

**2006 Development Partners Retreat
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**Session 3 – Working Group 2
Standardization of donor reporting requirements and reporting format**

ISSUES PAPER

Co-Facilitator: CNLS
Co-Facilitator: Belgian Cooperation

Brief Background:

The Development Assistance Database (DAD) is an aid management and coordination system for use in national development environments that strengthens the effectiveness and transparency of international assistance. DAD is a powerful, Web-based information collection, tracking, analysis and planning tool for use by national governments and the broader assistance community, including bilateral donors, international organizations, NGOs, and private sector.

Rationale behind the DAD? Why do we need it?

Rwanda is still heavily dependent on aid and it is in this regard that the Government seeks to utilise all resources available to optimise the multitude of aid it receives. This entails putting in place appropriate policies, procedures, and also the use of ICT to achieve this goal. There is an ICT application currently being managed at MINECOFIN, called SmartGov. It is a suite of software applications locally developed to facilitate the various public financial management tasks that the Ministry is responsible for. It certainly is a useful tool for the Government of Rwanda, however it does not cater for the management, monitoring and tracking of external aid flows into the country. The EFU/MINECOFIN, in conjunction with the Aid Coordination Unit (UNRCO), is in the process of complementing the SmartGov system with a database to facilitate the management of external aid flows – the DAD. This is a tool that has now been deployed in about 20 countries, and proven to be a very valuable tool strengthening governments' capacities.

What do we hope to achieve with it?

With this tool, the Government of Rwanda (GoR) hopes to achieve a more effective, efficient use of Official Development Assistance (ODA) that it receives. Namely, maximize effective management of ODA; identify gaps in the financing of different activities to ensure equity; institutionalize transparency and mutual accountability; improve analytic reporting; strengthen government budgeting systems and donor databases; lower burden on government structures and improve service delivery; build government capacity to manage its public financial responsibilities.

Discussion Points:

- How frequently should the Development Partners enter their ODA data, once the DAD becomes operational? Whenever they receive new information? Monthly? Quarterly?
- Who should provide updates to the DAD? Are the Website Focal Points already identified within each agency sufficient to perform this task? Will they have access to the data that they need to provide to the DAD?
- Who can use the DAD and how is it accessible? Can the Cluster Working Groups use the system (e.g. for Joint Reviews)?
- How is the issue of double-counting avoided when you have more than one institution possibly participating in one project/program?
- How is the security and integrity of the data provided ensured? What mechanisms exist to address this issue?

Anticipated Output(s):

Final DAD Data Entry Form – This output has to be agreed upon by all stakeholders so as to facilitate the data entry process that will begin immediately after the launch.

Agreed frequency of data entry – All stakeholders should be bound to the data entry frequency that will be agreed upon during these discussions.