The International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)

Simon Parrish, aidinfo & IATI secretariat





Main points

- Geographic information is critical to effective transparency
- IATI offers a standard approach for comparable and re-usable data
- It's challenging for many aid providers, and <u>OAP is an</u> <u>excellent opportunity</u> to operationalise IATI commitments
- Let's get to it



International Aid Transparency Initiative

- Launched in Sept 2008 at the Accra HLF, endorsed at Busan
- Aims to increase aid transparency, particularly at <u>country level</u>
- A standard for sharing data about aid flows that meets partner country needs
- Multi-stakeholder initiative



1) High Demand: a lot of people want information





Why aid transparency?

- <u>Partner country governments</u> need better aid information to manage resources effectively;
- <u>Parliaments, CSOs and citizens</u> need better aid information to hold governments to account;
- <u>Beneficiaries</u> need access to aid information to create feedback loops;
- <u>Donors</u> need better aid information to assist coordination and ensure their effectiveness
- <u>Taxpayers in donor countries</u> want to know how their money is being spent



ACCOUNTABILITY

OWNERSHIP

EFFICIENCY

RESULTS

FEEDBACK

CORRUPTION

PREDICTABILITY

Traceability

DIVERSION

EFFECTIVENESS

BUDGET PLANNING

COORDINATION

Demonstrating Results

What do people want?

- 1. Detailed information: allocation and EXECUTION
 - Which communities will benefit (geographic information)
 - Which organisation are involved
 - In what form is aid given
- 2. Timely information
- 3. Comparable information covering all aid providers and <u>all</u> resources
- 4. Information that is accessible to ALL users
 - User centric, not producer centric
 - Transparency of resources not organisations
- 5. Efficiency and re-use

The case for geographic information

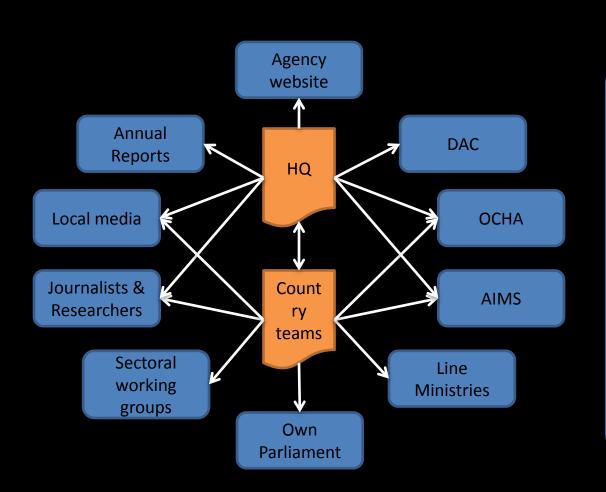
- Exploit opportunities for mapping and other technological innovations
- Communities can identify the projects and resources that are intended to serve them – regardless of source
- Enables Government, private sector, service delivery NGOs to allocate complementary investments
- Greater coordination for donors: more effective allocation
- Linking services to financing creating feedback loops
- More detailed analysis of impact
- It is already requested by Governments

2) Inadequate supply: There is a lot of data out there.....but it is not being used





"We are already publishing a lot!!"



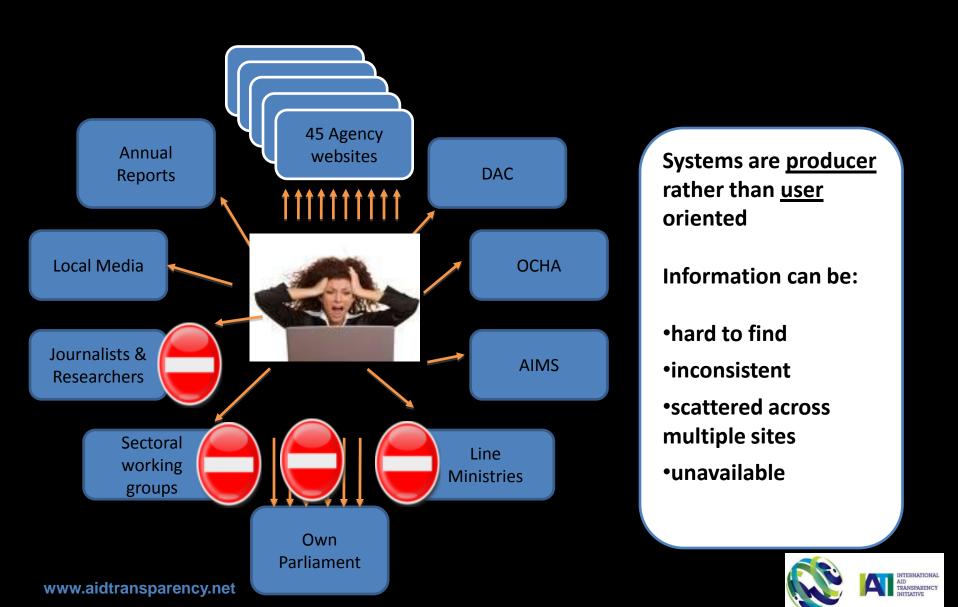
Donors already publish to many systems and services

BUT

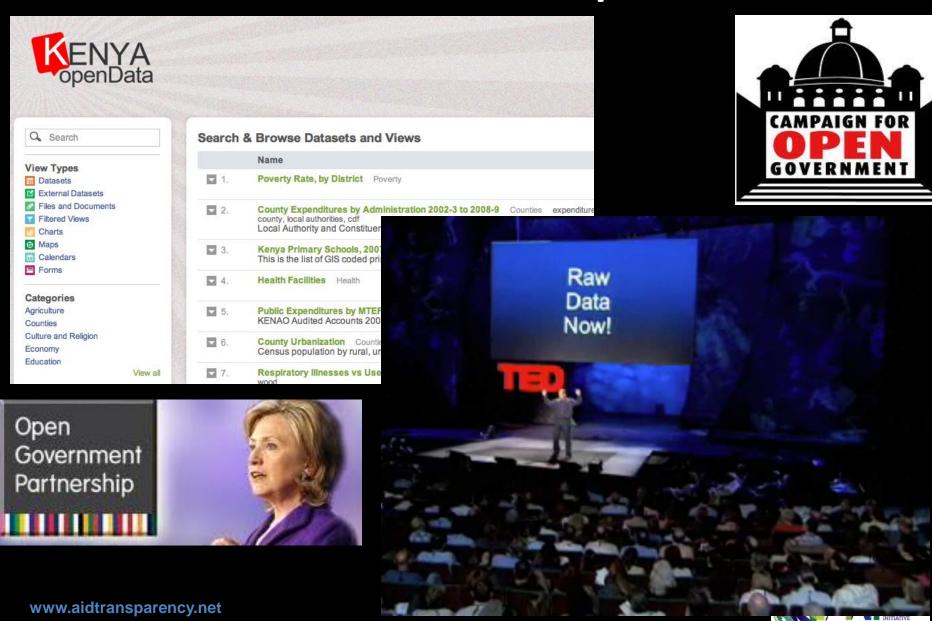
- Significant burden
- •Results in inconsistencies
- Country offices & HQ are unaware of transparency initiatives



... but the information is hard to find and use



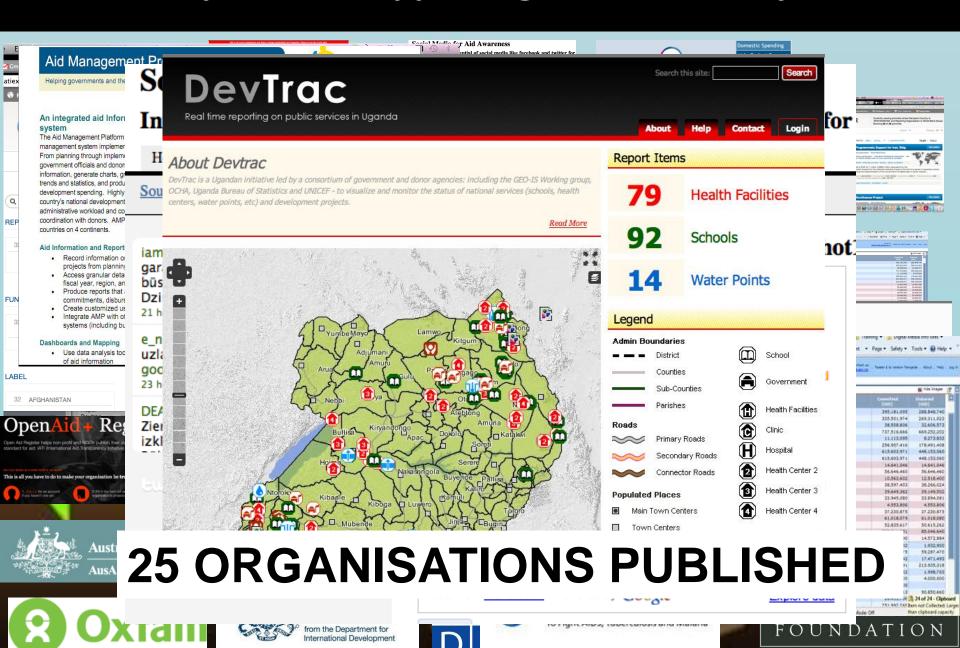
The Solution: IATI & Open Data



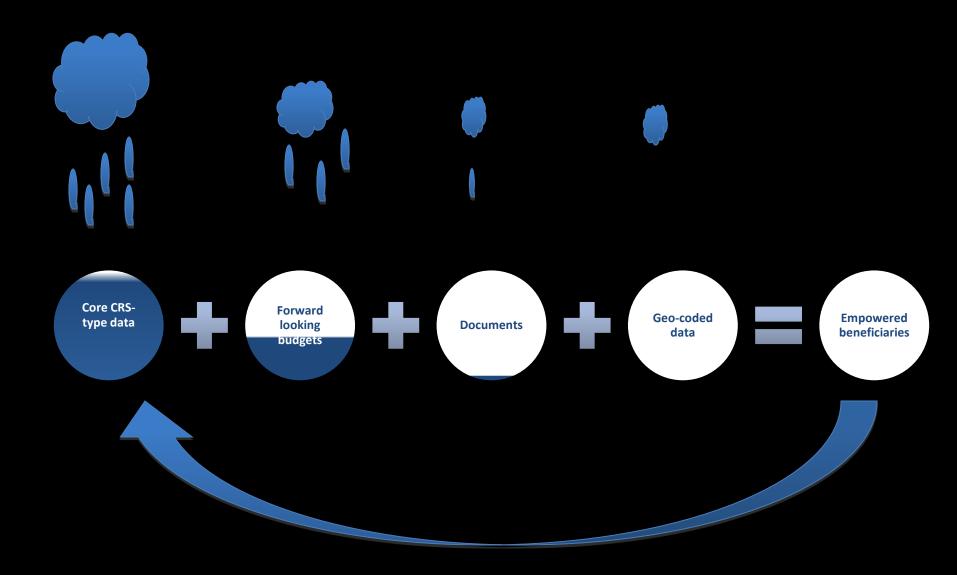
IATI: an open data approach

- An open data <u>standard</u> for data on aid flows
 - Including geographic information (based on WBI/DG)
 - Longitude & latitude
 - Administrative regions
 - Freetext
 - Gazateer (e.g. geonames)
- A commitment to a common approach to publishing
 - Open, raw data
 - Publish once, use everywhere
 - Reuse data
 - Resuse tools

IATI: A platform supporting a vibrant ecosystem



It's early days...we need better info...



Two final messages

1. Geocoding is critical – let's get to it

OAP is a great opportunity

1. Do it as part of the IATI process

- Meet Busan commitments
- Reusable data: publish once, use everywhere
- Comparable data and user-centric transparency
- Avoid duplication of effort (and engage country offices)
- Re-usable tools
- Sustainable processes: mainstream into existing project management processes
- OAP is a great opportunity