



Overseas Development
Institute

Overview of International Efforts for Aid Transparency

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Marcus Manuel
Head of CAPE

Director of Budget Strengthening Initiative

- Three key processes related to aid transparency are active at global level
- DAC/CRS – aid database
- Working Party on Aid Effectiveness: Transparency cluster (coordination)
- IATI – standard (both information and protocol) for publication of aid information

DAC/Creditor Reporting System

- The CRS is the most comprehensive source of systematic, donor-generated aid information across countries and for specific countries.
 - Publically accessible database
 - All OECD donors in a single format
 - Historical time series (began collecting data over 40 years ago)
- What the CRS doesnt do:
 - Timeliness
 - No forward looking figures
 - Project level information limited
 - Limited compatibility with country systems
 - Emerging donors, China and most foundations are not included
- The CRS standards are also often applied in both country and headquarters level activities. This includes IATI and a number of country level aid information management systems (AIMS)

Emerging efforts to improve the CRS

- Current plans to expand the CRS
 - Timeliness
 - quarterly reporting
 - more information on aid activities i(recently aid modalities)
- The AidData database adds full project level data and new technologies such as geo-coding; dashboards
- AidData is hosted by Development Gateway, suppliers of the Aid Management Platform common in many recipient countries, providing good opportunities to experiment with and bridge the international level – country specific gap in aid information management.

Working Party on Aid Effectiveness

- The OECD Working Party on Aid Effectiveness: Transparent and Responsible Aid cluster.
- Process to assess how to interpret the AAA commitments
 - What data to disclose to whom?
- Proposals are currently under discussion
- Now 25-30 countries attending (good turn out)
- Proposals
 - Make historical data available within 4 months of calendar year end (indicative data), with CRS sector codes (see next slide), CRS item level reporting
 - Forward data to be provided as CRS item level reporting
 - Currently being tested

International Aid Transparency Initiative

- The International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) emerged from Paris Declaration (2005) and the Accra Agenda for Action (2008).
- Major Multilateral agencies, European bilaterals and several major foundations.
- Purpose is a common standard for publishing aid information
 - Type of information
 - Quality of information
 - Format
 - Frequency

Scope of IATI

- IATI is not a database
- There will be a registry that will allow users to locate information at its source
- The key types of info are:
 - Agency level policy and financial detail
 - Individual activity and financial planning detail.
 - Transaction level financial information.
- Implementation of the standard includes quarterly (ideally monthly or even live) publication of data
- Donor publication of their data in the IATI format has already begun with limited donors (DfID already produces an IATI info feed from its website), and the aim is for all signatories to be published by Busan.

Issues emerging with the implementation of IATI

- ‘Publish as a default’ norm that IATI installs in aid information is challenging technically and legally for donors.
 - Particularly some of the key linkages for the budget cycle (quarterly breakdown and updates; linkage to country standards; country budget identifier)
- Some compliant donors show it is possible.
- At country level, regular submission of aid information from all major donors to the Ministry of Finance is not only possible, but is happening (Malawi).
- Some progress BUT it is important that aid recipient countries provide clear and challenging demands to IATI for the type of info that is required.
- IATI and the CRS have limited leverage over non-DAC members – a role for other actors?

Conclusions

- The budget transparency agenda has strong political momentum. For donors, aid is a component of that.
- The integration with numerous other countries and, importantly, the government systems in those countries, makes aid transparency a particularly complex and challenging endeavour.
- Paris, Accra and the upcoming Busan are highly visible fora and determination to bring clear results is strong.
- But while there is political demand, at technical level there is strong resistance to changing systems to provide aid information

- Despite this, (DAC/CRS), (IATI) and the growing discussion on aid transparency from recipient governments are good signs.
- In Busan there will be some demonstrable progress in terms of data publication, but there is also a long way to go. Donors must not be satisfied with simply publishing data, they must be actively involved with making that data useable and used.
- There is a strong role for CABRI and its member countries to demand this.