

Open Aid Map

Concept and Guidance Note for Creating an Open Aid Map

DRAFT

Background

The Open Aid Partnership brings together partners from developing countries and donor countries to enhance the openness and effectiveness of development assistance. OAP's focus is on geocoding the locations of development aid activities so that they can be visualized on an Open Aid Map. The geocoded data will be available to the public in IATI format (www.aidtransparency.net) on the Open Aid Map. Local data on projects financed by development aid such as towns and villages where hospitals and schools were built help to better engage with beneficiaries.

The OAP will map activities of participating donors and support developing countries in building national mapping platforms. Governments and development partners will curate, process, and clean local data and provide them to the Open aid Map. The Map will be designed based on partners needs and will be financed and maintained by the Partnership.

From the beginning the partnership intends to build capacity of civil society to use this data and act as information intermediaries for citizens. In a second phase, building on local data, the OAP will promote citizen feedback initiatives for better reporting on development assistance and public service provision.

This note clarifies the concept and provides guidance for the technical design of the Open Aid Map.

Principles and Design Elements

The Open Aid Map will serve two purposes: It will aggregate and visualize information on development aid, in particular geocoded locations of donor-financed projects, from various sources including governments, bilateral and multilateral donors, foundations and NGOs; and it will help governments to visualize their own information on development aid as well as information on public service delivery, as needed and available. Therefore, the Open Aid Map should allow for visualizing data on a **global Open Aid Map** maintained by the secretariat of the OAP (hosted in the World Bank Institute) as well as creating **country maps** that potentially can be integrated in country systems.

The global Open Aid Map should allow for **visualizing data from partners' APIs, where available**, to ensure timeliness and consistency of data. At the same time, the Open Aid Map should provide a geodatabase **that maintains datasets of governments** lacking the capacity to provide data through an API. Data stored in this database should be shared out through an API as well.

All data distributed by the Map should be **open data** licensed under an attribution license (for example creative commons attribution CC-BY). Data can be used for commercial and non-commercial purposes. Preferably, the Map should make use of basemaps from open sources such as Open Street Map.

The Open Aid Map should support various **visualizations** including maps showing project locations and sub-national poverty levels; charts on aid flows and results; and potentially social content such as multimedia . As the OAP's focus is on geo-coded local aid information, the Open Aid Map should be based on a **mature mapping platform** that supports a wide range of visualizations. Also, it should support **dashboards** that include other data, in particular datasets in IATI format.

The Map should rely **on open standards** for data and data exchanges, in particular the IATI standard for international aid data exchanges, and GeoNames, GAUL, and GADM (among others) for geographic data.

In the spirit of openness, **open-source** software is the preferred option for building the Open Aid Map, so that anyone, anywhere, would be able to grab the code and replicate the application, free of charge. In particular, this will support countries to build their own country platforms.

Next Steps

- Form Small Agile Working Group among Open Aid partners for Implementation
- Agree on principles and design elements
- Develop implementation plan and evaluate potential technology solutions and implementation partners