

# South-South Cooperation

A core component of the Aid Management Program

## Overview

South-South Cooperation is the collaborative exchange of knowledge, resources, and technology amongst developing countries. This collaboration is increasingly recognized by development practitioners as a key component of any successful development strategy. Through long-term partnerships, governments can share experiences, knowledge, and best practices, and thereby build capacity for development planning and management.

Development Gateway (DG) supports South-South Cooperation through its Aid Management Program. This program builds capacity for aid information management through a combination of online software tools and technical support. The cornerstone of the program, the Aid Management Platform (AMP), is an online application used by recipient governments and their donors to gather, report, and monitor information on development assistance. While increasing efficiency and reducing workloads, AMP strengthens government ownership of the aid management process. To date, there have been Aid Management Program implementations in 20 countries, and surveys suggest that the platform generates significant improvement in the host government's ability to locate accurate aid information.

The Aid Management Program comprises more than just software – Development Gateway carries out institutional strengthening activities to ensure that AMP countries develop the skills and know-how to sustainably manage the program. South-South cooperation is a core component of DG's institutional strengthening program. DG facilitates knowledge-sharing and collaboration amongst AMP countries by convening **Best Practices Workshops**, organizing **Study Tours**, and facilitating **Technology Transfer**.

## Best Practices Workshop

To help address challenges related to the implementation of the Aid Management Platform, Development Gateway conducts yearly Best Practices Workshops. To date, three workshops have been held: in Nairobi, Kenya (2008 and 2010) and Dakar, Senegal (2009). During the workshops, countries deliver presentations on their experiences, best practices, and innovations; Development Gateway staff discuss new AMP features; and visiting organizations present their work and how



*Delegates to the 2009 AMP Best Practices Workshop in Dakar engaged in open dialogue on experiences implementing the Aid Management Program.*

it pertains to aid management. At the 2010 Best Practices Workshop in Nairobi, AMP host countries discussed practices ranging from centralized donor data entry in Burkina Faso to Burundi's use of AMP data to monitor the indicators of the Paris Declaration.

Delegates are also encouraged to engage in informal discourse throughout the workshop to develop partnerships and communicate honestly about issues related to usage of AMP. The workshop, for example, includes a "marketplace" session, during which countries set up individual workstations to display annual aid reports and other outputs (including videos, research papers, donor questionnaires or scorecards, etc.). These sessions have proven to be an excellent and fast-paced opportunity for participants to share good practices on aid information management and learn about practical, hands-on approaches to aid information issues. For all three past workshops, over 90% of participants indicated in surveys that they were "very likely" or "likely" to apply the lessons learned from other countries to their own usage of AMP.



*"... the exchange of information between those who already use [AMP] and those who want to use it always helps us grow."*

Pamphile Muderega, Permanent Secretary of the National Committee for Aid Coordination of Burundi



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## Study Tours

Before investing in the Aid Management Program, many governments find it beneficial to observe live AMP systems. Accordingly, Development Gateway helps organize Study Tours, through which countries interested in adopting AMP can learn from an actual implementer and see first-hand how AMP can improve aid coordination and effectiveness.

The first AMP Study Tour was held in Ethiopia in November 2007 in response to a request by the Tanzanian government for a first-hand look at a live AMP system. Ethiopia hosted a multi-day workshop for delegations from Tanzania, Burkina Faso, and Malawi. The workshop facilitated discussions on AMP and broader aid management issues. Delegates left the workshop with a better understanding of how AMP could make their day-to-day operations more efficient, and all expressed confidence in their decision to move ahead with an AMP implementation. Tanzania, Burkina Faso, and Malawi are now all entering their third year of AMP usage. Burkina Faso has also hosted two Study Tours – first for Togo, Madagascar, and Niger, and then for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, and Benin – and Malawi hosted a Study Tour for Uganda and South Sudan.

## Technology Transfer

The Aid Management Platform is used by governments with different institutional processes and technical capabilities. Development Gateway works with government staff to develop new features that conform to country-specific needs and priorities. Moreover, since AMP countries have access to the source code for future software updates and releases, they can take advantage of new features that have been developed for other countries. The Government of Madagascar, for example, sought a way to regulate the capabilities of individual donors to edit information in AMP. DG developed a field-level permissions module, through which a central government administrator can determine which fields of information donors can and cannot edit. The module has proven to be an effective tool for ensuring accurate data entry, and both Burkina Faso and Ethiopia have indicated interest in implementing their own versions of the module.

## About Development Gateway

Development Gateway increases the impact of international development activities through innovative, sustainable information management solutions and services. An international non-profit with projects and programs on five continents, Development Gateway works to empower people to accelerate change and transform their societies.

*Our work is made possible through the continued support of these and other partners*



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