Agreement on the types of information to be covered

- The first step in developing the standard is to reach agreement on the types of information to be covered. This could be split into two phases (see Appendix C for further details)
    - Phase 1 – to include information that meets a basic need for most stakeholders and that is likely to be currently available within donor systems
    - Phase 2 – to cover additional information need

B. Common definitions of aid information

The second component of an aid information standard is an agreement about definitions. For aid information to be universally understood and comparable across donors, we need a common language. Donors already publish a large part of the information that is needed but lack of common definitions, even on basic terms such as sectors, projects, commitments and disbursements – makes it difficult to compile or compare this information.

The statistical reporting directives of the OCED DAC go some way to solving this by providing common definitions to be used by DAC members. We would like to see these extended to other donors and expanded – for example to provide more detailed information at country and sector level, so that the information meets the needs of partner country governments, parliamentarians, civil society organisations, researchers and others..

The existing DAC and CRS databases were explicitly designed to meet the needs of donors, rather than partner countries, focusing on the money that flows out from donor countries, rather than the aid that flows in to developing countries. As a result, many developing countries have developed their own national systems for monitoring aid flows. These systems rely heavily on manual input, and lead to multiple requests for information from donors. The resulting information systems are very useful tools for governments, but they will be more complete, consistent, and comparable if donors provide this information systematically and transparently, with sufficient commitment and resources, and subject to verification, rather than through *ad hoc* data collection exercises.

To make information available more usefully without imposing substantial additional obligations of multiple reporting on donors, the international community should build on existing reporting formats to develop common definitions which, by design, will meet the needs not only of the members of the DAC, but also of partner countries, NGOs, academics, non-DAC donors and foundations. To achieve this, it is essential that both the DAC (who have experience in donor reporting) and the UNDP (who have expertise in country-based systems) play a leading role in the development of common definitions. Common definitions should build on, not duplicate or undermine, existing initiatives. Developing countries must play an active role from the outset, so that the definitions meet their specific information needs. Other actors – such as non-DAC donors, foundations and NGOS – should also be involved in the development of these definitions, with the aim of developing standards that will, in time, be adopted by all those involved in providing aid.

Examples of common definitions

Accounting standards *are an everyday example of common definitions. Company accounts are useful because key terms are defined in a consistent way – for example, revenues, capital investment or profit. This means managers, investors, and other stakeholders can interpret, compare, and aggregate information from company accounts without having to find out what each company means.*

Other examples of information standards include scientific classifications such as the biological taxonomy, economic classifications such as trade sectors and national accounts, geographical information such as latitude and longitude, and the Dewey decimal classification system for libraries. Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) is an example of an international definition used in international development

C. Common data format

The third component of an aid information standard would be a common data format. This would mean that aid information can be shared electronically, eliminating the need for donors to report individually and separately to a variety of country-based systems. By publishing information in an open format, a wide variety of different applications can be developed to meet diverse needs of different users.

Both the International Development Markup Language (IDML) initiative developed by Development Gateway and the Statistical Data and Meta Data Exchange (SDMX) initiative would be important building blocks of a common data format. The IATI's Technical Working Group will be examining these and other potential IT solutions.

Examples of data standards

Barcodes *on the items in shops are an example of how a common data format can make it easy to exchange information. Practically every item bought in a shop has a barcode on it; and similar barcodes are used for document management, tracking of packages or rental cars, validation of airline or event tickets and many other uses. The standards for encoding numbers into barcodes were developed by IBM at the request of the National Association of Food Chains, and adopted in 1973.*

Other examples of data standards include the way that songs are stored on CDs; internet standards that enable you to send the same email to several people without knowing what sort of computer they will use to read it; the availability of many different commercial GPS units that read the same information from satellites; NATO standards for communications between its member armies; and the ability of shops all over the world to read the magnetic strip on

D. Common Code of Conduct

The final component of an aid information standard would be a *Code of Conduct* agreed by those who adopt the standard which sets out what information they commit to publish, the they way that they will publish it, and how they are to be held to account.

The code of conduct will describe what information donors will publish. This may distinguish between mandatory information, that all signatories undertake to publish, and voluntary information that they will publish in a common format where possible.

The code of conduct will also describe how users should expect to access information, how donors may be held to account for meeting their obligations under the aid information standard, and what avenues are open to users if they believe that the code is not being properly applied.

This code of conduct might include commitments from the signatories to:

- Collate and publish comprehensive aid data according to the agreed aidinfo common coverage, definitions and IT format.
- Publish aid information on an agreed timetable agreed
- Publish indicative information on future flows
- Make this information publicly available through their website, in the agreed format
- Push these transparency standards through their supply chain, by requiring similar standards of reporting by implementing agents;
- Make appropriate investment in staff and systems to deliver the above standards.
- Participate in a shared process to update the common standards over time
- Cooperate with an appropriate mechanism for arbitrating disputes if a user believes that the code has not been fully implemented.

Examples of codes of conduct

The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative is an example of a code of conduct that commits its signatories to publish information about payments for oil and minerals. Other examples include the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions, the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, and the 'Arrangement' on officially supported export credits.

Appendix E – The Main Information Resources

Basic project details: Project titles and descriptions, dates, recipient country, sector

Information Resource	Main Focus / objectives	Availability - Data (Sources, level of detail)	Accessibility consistency of format	Timeliness
Aggregators				
DAC CRS	Provide statistics for year-on-year comparison of aid flows from DAC donors. To enable donors to work together and be accountable for the commitments they make	**Source:** DAC donors & Multilaterals[22] covers between 95% - 100% of DAC aid flows **Data:** Basic project data (no project dates), type of aid, tied aid, policy markers, annual project expenditure, commitments made during the year and channel of delivery	**Finding and presenting info:** *multiple sources (all DAC donors)* search and list projects details advanced charting tools **Reusability:** Excel Export, Machine API[23] **Standards:** CRS directives are currently standard for aid data, including DAC sector codes[24]	Available annually in December for the previous year Data anything from 11 to 23 months old. Data available from 1960, but CRS data more comprehensive from 2002
AIDA	Aims to be a comprehensive project registry, by collecting more timely data from a wider range of sources. An information resource: does	**Source:** CRS + other sources [25] **Data:** basic project info, with project commitments and total disbursement	**Finding and presenting info:** *multiple sources* Browse and search **Reusability:** Excel Export **Standards:** Uses IDML data format, approx half of sector codes used are aligned with DAC codes	Varied. Depends on provider. DFID published weekly, World Bank, IFAD and IADB publish on a monthly or quarterly basis

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[22] **Bilateral Sources**: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, US
Mulitateral Sources: African Development Bank (AfDB), African Development Fund (AfDF), Asian Development Bank (AsDB), Asian Development Fund (AsDF), European Community (EC), International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Development Association (IDA), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Inter-American Development Bank Special Fund (IDB Sp.Fund), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UNDP, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNFPA, FTI, The Global Fund (GFATN)

[23] An API is an interface which can used to programmatically access the raw data. Available via QWIDS, but as yet, no guidance is available

[24] The CRS directives are here. The DAC sector codes are available here.

[25] **Sources include**: CRS as above, World Bank, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, Soros/OSI, Inter American DB, UNFPA, DFID

Information Resource	Main Focus / objectives	Availability - Data (Sources, level of detail)	Accessibility consistency of format	Timeliness
	not attempt to provide data for statistics			
FTS (OCHA)	Grants allocated for humanitarian purposes to analyse aid and monitor accountability among humanitarian actors	**Source:** All governments and recipient agencies that provide assistance; ECHO **Data:** basic project info, sector, commitments and contribution status, appealing agency, province	**Finding and presenting info:** *multiple sources in one place. limited to humanitarian* search and list details Preselected reports/tables are available **Reusability:** Excel Export **Standards:** Different definitions to DAC	1999-present Aims to be as close to real-time as possible. Updated monthly for many donors
ECHO	For EU countries to report humanitarian assistance grants Feeds into FTS	**Source:** EU countries **Data:** basic project info, type of aid, channel and local implementing agency, contact details	**Finding and presenting info:** *multiple sources (all EU) in one place. limited to humanitarian* search and list details basic charting tools **Reusability:** Exports to XML & text file **Standards:** Uses HOLIS 14-point standards. Different definitions to DAC	1994 - present
Donor systems/website				
World Bank	To provide comprehensive, transparent information about Bank activities	**Source:** World Bank – at least 95% complete **Data:** basic project info, multiple sectors, project commitment, total project cost, total disbursed, type of aid, contact details **Other:** Project docs; Development outcomes and goal markers; Links to contracts awarded to this project	**Finding and presenting info:** *single source* Browse and search projects, docs and contracts Global map of projects **Reusability:** Excel & XML Export. RSS feeds **Standards:** sectors not consistent with CRS	(1947-present) Updated close to real-time

Information Resource	Main Focus / objectives	Availability - Data (Sources, level of detail)	Accessibility consistency of format	Timeliness
IADB	Project details for the Inter-American Development Bank	**Source:** IADB **Data:** basic project info, aid type commitment, disbursement, implementing agency, sector **Other:** Project docs & some environmental impact assessments	**Finding and presenting info:** *single source* Search and list project details **Reusability:** none **Standards:** sectors not consistent with CRS	Not known how often updated. Appears to be regularly.
ASDB	Project details for the Inter-American Development Bank	**Source:** ASDB **Data:** basic project info, very detailed descriptions (objectives, consultations etc.), aid type commitment, disbursement, geographic location, implementing agency, sector **Other:** Project docs & Project websites	**Finding and presenting info:** *single source* Search and list project details Search and list project documents **Reusability:** none **Standards:** sectors not consistent with CRS	Not known how often updated. Appears to be regularly.
EBRD	Project details for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	**Source:** EDRB **Data:** basic project info, , aid type commitment, implementing agency, sector, environmental impact, contacts	**Finding and presenting info:** *single source* Search and list project details e-mail alerts for new projects **Reusability:** none **Standards:** sectors not consistent with CRS	1996 – present Not known how often updated. Appears to be regularly.
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development supported rural development projects	**Source:** IFAD **Data:** basic project info, total project cost, IFAD commitments, co-financing details, sector	**Finding and presenting info:** *single source* Search and list project details RSS feeds for new projects **Reusability:** none **Standards:** sectors not consistent with CRS	Not known

Information Resource	Main Focus / objectives	Availability - Data (Sources, level of detail)	Accessibility consistency of format	Timeliness
		Other: Project docs		
EC	Details of grants and contract available and awarded	**Source:** EC **Contracts Awarded:** basic project info, organisation, total project cost, value of grant/contract, sector **Contracts available:** basic project info, budget	**Finding and presenting info:** *single source* Search and list project details **Reusability:** none **Standards:** uses DAC sectors	Not Known
CIDA	To provide Canadian citizens interested in what their government is doing	**Source:** CIDA (not complete) **Data:** basic project info, commitment, implementing agency, multiple countries & sector (with %)	**Finding and presenting info:** *single source* Search and list details **Reusability:** none **Standards:** uses CRS sectors	Data is drawn directly from internal project system. Updated close to real-time
IDRC IDRIS	Detail of IDRC research programmes	**Source:** CIDA (not complete) **Data:** basic project info, commitment, aid type	**Finding and presenting info:** *single source* Search and list details **Reusability:** none **Standards:** uses CRS sectors	Not Known
Germany GTZ KFW	To provide some details of projects being implemented by GTZ and KfW	**Source:** GTZ, KFW **GTZ:** basic project info, funding organisation, implementing (/ executing) agency, description of approach and results so far. Some project docs **KFW**: short (1-2 page) document for each project	**Finding and presenting info:** *single source* Browse by country and list details **Reusability:** none **Standards:** sectors not consistent with CRS	Not known
France ADF	Projects for French Development Agency (ADF)	**Source:** ADF **Data:** basic project info,	**Finding and presenting info:** *single source, in French*	Not known

Information Resource	Main Focus / objectives	Availability - Data (Sources, level of detail)	Accessibility consistency of format	Timeliness
		commitment, sector, total project cost, AFD commitment, contact details, summary project documents	Search and Browse by country/sector and list details; map of projects & publications **Reusability:** none **Standards:** sectors not consistent with CRS	
USAID DEC	USAID technical and program-related documents	**Source:** USAID **Docs types:** Design, evaluation, annual reports, technical report, reference docs	**Finding and presenting info:** *single source;* Search and list project documents RSS feed for new documents	1996 – present Updated daily Legacy docs 1946 – 1996 are available here
UK DFID R4D	Research for development. Details of DFID research programmes	**Source:** DFID research projects **Data:** basic project info, implementing organisation, country, total cost, detailed descriptions of objectives & intended outputs **Other:** Project docs (research paper, technical report, case studies etc.)	**Finding and presenting info:** *single source,* Search and Browse by country/sector and list details; map of projects & publications RSS feeds for new projects **Reusability:** none **Standards:** sectors not consistent with CRS	1970s- present Updated regularly as required.
MacArthur Foundation	Summary of grants awarded by MacArthur foundation	**Source:** MaCArthur **Data:** amount, year, organisation awarded, short description	**Finding and presenting info:** *single source;* Search and list grants RSS feed for new grant	Current year and past three years
Recipient systems				
DADs[26]	Aid management for recipient governments. Some are available to public (17 of the 27 – see links below).	**Source:** a wide range of donors **Data:** more detailed project info: inc more detailed descriptions, more specific sector coding and geographic location, detailed breakdown of commitment, detailed disbursement	**Finding and presenting info:** effective for an individual country analysis of data search and list details, includes comprehensive charting tools customisable reports, graphs and maps are exportable in Word, Excel and PDF	Varied. Typically updated on a monthly or quarterly basis

[26] Afghanistan, Armenia, Central African Republic, Georgia, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Lebanon, Kazakhstan, Kurdistan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Maldives, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Russia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Zambia

Information Resource	Main Focus / objectives	Availability - Data (Sources, level of detail)	Accessibility consistency of format	Timeliness
		/ transaction details, details of implementing agencies responsible, (and occasionally) Paris harmonisation indicators, project outputs, project docs	**Reusability:** DADs have Excel Export **Standards:** Most DADs have locally defined sector codes and are not aligned with CRS	
South Africa: Development Cooperation Information System	To providing information about Official Development Assistance (ODA) to South Africa for ODA management professionals, stakeholders, other interested parties and the general public	**Source:** a wide range of donors **Data:** basic project info, implementing agency, commitments, disbursements, sector, aid type, geographic location	**Finding and presenting info:** effective for an individual country analysis of data browse and list details **Reusability:** Excel Export **Standards:** sectors not consistent with CRS	1994 – present Not known how often updated.
Cambodia ODA database	To providing information about Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Cambodia	**Source:** a wide range of donors **Data:** basic project info, implementing agency, total project cost, commitments, planned budget allocation, sector, aid type, geographic location, paris indicators, contact details	**Finding and presenting info:** effective for an individual country analysis of data browse and list details Predefined reports, customisable reports **Reusability:** none **Standards:** sectors not consistent with CRS	Not known
ODA Moz	provides information on Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Mozambique	**Source:** a wide range of donors **Data:** basic project info, implementing agency, total cost, commitments, disbursements, disbursement forecast, sectors, aid type, geographic location, MDG, contact details	**Finding and presenting info:** effective for an individual country analysis of data browse and list details customisable reports with excel export **Reusability:** Excel Export **Standards:** CRS sectors	1994 – present 2005 - present Not known how often updated.
ODA Nic	provides information on Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Nicaragua	**Source:** a wide range of donors **Data:** basic project info, implementing agency, total cost,	**Finding and presenting info:** effective for an individual country analysis of data browse and list details.	Not known

Information Resource	Main Focus / objectives	Availability - Data (Sources, level of detail)	Accessibility consistency of format	Timeliness
		commitments, disbursements, disbursement forecast, sectors, aid type, geographic location, MDG, contact details	customisable reports with excel export **Reusability:** Excel Export **Standards:** CRS sectors	
Mapa de Cooperacion Colombia	provides information on projects in Columbia	**Source:** a wide range of donors **Data:** basic project info, sector, geographic location	**Finding and presenting info:** effective for an individual country analysis of data Map interface. Browse and list details Spanish **Reusability:** none **Standards:** not known	Not known
Kyrgyzstan project database	provides information on donor activities in Kyrgystan	**Source:** a small set of bilateral and multilateral donors **Data:** basic project info, implementing agency, total cost, commitments, sector, aid type, geographic location, contact details	**Finding and presenting info:** effective for an individual country analysis of data Search/Browse and list details **Reusability:** none **Standards:** sectors not consistent with CRS	1994 – present Not known how often updated.
PAMS Palestine	Couldn't access due to security warning			
AMPS[27]	None publicly available at present.			

[27] Ethiopia, Bolivia, Montenegro, Burkino Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Malawi, Tanzania, Liberia, Madagascar, Senegal, Togo and Kosovo