

# Summary and Outcome of OAP-IATI Geocoding Standard Discussion

## Participating Organizations: CIDA, Development Gateway, Development Initiatives/IATI, DfID, USAID, and World Bank Institute

August 15, 2012

### Introduction

CIDA invited partners to a meeting with the goal to align the CIDA and World Bank/AidData geo-coding methodologies. This document outlines a proposed common methodology that takes into account the geocoding experience CIDA, World Bank, AidSData, and Development Gateway..

As next steps, it is proposed to invite other development organizations in particular partners of the Open Aid Partnership to test this geocoding methodology. After data fields and definitions outlined through this exercise will be introduced through the IATI TAG for comment then presented to the IATI Steering Committee for formal approval.

This document outlines *all* of the fields in the proposed methodology, as well as the proposed categories and explanations for those fields. Where categories/definitions have been added, they will be **bolded**; where fields are required, they are *italicized*; and where categories/fields are removed, they will be ~~struck through~~.

### General Principles and Common Understandings:

1. A common data source for place names and coordinates (e.g. Geonames, Esri World Places Locator, USGS GNS, OpenStreetMap, etc.) is desirable. However, at present no resource of subnational geographic information is recognized as an international standard. Once a authoritative source is available it should be used to ensure better interoperability of data.
2. A common “authoritative” data source for administrative boundaries is desirable. In the interim, WBI and DG have reviewed the available boundary datasets for every IBRD/IDA country (143 in total) to determine which are the most up-to-date and accurate boundary datasets. WBI has offered to share these boundary files upon request (in addition to making them available through the Geocoding Toolkit) with interested partners and will attempt to maintain an updated collection as sub-national boundaries change in these 143 countries over time.
3. Data provider retain to withhold specific projects due to concerns over security, privacy, etc., as it is standard for all IATI reporting
4. The ~~Number~~ field will not be included in the proposed standard.
5. Presently, the World Bank and African Development bank represents ADM1/2 locations by the use of a centroid point while CIDA uses the coordinates of the ADM capital. World bank and

CIDA will seek to conceptualize a method for crosswalking these two representations to allow for data comparability without enforcing a standard visualization

6. Where a project operates at the sub-national level (this, for examples excludes budget support) at least the name (and coordinates) of ADM1 should be entered, and more granular data is encouraged where possible.

## **Proposed amended geocoding standard (Data Fields and Values):**

*Note: Required fields in italics*

***Location Name (String) – Required for all locations:*** This is a text field that can be populated through free text or directly from a place names gazetteer.

***Location ID (Float):*** This is a unique identifier for the place name.

***ADM1 Name (String) – Required for all locations ≤ADM1:*** This is a text field with the name of the ADM1 (e.g. State/Province) that can be populated through free text or from a boundary shapefile database. While this field is required for all projects with defined locations at or below the ADM1 level, more specific data are also encouraged, where possible.

***ADM1 ID (Float):*** This is a unique identifier for the ADM1 (recommended to be gathered from a boundary shapefile database).

***ADM2 Name (String):*** This is a text field with the name of the ADM2 (e.g. District) that can be populated through free text or from a boundary shapefile database. This field is required for all projects with defined locations at or below the ADM1 level (though more specific data are also encouraged, where possible).

***ADM2 ID (Float):*** This is a unique identifier for the ADM1 (recommended to be gathered from a boundary shapefile database).

***Latitude (Float) – Required for all sub-national locations:*** Latitude in decimal degrees, to at least 6 decimal places (where relevant). The source of this field can be any place names gazetteer, satellite imagery, handheld GPS device, etc.

***Longitude (Float) – Required for all sub-national locations:*** Longitude in decimal degrees, to at least 6 decimal places (where relevant). The source of this field can be any place names gazetteer, satellite imagery, handheld GPS device, etc.

***Precision Code of Location (Float) – Required for all locations:*** These precision codes are applied at the location level, meaning that different locations within a project can have different precision codes assigned. The proposed precision categories are:

**1.1 The coordinates correspond to an exact location such as a university or a hospital, or the street address is known.**

**1.2 The coordinates corresponds to an exact populated place, where the exact street address is unavailable. (Note: This category is identical to how the World Bank methodology previously identified precision 1).**

2 The location is mentioned in the source as being “near”, in the “area” of, or up to 25km away from an exact location. The coordinates refer to that adjacent, exact, location.

3 The location is, or lies in, a second order administrative division (ADM2), such as a district, municipality, or commune.

4.1 The location is an entire first order administrative division (ADM1), such as a province, state or governorate.

4.2 The location is within a first order administrative division (ADM1), such as a province, state or governorate, but the location within the ADM1 is unknown.

5 The location can only be related to estimated coordinates, such as when a location lies between populated places; along rivers, roads, and borders; more than 25 km away from a specific location; or when sources refer to parts of a country greater than ADM1 (e.g. “northern Uganda”)

6 The location can only be specified to the national level (or dependent political entity that is geographically analogous to a country).

7 The country coordinates are entered to reflect that sub-country information is unavailable (may be national or sub-national).

8.1 The location represents funding to a government agency

8.2 The location represents funding to a government agency, but this is not the only location for the project.

**8.3 The location represents funding to an NGO or CSO or private sector entity headquarters.**

**9 The location is representative of funding to a regional (supra-national) program.**

**Type of Location (String – Categorical) – Required for all locations:** This marker is applied at the location level (meaning that different locations within the same project can have different markers), to classify what a location is representing. Categories are:

- 1) Activity: Refers to a location/area where the project is implemented, a workshop is held, etc.
- 2) Intended Beneficiaries: Refers to a location/area that benefits from the project.

Note: Headquarters was removed and is now instead reflected in precision code 8.1/8.2/8.3

**Scope of Project (String – Categorical) – Required for all projects:** This field applies to the overall scope of project (as opposed to the precision field which relates to each individual project location). The categories for this field are:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Single location                                     | Only in one village, town or city  |
| <b>District/Municipality (DG Proposed Addition)</b> | <b>Only in one ADM2</b>  |
| Province/state                                      | Only in one <del>sub-national area</del> <b>ADM1 (DG proposed amendment)</b>   |
| Multiple province/state                             | Spread over multiple sub-national areas, but not national in scope   |
| National  | Scaled to the national level (includes most budget support)  |
| Multiple countries                                  | Taking place in more than one country, but does not involve capacity-building at the regional level  |
| Regional  | Aimed at supporting regional capacity, regional institutions, regardless of where the activities are taking place  |
| Global/continental                                  | (coded using the multi-country/x-codes, or aimed at supporting the Commonwealth or La Francophonie) – only for Multilateral projects.<br><i>If this is the scope of your project, you will not be required to fill out any further geomapping information.</i> |