

Overview

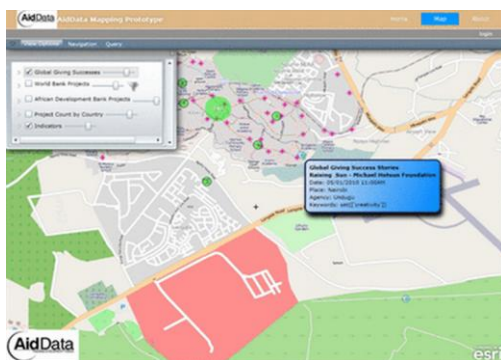
Global development assistance from official bilateral and multilateral donors exceeds \$150 billion per year, but how much of this money actually reaches the intended beneficiaries and what is its impact? Increasing access to detailed information on development activities has the potential to improve development outcomes in many ways.



AidData is a collaborative initiative that works to make information on international development assistance more comprehensive, transparent and accessible to a wide range of stakeholders. AidData's team is engaged in a variety of innovative projects to geo-enable and crowdsource aid information, improve the quality of research on aid distribution and results, and develop web and mobile tools and custom data solutions for development organizations that will help make aid more effective. In addition, the AidData.org portal provides access to a searchable database of development finance activities and other related datasets.

Innovation, Research, and Tools

One major ongoing initiative is geocoding, or recording the location of aid projects at the sub-national level. Mapping aid information enables a better understanding of the allocation of aid within a country, highlighting any potential financing gaps, and displaying inequities of aid distribution. Once mapped, geocoded aid information presents development stakeholders with a simple platform for analysis and planning.



To demonstrate the power of geocoding, and with support from Esri, AidData created Development Loop (*left*). This prototype web application incorporates data on donor projects, overlaid with development statistics such as poverty rates and local project success stories reported by GlobalGiving.

AidData uses a geocoding methodology that it developed jointly with Uppsala University's Conflict Data Program. This methodology has been used to geocode roughly 2,500 World Bank projects through the Mapping for Results initiative, as well as a subset of African Development Bank projects. In a country-level pilot, the Ministry of Finance of Malawi partnered with AidData, Development Gateway, and the Climate Change and African Political Stability program

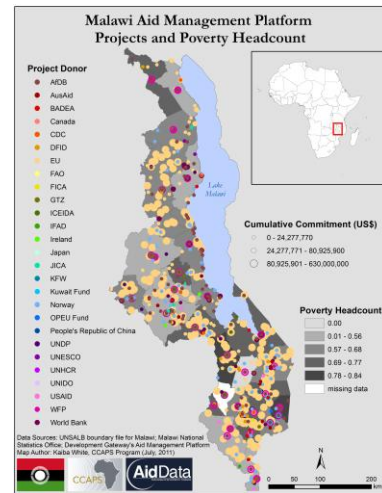
AidData is a joint initiative of Development Gateway, the College of William and Mary, and Brigham Young University



AidData increases aid transparency by providing tools, visualizations, services, and data related to development finance.

at the University of Texas, in collaboration with the World Bank Institute, to geocode the activities of more than 30 donors within Malawi's Aid Management Platform (*right*).

On the research side, AidData-affiliated scholars are exploring the idea of crowdsourcing feedback on aid-funded activities through randomized control trials (RCTs) and other methods. A pilot project in Uganda, conducted in partnership with UNICEF, Ushahidi, and the World Bank Institute, generated new evidence of what crowdsourcing methodologies may be most effective. Tools such as an online platform to facilitate geocoding, as well as interactive dashboards that display different views of aid information, are also being developed.

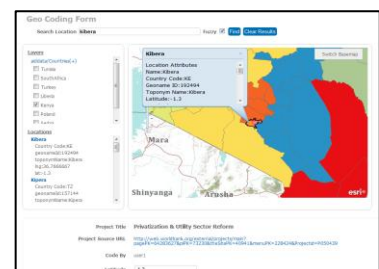


Accessing Data through AidData.org

The main database at AidData.org contains more than one million development finance activities financed by more than 85 development agencies, and has been used as a source in dozens of scholarly publications. To build and maintain this database, AidData staff collaborate with partners at the OECD who manage the Creditor Reporting System—the official source of aid statistics for its 24 member countries—and with individual donor agencies to gather, standardize, and republish project and activity-level aid information. Outreach to emerging donors and private foundations, which account for a growing share of global aid flows, is an important part of this work. Additional descriptive information is also culled from related documents, making it easier for users to understand how aid funds are being spent. The website also includes AidData Raw, a repository for different kinds of aid activity datasets, and an extensive listing of other related research datasets.

Working with AidData

The AidData team works with partners and clients at government agencies, international and non-profit organizations, and research institutions to support their efforts to gather, interpret, and utilize aid information. Services include geocoding aid activities; creating data visualizations; building custom websites, dashboards, and software solutions; and translating aid information into internationally-comparable formats (such as that of the International Aid Transparency Initiative, or IATI). Contact us at info@aiddata.org for more information on working with our team.



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