# ADVANCING DEMOCRATIC OWNERSHIP:
## *Training Modules for CSO Aid Observatories*

The Reality of Aid
An Independent Review of Poverty Reduction and Development Assistance

diakonia

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Asia Pacific

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PEOPLE CHANGING THE WORLD

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# Introduction

The Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (BPd) recognizes civil society organizations (CSOs) as independent development actors in their own right, engaging governments, donors and other aid actors in multi-stakeholder processes. But despite the BPd's commitment to create an enabling environment for CSOs, it does not ensure accountability for all commitments made by all countries/stakeholders involved in development cooperation. Without an accountability framework, transparency and accountability becomes an issue in monitoring aid and accessing aid information. For CSOs to substantially engage donors, governments and other stakeholders in the advancement of aid and development effectiveness reform, available and accessible quality aid data is needed. The availability and accessibility of information on aid to a broader range of stakeholders allows for a more efficient and effective management of aid, thereby increasing its development impact.

There are existing successful CSO aid observatories established in Asia Pacific and also in Latin America, MENA and Africa, with distinct focus on monitoring of Official Development Assistance (ODA) as it impacts on human rights, the poor and the disadvantaged. In Asia, CSOs from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal and Vietnam have various experiences and different strategies in aid monitoring. However, they face common challenges and barriers to accessing aid information: (1) restrictive laws and policies on information dissemination; (2) lack of mechanisms for transparency and information dissemination; and (3) low capacity for CSOs to access, manage and use aid information.

This training course on CSO Aid Observatorio is part of the project of the Reality of Aid Network – Asia Pacific (RoA AP) to strengthen the capacities of CSOs to monitor aid and to promote CSO partnerships and cohesiveness of aid monitoring work towards evidence-based policy engagement on aid and development effectiveness in their countries. It is developed to equip various CSOs from different countries in the region with necessary skills in setting-up and sustaining CSO Aid Observatorio to ensure informed policy recommendation. The training course aims to impart basic knowledge on the purpose of a CSO Aid Observatorio, to establish the roles and functions of a CSO Aid Observatorio, and to equip the participants with necessary knowledge to manage and overcome challenges in operating a CSO Aid Observatorio. At the end of the whole training the trained participants are expected to take the lead in reaching out to other CSOs and communities to involve them in the aid monitoring and lobbying work.

This training course is informed by the results of the capacity needs analysis and mapping of experiences of existing CSO Aid Observatories conducted by RoA AP in November 2012 and subsequent consultations with CSOs participating in this pilot project on CSO Aid Observatorio.

The whole training course will aim to impart key concepts as well as corresponding skills needed by CSOs to perform the task of aid monitoring. It is comprised of four training modules:

**Module 1.** From Aid Effectiveness to Development Effectiveness: Concepts and Definitions
**Module 2.** People's Research in Development Cooperation
**Module 3.** Data Management
**Module 4.** Disseminating and Popularizing Information on Development Effectiveness

The modules are designed to provide CSOs an institutional framework in establishing CSO Aid Observatorios. They provide basic knowledge and information on different aspects and components of observatorio work. CSOs are expected to use the training modules as guide in setting up aid observatorios in their respective countries and communities.

# List of Acronyms

| | |
|---|---|
| **AAA** | Accra Agenda for Action |
| **AfT** | Aid for Trade |
| **BPd** | Busan Partnership document |
| **CSO** | civil society organizations |
| **DAC** | Development Assistance Committee |
| **GPEDC** | Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation |
| **HLF** | High Level Forum |
| **IATI** | International Aid Transparency Initiative |
| **ODA** | Official Development Assistance |
| **OECD** | Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development |
| **OECD-DAC** | Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development–Development Assistance Committee |
| **PSD** | Private Sector Development |
| **ROA** | Reality of Aid |
| **SSC** | South-South Cooperation |
| **UN** | United Nations |

*Module I*

# From Aid Effectiveness to Development Effectiveness: Concepts and Definitions

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Amid glaring failure of aid programs to help poor countries meet development targets, donors tried to introduce aid effectiveness reforms with the worthy intentions of increasing aid's impact on poverty reduction and accelerating efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However, aid effectiveness reforms centered on technical issues rather than on development policy-making.

In a series of high-level fora, concerns gradually shifted to overarching development issues. From mere fine-tuning of aid delivery procedures and systems, the agenda soon tackled development effectiveness, and recently, took on the commitment of establishing a new development architecture amid the multiple global crises.

The new development cooperation envisioned in the Busan Partnership document presents a new complex web of partnerships tackling different aspects of the development agenda.

Under this new development architecture, civil society organizations (CSOs) carry a much important role in ensuring that aid and development programs produce development results amid the complex interplay of interests.

Commitments to transparency and accountability become even more relevant. A more rigorous monitoring by CSOs is needed to ensure that development programs adhere to the principles of human rights, gender equality, transparency and accountability, and decent work.

**This module is divided into three (3) sessions:**

*Part 1* provides an overview of the high-level fora that shaped the discussion on aid and development effectiveness, as well as the principles and commitments agreed upon by development actors (2 hours and 40 minutes)

*Part 2* discusses the challenges to CSOs' access to aid information and CSOs' role in aid monitoring (1 hour and 50 minutes)

*Part 3* provides a background on the aid system and effective aid monitoring by CSOs (1 hour and 30 minutes)

## OBJECTIVES OF THE MODULE

After the module, participants are expected to:

1. Understand the framework in setting up the Aid Observatory
2. Understand the importance of accessing aid information to the development effectiveness agenda
3. Understand the technical and procedural aspects of the aid system
4. Develop a common knowledge on what a CSO observatory is

**Estimated time:** five (5) to six (6) hours

# *Part 1*
# Development Effectiveness: From Paris to Busan and Beyond

**OBJECTIVES**

1. Understand the high-level fora that shaped the aid and development effectiveness agenda
2. Identify challenges and points of action under the current aid and development effectiveness framework

**Part 1 is divided into four sessions**

*Session 1.* Overview of the High-Level Forums that shaped the discussion on aid and development effectiveness (40 mins)

*Session 2.* Reframing Aid Effectiveness into Development Effectiveness – the principles and commitments of the Busan Partnership (40 mins)

*Session 3.* Human rights framework, including gender framework, in the aid and development effectiveness agenda (40 mins)

*Session 4.* Importance of CSO work on development effectiveness in the context of Busan Partnership (40 mins)

## *Session 1*
## Overview of the High-Level Forums that Shaped the Discussion on Aid and Development Effectiveness: Rome Declaration on Harmonisation (2002), Paris Declaration (2005), Accra Agenda for Action (2008), Busan High Level Forum (2011)

**SESSION OBJECTIVES**
1. Create a timeline of high-level forums and the principles agreed upon per forum
2. Understand the principles agreed upon from Paris to Busan

**TIME**
40 mins

**MATERIALS**
powerpoint presentation, flipchart, markers, coloring pens, LCD projector

**PROCESS**
1. Explain the objectives of this session.
2. Ask participants if they have attended any of the high-level fora.
3. Discuss an overview of the high-level fora on aid and development effectiveness.
4. After the presentation, participants will be asked to group themselves into four. Each group will choose a high-level forum.
5. Ask the groups to write in the flipchart the summary of key principles agreed upon per forum.
6. Assemble the four summary tables into a timeline.
7. Participants will be encouraged to ask questions or raise comments regarding the topic.

**CONTENT**
A series of high-level fora, which began in 2003, sought to agree on a set of principles towards improving aid effectiveness.

**First High Level Forum on Harmonisation, Rome, Italy (2003)**
- Outcome document: Rome Declaration on Harmonisation, which constitutes the first generation of aid effectiveness reforms adopted by the donor community.

  Priority actions under the Rome declaration:
  - That development assistance be delivered based on the priorities and timing of the countries receiving it
  - That donor efforts concentrate on delegating co-operation and increasing the flexibility of staff on country programmes and projects
  - That good practice be encouraged and monitored, backed by analytic work to help strengthen the leadership that recipient countries can take in determining their development path

**Criticisms to Rome HLF**
a. Declaration is narrowly focused on the technical and procedural aspects of aid, rather than the more critical problems associated with ODA such as policy conditionality, tied aid and ownership
b. Forum failed to provide specific and time-bound targets for donor countries to fulfill their long-standing pledge to provide 0.7% of their gross national incomes (GNI) to ODA.
c. Improving donor harmonisation actually strengthens the collective influence of donors vis-a-vis aid recipients and therefore exacerbates the power asymmetry between the two sides which has been at the root of many of the problems associated with ODA

Source: IBON Primer on ODA and Development Effectiveness

**Second High Level Forum, Paris, France (2005)**

- Outcome document: Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, represents second generation of aid effectiveness reforms

  Key principles of the Paris Declaration:
  - Ownership: Partner countries should exercise effective leadership over their development policies, and strategies and co-ordinate development actions.
  - Alignment: Donors should base their overall support on partner countries' national development strategies, institutions and procedures.
  - THarmonisation: Donors' actions should be more harmonised, transparent and collectively effective
  - Managing for results: Decision-making and resource management should be improved towards a result-focused approach
  - Mutual accountability: Donors and partners should be mutually accountable for development results

**Criticisms to the Paris Declaration**

- Real ownership includes, but cannot be limited to government leadership over development policies. The people and communities must have ownership over them. This means not just 'ownership', but 'democratic and local ownership'.
- It is not enough that donors link aid to countries' national development strategies; it must also be clear that recipient countries in the context of democratic and local ownership have developed these strategies independently. The 'behind-the-scenes' impact of advisers, consultants and informal pressures from donors are key issues.
- A serious adverse effect of harmonisation is to reduce aid competition and limit the choices for recipient countries. It reinforces the position of the IFIs as the principal arbiters of aid policy.
- Managing for results can only be effective when the results being targeted are poverty reduction and the promotion of human rights and gender equality. This requires consultation of local actors in evaluating results and use of gender-disaggregated information.
- The principle of mutual accountability requires the development of specific mechanisms by which aid recipients can hold donors to account. Once again this must not be limited to recipient governments, but must also include the communities most affected by aid expenditure.

Source: IBON International, 2009. "IBON Primer on ODA and Development Effectiveness"

**Third High Level Forum, Accra, Ghana (2008)**

- Outcome document: Accra Agenda for Action (AAA)
  - commits donors to broad country-level policy dialogue on development, strengthen the capacity of developing country partners to manage development; and use country systems.
  - also commits donors to work more closely with parliaments and local authorities, civil society organisations, research institutes, media, and the private sector.
  - referred to CSOs as "development actors in their own right"
  - reaffirms donors' pledge to increase aid while reducing aid fragmentation.
  - promises to improve accountability and transparency through better information management and alignment with country information systems.

**Criticisms to Accra HLF**

- While CSOs actively participated in the preparations, their proposals for time-bound commitments were ignored in the main document.
- Donors still refused to eliminate tied aid completely. They also dodged the issue of debt burden.

**Fourth High Level Forum, Busan, Korea (2011):**

- Outcome document: Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (Busan principles will be discussed in succeeding section)
  - Gave rise to a new development architecture, paving the way for the formation of Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC), which replaces OECD-DAC's Working Party on Aid Effectiveness. GPEDC has representatives from donors, governments, civil society groups and the private sector.

## *Session 2*
## Reframing Aid Effectiveness into Development Effectiveness: The Principles and Commitments of the Busan Partnership Document (BPd)

**SESSION OBJECTIVES**

1. Understand the principles and commitments contained in the Busan Partnership document (BPd)
2. Formulate an information dissemination plan to popularize the key principles and commitments in the BPd

**TIME**

40 mins

**MATERIALS**

powerpoint presentation, flipcharts, marker

**PROCESS**

1. Explain the objectives of the session.
2. Discuss the principles and commitments agreed upon in the Busan High-level forum through a brief powerpoint presentation.
3. Encourage questions and clarifications after the presentation.

**CONTENT**

**Significance of Busan High-level forum on Aid Effectiveness**

- For the first time, the aid effectiveness agenda was broadened to tackle development effectiveness
- "Development cooperation" and "partnerships for development" are used instead of "aid," parties refer to each other as "partners," and "aid effectiveness" gives way to "effective development cooperation" and "cooperation for effective development" to refer to the new reform agenda.
- The outcome document in particular calls on actors to "rethink what aid should be spent on and how, in ways that are consistent with agreed international rights, norms and standards, so that aid catalyses development"

The forum calls for a new development architecture that is inclusive of different actors – governments, donors, civil society organizations, private sector, etc.

**Aid effectiveness** - relates to measures that improve the quality of the aid relationship, primarily focusing on the terms and conditions of the resource transfer itself. The Paris Declaration defined five principles that should guide official donors and developing country governments to improve the effectiveness of this resource transfer.

**Development effectiveness** - promotes sustainable change, within a democratic framework, that addresses the causes as well as the symptoms of poverty, inequality and marginalization, through the diversity and complementarity of instruments, policies and actors. Development effectiveness in relation to aid is understood as policies and practices by development actors that deepen the impact of aid and development cooperation on the capacities of poor and marginalized people to realize their rights.

Source: "CSOs on the road to Busan: Key messages and proposals," April 2011

**Busan Main Principles**

- Ownership of development priorities by developing countries. Partnerships for development can only succeed if they are led by developing countries, implementing approaches that are tailored to country-specific situations and needs.
- Focus on results. Our investments and efforts must have a lasting impact on eradicating poverty and reducing inequality, on sustainable development, and on enhancing developing countries' capacities, aligned with the priorities and policies set out by developing countries themselves.
- Inclusive development partnerships. Openness, trust, and mutual respect and learning lie at the core of effective partnerships in support of development goals, recognising the different and complementary roles of all actors.
- Transparency and accountability to each other. Mutual accountability and accountability to the intended beneficiaries of our co-operation, as well as to our respective citizens, organisations, constituents and shareholders, is critical to delivering results. Transparent practices form the basis for enhanced accountability.

**Busan Main Actions**

- Deepen, extend and operationalise the democratic ownership of development policies and processes for the first time
- Strengthen efforts to achieve concrete and sustainable results, which involve better managing for results, monitoring, evaluating and communicating progress
- Broaden support for South-South and triangular co-operation
- Support developing countries in their efforts to facilitate, leverage and strengthen the impact of diverse forms of development finance and activities

**Democratic ownership** – means adhering to the principle of people's sovereignty in the determination of aid and development policies, the design and implementation of aid programmes, and the delivery and evaluation of plans and programmes.

**South-South cooperation** – is a broad framework for collaboration among countries of the South in the political, economic, social, cultural, environmental and technical domains. Involving two or more developing countries, it can take place on a bilateral, regional, subregional or interregional basis (UNDP definition)

**Busan Commitments**

Ownership, results and accountability

- Focus on development results
- Use and developing of country systems as the default approach
- Accelerating efforts to achieve gender equality
- Contribution of parliaments and LGU in facilitating broad-based ownership
- CSO: focus on enabling environment; implement CSO Development Effectiveness as framed by the Istanbul Principles for CSO Development Effectiveness

Transparent and responsible co-operation

- Publicly available data on development initiatives both by recipients and providers of aid
- Effort to make aid predictable (medium-term)
- Reduction of aid fragmentation
- Promoting sustainable development in situations of conflict and fragility
- Partnering to strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability in the face of adversity

On South-south cooperation (SSC)

- SSC is not limited to refer to forms of cooperation between and among developing countries, but includes other developing country actors such as civil society and the private sector
- In particular, the BPd commits to strengthen SSC through:
  - » Scaling up, where appropriate, the use of triangular approaches to development cooperation
  - » Encouraging the development of networks for knowledge exchange, peer learning and coordination among SSC actors
    - ○ Supporting efforts to strengthen local and national capacities to engage effectively in SSC and triangular cooperation

On Private Sector

- The BPd recognizes "the central role of the private sector in advancing innovation, creating wealth, income and jobs, mobilizing domestic resources and in turn contributing to poverty reduction"
- In supporting private sector development, Busan HLF4 commits to:
- Engage with representatives from business and trade unions to improve legal, regulatory and administrative environment

for the development of private investment, and to ensure sound policy and regulatory environment for private sector development
- Enable the participation of the private sector in the design and implementation of development policies
- Promote "aid for trade" as an engine of sustainable development

**Points to ponder on private sector development**

Private sector actors can have many legitimate economic motives and incentives to invest. But if they are to be true partners in development, they must be prepared to collaborate in ways that improve the social and economic rights of poor and marginalized populations.

Donor aid resources could be directed to those sections of the private sector and to other development actors

- to strengthen and develop smallholder agriculture,
- to support the development and improvement of conditions for those employed in the informal sector,
- to remove legal and institutional barriers for women in economic activity,
- to reform and monitor regulatory conditions for decent work,
- to direct investment to small and medium-scale enterprise, cooperatives and other forms of social enterprise.

On combating corruption and illicit flows:

- The BPd commits to strengthen joint efforts to combat corruption and illicit flows:
  - » Implement fully our respective commitments to eradicate corruption, enforcing our laws and promoting a culture of zero tolerance for all corrupt practices. This includes efforts to improve fiscal transparency, strengthen independent enforcement mechanisms, and extend protection for whistleblowers.
  - » Accelerate our individual efforts to combat illicit financial flows by strengthening anti-money laundering measures, addressing tax evasion, and strengthening national and international policies, legal frameworks and institutional arrangements for the tracing, freezing and recovery of illegal assets. This includes ensuring enactment and implementation of laws and practices that facilitate effective international cooperation.

On climate finance

- BPd recognizes that climate change finance is expected to increase substantially in the medium term and that it presents new opportunities and challenges:
  - » Continue to support national climate change policy and planning as an integral part of developing countries' overall national development plans, and ensure that – where appropriate – these measures are financed, delivered and monitored through developing countries' systems in a transparent manner
  - » Continue to share lessons learned in development effectiveness with those entities engaged in climate activities and ensure that broader development cooperation is also informed by innovations in climate finance

On establishing a "new, inclusive and representative" Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC)

- The GPEDC is envisioned to support and ensure accountability for the implementation of commitments at the political level
- The GPEDC replaces the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness
- During the Working Party meeting on June 28-29, 2012 the core functions of the GPEDC were defined:
  - » Maintain and strengthen political momentum for more effective development co-operation;
  - » Ensure accountability for implementing Busan commitments;
  - » Facilitate knowledge exchange and sharing of lessons learned; and
  - » Support implementation of Busan commitments at the country level.

On establishing indicators

- While the BPd did not define the set of indicators to be used in assessing the progress of meeting commitments, it set June 2012 as deadline for formulating such indicators
- HLF4 also commits to publish evaluation of results on a periodic basis

**Criticisms to BPd**

- Although BPd recognized the unfinished business of Paris and Accra it failed to address these (absence of concrete commitments and timelines)
- BPd is completely voluntary
- No concrete commitments on how to end policy conditionality, untying aid, and unpredictability of aid
- Promotes private sector-led growth, which fits into the neoliberal framework
- The global light-country heavy mantra of BPd puts the burden of work to countries

## USEFUL REFERENCES

You can access the minutes of the Busan HLF4 at: http://www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/Final%20file.pdf

To view the list of countries supporting GPEDC, you can visit: http://www.effectivecooperation.org/files/Busan_Partnership_endorsements.pdf

CSO Analysis of the Busan document: http://betteraid.org/en/resources/cat_view/253-post-busan.html?start=5

# *Session 3* Human rights framework, including gender framework, in the development effectiveness agenda

## SESSION OBJECTIVES

1. Familiarize with the CSO key asks related to human rights and gender
2. Understand the Busan high-level forum framework on human rights and gender
3. Identify priority areas for engagement in post-Busan context that are related to human rights and gender advocacy

## TIME

40 mins

## MATERIALS

laptop, projector, powerpoint presentation

## PROCESS

1. Explain the objectives of the session.
2. Discuss the CSO key asks, highlighting key messages on human rights and gender. Use a powerpoint presentation, based on the contents below, to aid the discussion.
3. Ask the participants to identify challenges and priority areas for engagement in pushing for human rights and gender advocacy in the post-Busan context.

## CONTENT

### CSO Key Asks on Human Rights and Gender

- Prior to Busan HLF4, various CSOs around the world have adopted the "CSO Key Messages and Proposals" in country-level and regional consultations. BetterAid drafted it in cooperation with the Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness.
- The CSO Key Asks was CSOs' main lobbying document during the Busan HLF4.
- The document emphasizes human rights and gender equality. In particular, it seeks progress in four interdependent areas:

a. Fully evaluate and deepen the Paris and Accra commitments
   - » Redress the failure to make progress on Paris and Accra commitments
   - » Carry forward and strengthen the Paris and Accra commitments through realizing democratic ownership in development cooperation
   - » Implement full transparency as the basis for strengthened accountability and good governance

b. Strengthen development effectiveness through practices based on human rights standards
   - » Commit to and implement rights-based approaches to development
   - » Promote and implement gender equality and women's rights
   - » Implement the Decent Work Agenda as the cornerstone for socially inclusive and sustainable development strategies

c. Support CSOs as independent development actors in their own right, and commit to an enabling environment for their work in all countries; and
   - » Endorse the *Istanbul Principles* and acknowledge the Open Forum's *International Framework on CSO Development Effectiveness* to put these *Principles* into practice
   - » Agree on minimum standards for government and donor policies, laws,

regulations and practices that create an enabling environment for CSOs

d. Promote equitable and just development cooperation architecture.
   - » Launch an inclusive Busan Compact at HLF4, which brings together specific time-bound commitments and initiates fundamental reforms in the global governance of development cooperation
   - » Create an equitable and inclusive multilateral forum for policy dialogue and standard setting

**Excerpt from the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation on human rights**

Paragraph 11. As we embrace the diversity that underpins our partnership and the catalytic role of development co-operation, we share common principles which – consistent with our agreed international commitments on human rights, decent work, gender equality, environmental sustainability and disability – form the foundation of our co-operation for effective development:
Paragraph 20. We must accelerate our efforts to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women through development programmes grounded in country priorities, recognising that gender equality and women's empowerment are critical to achieving development results. Reducing gender inequality is both an end in its own right and a prerequisite for sustainable and inclusive growth. As we redouble our efforts to implement existing commitments we will:

a. Accelerate and deepen efforts to collect, disseminate, harmonise and make full use of data disaggregated by sex to inform policy decisions and guide investments, ensuring in turn that public expenditures are targeted appropriately to benefit both women and men.
b. Integrate targets for gender equality and women's empowerment in accountability mechanisms, grounded in international and regional commitments.
c. Address gender equality and women's empowerment in all aspects of our development efforts, including peace-building and state-building.

**CSO Critique**

- There was a clear reference to rights-based approaches to development but the task is limited to CSOs only.
- The emphasis on inclusive growth framework fails to situate development outcomes within existing human rights commitments with regard to outcomes for poor and marginalized groups.
- Has no concrete time-bound commitments to advance gender equality; seeks to reduce gender inequality but not end it.

# *Session 4*
# Importance of CSO work on development effectiveness in the context of Busan Partnership document (BPd)

**SESSION OBJECTIVES**
1. Understand the importance of CSO engagement on development effectiveness in the post-Busan context
2. Identify key areas for CSO post-Busan engagement at the country-level
3. Draft action plan on identified areas for CSO engagement

**TIME**
40 mins

**MATERIALS**
laptop, LCD projector, powerpoint presentation

**PROCESS**
1. Explain the objectives of the session.
2. Discuss the importance of CSO work on development effectiveness in the context of BPd using a powerpoint presentation, as well as the principles on CSO development effectiveness
3. Encourage questions and sharing at the end of the presentation.

**CONTENT**
CSOs now have the mandate to participate in development cooperation programs from design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation. BPd provides space for CSOs to engage with donors and governments to push for pro-poor agenda in development cooperation via several platforms and partnerships.

Excerpt from BPd:

"Civil society organizations (CSOs) play a vital role in enabling people to claim their rights, in promoting rights-based approaches, in shaping development policies and partnerships, and in overseeing their implementation. They also provide services in areas that are complementary to those provided by states. Recognising this, we will:
a. Implement fully our respective commitments to enable CSOs to exercise their roles as independent development actors, with a particular focus on an enabling environment, consistent with agreed international rights, that maximizes the contributions of CSOs to development.
b. Encourage CSOs to implement practices that strengthen their accountability and their contribution to development effectiveness, guided by the Istanbul Principles and the International Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness"

CSOs are in turn called on to strengthen their accountability and effectiveness guided by the Istanbul Principles and the International Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness (Siem Reap Consensus)

**Istanbul Principles for CSO Development Effectiveness** – outcome of the Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness Assembly in Istanbul on 28-30 September 2010 which serve as guide to CSOs in their development work. The principles include:
- Respect and promote human rights and social justice
- Embody gender equality and equity while promoting women and girl's rights
- Focus on people's empowerment, democratic ownership and participation
- Promote Environmental Sustainability
- Practice transparency and accountability
- Pursue equitable partnerships and solidarity
- Create and share knowledge and commit to mutual learning
- Commit to realizing positive sustainable change

**Siem Reap Consensus**

- The outcome of the Open Forum consultation process with thousands of CSOs which was finalized and endorsed in June 2011 at the 2nd Global Assembly of the Open Forum in Siem Reap, Cambodia
- The first ever statement from global civil society on the effectiveness of CSO work in development
- Legitimate long-term reference for CSOs worldwide as the basis for improving the effectiveness and quality of CSO development work at national, regional and international levels
- Includes the 8 'Istanbul' Principles for CSO Development Effectiveness and the minimum criteria for enabling government and donor policies and practices

Source: http://www.cso-effectiveness.org/InternationalFramework

**Critical issues to monitor in Post-Busan development architecture**

- Allocation of public finance for private sector development. CSOs must block pro-business interpretation of BPd. Instead, BPd must promote development policies that are consistent with the human rights framework.
- As global ODA stagnates, policy reviews in several aid agencies, including the European Commission, suggest a dramatic scaling up of public finance devoted to supporting private sector investments.
- Climate finance needs to be adequate and predictable and scaled up yearly to compensate for the increased pressure of developing nations to adapt to the impacts of climate change. The volume of climate finance should be sufficient to meet the costs of adaptation to reduce the vulnerability of those who have contributed the least to climate change, but stand to suffer the most from its impacts.

# *Part 2*
# The Importance and Challenges of Accessing aid Information (from the CSO Perspective)

**OBJECTIVES**

1. Understand the importance and current challenges in accessing aid information at regional and country level
2. Identify CSO response/ strategies to challenges in accessing aid information

**Part 2 is divided into two sessions:**

- *Session 5.* Importance of accessing aid information – why CSOs need to monitor (30 mins)
- *Session 6.* Challenges CSOs face in accessing aid information (40 mins)

## *Session 5*
## Why CSOs need to monitor: Importance of accessing information on development effectiveness

### SESSION OBJECTIVES
1. Identify types and sources of aid information for CSO monitoring
2. Understand the significance of CSO aid monitoring under the post-Busan framework

### TIME
40 mins

### MATERIALS
LCD projector, powerpoint, flipchart, markers

### PROCESS
1. Explain the objectives of the session.
2. Discuss the importance of accessing development effectiveness information and the types of information that need to be monitored.
3. Divide the participants into two groups. Each group will be asked to identify aid information channels in the country. Responses will be written on the flipchart:
4. What are the government agencies that have information on development effectiveness?
5. What are the types of information that these government agencies provide?
6. Are there private institutions/groups in the country that monitor and archive aid data?
7. Each group representatives will then present their discussion output.

### CONTENT
Improved access to aid information will contribute to the realization of development goals by:
- More responsive services, more accountable government and country ownership
- Reduced scope for corruption
- Better linking of aid to results
- Improved quality of aid allocation
- More research and evaluation leading to improved lesson-learning

As part of the work of Aid Observatorio, CSOs need to:
- Monitor data on aid flows.
- Analyze aid data for patterns and trends relevant to development effectiveness.
- Provide public access to the data and analysis.
- Help CSOs critique or advocate policy proposals.
- Enable other actors to participate in or replicate the Aid Observatorio's work through networking, info-sharing, training, etc.

Traditionally, aid flows from donor countries to recipient countries through bilateral arrangements or through multilateral institutions. Some of the funds also go to NGOs and CSOs. In recent years, there has been a growing private sector involvement, which provides resources to both government and NGOs/CSOs.

Aid also flows into a wide range of thematic sectors:
- Social: education, health, population and RH, water and sanitation, government and civil society
- Economic: transport, communications, energy, banking, business services

- Production: agriculture/forestry/fishing, industry/mining/construction, trade and tourism
- Multisector
- General programme aid
- Debt
- Humanitarian
- Others: Women, youth, indigenous people, urban poor, etc.

CSOs need to be aware that there is a yawning gap in aid information:

a. Conditionality – there should be full disclosure of conditions attached to aid
- Conditionalities attached to loans or grants in the name of development often have negative impacts on the poor countries. Oftentimes, they have resulted to disastrous outcomes that run counter to development goals. For instance, typical loan-financed infrastructure projects pave the way to privatization and consequently, to higher service rates.
- Conditionalities also distort democratic processes by giving significant policy influence to donor agencies, which are outside the domestic political process and therefore not answerable to the people or elected parliaments.

b. Aid commitments and actual disbursements – information if aid committed has been disbursed on time or was actually released
- Monitoring actual disbursements down to the micro-level is important especially in tracking and combating corruption
- CSOs also need to monitor aid commitments in line with the principles of mutual accountability and transparency

c. Project impact – full disclosures on project impact, which will be measured based on key development indicators
- Impact assessment based on development indicators provides crucial information on whether or not the project has contributed in producing target development outcomes

d. Complete project documentation – international agreements, negotiations, policy and bidding process, site selection, project consultants, social acceptance process, among others
- Development projects must be transparent enough for CSOs to have easy access on the project documentation, including documentation of the bidding process and related negotiations/agreements

e. Sectoral distribution – mapping of aid's sectoral flows to check if it is supporting critical social services and redistributive reforms or aiding for-profit activities
- Information on aid's sectoral flows must be monitored by CSOs and the public to ensure that resources are really being spent on areas/sectors that are in dire need of assistance. This is also to ensure that public finance is not being "leveraged" to private investments based narrowly on the growth-for-development framework.

# *Session 6*
# Challenges CSOs face in accessing aid information

**SESSION OBJECTIVES**
1. Discuss the common challenges CSOs face in accessing information relevant to development effectiveness
2. Propose some ways on how to address challenges in accessing information

**TIME**
40 minutes

**MATERIALS**
LCD projector, laptop, powerpoint presentation

**PROCESS**
1. Facilitator will explain the objectives of the session
2. Facilitator will then discuss the challenges CSOs face in accessing aid information
3. To engage participants, facilitator will ask them to share experiences on difficulties in accessing aid information under the country context

**CONTENT**
CSOs, as independent development actors, are profoundly affected by the context in which they work. The policies and practices of developing country governments and official donors affect and shape the capacities of CSOs to engage in development. This complex set of conditions include the following:
a. mechanisms to ensure the promotion and protection of the rights to expression, peaceful assembly and association, and access to information;
b. (b) CSO-specific policies such as CSO protection and promotion through legislation and regulations including charitable status provisions;
c. (c) regulations and norms to promote CSO transparency and accountability to their constituencies;
d. (d) the general legal and judicial system and related mechanisms through which CSOs or their constituencies can seek legal recourse;
e. (e) the degree to which multi-stakeholder dialogue is encouraged and practiced; and
f. (f) measures to promote philanthropy and corporate social responsibility.

(based on the "Synthesis of Findings and Recommendations," Advisory Group on Civil Society and Aid Effectiveness, August 2008)

**What are the common challenges to CSOs involved in Aid Observatorio?**
The lack of space and opportunity for civil society to participate in development effectiveness-related processes. Adverse political contexts constrain CSO policy work. In some situations, CSOs are even targets of state-sponsored repression and are victims of grave human rights violations.

Limited capacity (e.g. understanding of specific policy processes, institutions and actors, weak strategies for policy engagement, inadequate use of evidence, weak communication approaches, etc.) to effectively participate in the country's aid system.

The lack of transparency (e.g. access to aid information) and accountability in the negotiation, design, implementation and monitoring of aid programs and projects.

**Components for an enabling environment for CSOs**

a. Voluntary registration for recognition

An essential element for an enabling environment for CSOs is social recognition in order for them to perform their functions as interlocutors of government in policy formulation, implementation, evaluation, and so on. Registration is one mechanism to establish formal recognition in order to assure requirements of CSO legitimacy – that a CSO is indeed an organization that exists and operates and is non-profit.

b. CSO legislation

An enabling legal and judicial system is one that can function with efficiency, is impartial, and to which all members of society have access. The legal and judicial system is often used by CSOs to pursue human rights contained in international law and further enshrined in domestic policy. Other enabling means for the promotion and protection of rights include bodies such as human rights commissions and ombudsman's offices.

c. Access and participation

An enabling environment for CSOs exists where structures and processes for multistakeholder dialogue between and among CSOs, government, and other sectors are assured as a structural feature of governance. Special attention is likely to be required for CSOs working in situations of conflict or in especially difficult circumstances where there may be particular need of protection and where CSOs may often be the only vehicles available for delivering certain types of services, or are engaged in peace building and reconstruction processes.

# *Part 3*
# Understanding the Aid System

**OBJECTIVES**

1. Understand the types of aid flows and the overall aid system
2. Identify the main and emerging channels by which aid flows

**Part 3 is divided into two sessions:**

- *Session 7*. Technical and procedural aspects of aid (50 mins)
- *Session 8*. Tracking aid flows (40 mins)

# *Session 7*
# Technical and Procedural Aspects of Aid

**SESSION OBJECTIVES**
1. Familiarize with the technical and procedural aspects of aid
2. Identify types of aid flows and the major development actors within the aid system

**TIME**
50 minutes

**MATERIALS**
LCD projector, laptop, powerpoint presentation, poster paper, pens

**PROCESS**
1. Facilitator will explain the objectives of the session
2. Facilitator will then discuss the aid system, including the various aid stakeholders
3. To engage participants, facilitator will lead a mapping exercise. He/ she will post a poster sheet bearing Diagram 1.1. Participants will be asked to fill up the diagram, citing knowledge on how the country fits into the aid system

**CONTENT**

**Defining aid system**
Aid system mainly refers to the organizations, governments and other stakeholders along with their political objectives and their sources and uses of official development assistance (ODA).

The aid system is also referred to as the "aid architecture," which includes multilateral institutions such as the World Bank, donor governments, recipient countries, private sector, civil society, and other development actors.

In the post-Busan context, the overarching aid architecture is represented by the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC). GPEDC was founded on the principles of: country ownership, focus on results, inclusive development partnerships, and transparency and mutual accountability.

**Major players in the aid system:**

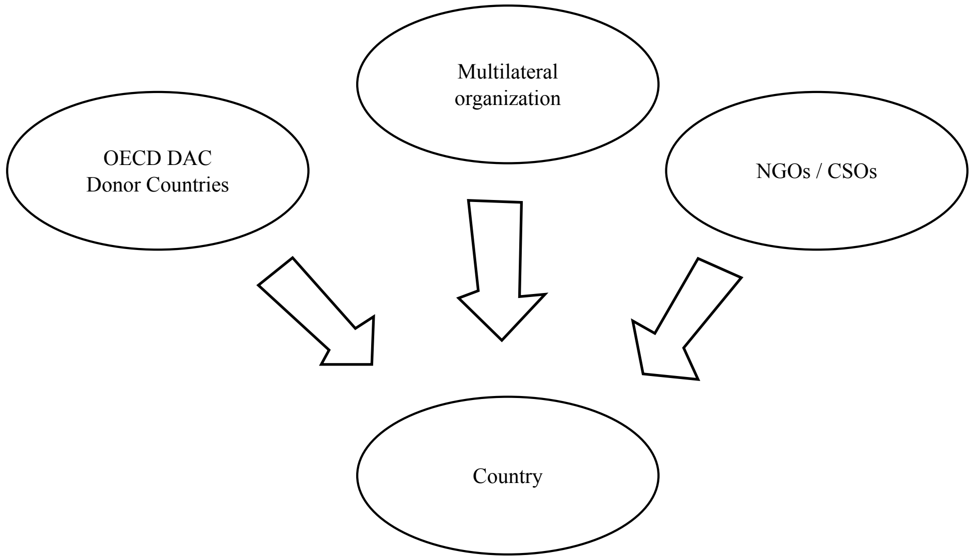
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) – Development Assistance Committee (DAC) is the forum of donor countries that discuss aid and development effectiveness issues. Currently, DAC is composed of 29 OECD member states.

Multilateral institutions like the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) also provide assistance to recipient countries. A significant portion of this multilateral assistance is sourced from contributions of DAC members and non-DAC members.

The role of private sector, particularly the business sector, in development work has been increasingly promoted. In the Busan Partnership document (BPd), the role of private sector is recognized "in advancing innovation, creating wealth, income and jobs, mobilizing domestic resources and in turn contributing to poverty reduction" under a growth-based model of development. The contributions of small businesses and cooperatives to development however have yet to be recognized.

Civil society organizations are a crucial element in the 1) area of aid management where CSOs act as important watchdogs and 2) in the area of aid delivery where CSOs ensure the

**Diagram 1.1** Technical and Procedural Aspects of Aid




empowerment and participation of the poor in development. Broadly defined to refer to all non-market and non-state organizations, CSOs also include farmers' associations, community-based organizations, independent research institutes and labour unions.

**Main modalities of donor's engagement with the private sector**

- Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) – blend together donor aid grants, loans and investment guarantees with private resources from the corporate and financial sector. Examples include World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC), and the Belgium Investment Company for Developing Countries (BIO).
- Partnering and supporting private sector development – this includes direct and indirect programs supporting private sector development (PSD) and public-private partnerships (PPPs). An example is USAID's Global Development Alliance, a market-based business model for US aid-supported programs such as those for smallholder farmers. There has yet to be a thorough inquiry though on how such business models for development actually help poor stakeholders.

Source: "Aid and the Private Sector: Catalysing Poverty Reduction and Development?", Reality of Aid (ROA) 2012 Report

# *Session 8* Tracking Aid Flows

**SESSION OBJECTIVES**

1. Understand trends in aid flows
2. Identify main aid channels and emerging priority sectors for ODA

**TIME**

40 minutes

**MATERIALS**

LCD projector, laptop, powerpoint presentation

**PROCESS**

1. Facilitator will explain the objectives of the session
2. Facilitator will then discuss the types of aid flows, as well as emerging thematic channels
3. Participants will be asked to cite examples of aid monitoring initiatives at various levels (national/ regional/ global)

**CONTENT**

**Types of ODA flows**

- Bilateral aid - assistance given by a donor government directly to the government of another country. This is usually the largest share of a country's aid. It is often directed by strategic political considerations.
- Multilateral aid – assistance provided by governments to international organisations like the World Bank, United Nations and International Monetary Fund, and regional development banks such as the ADB which in turn engage in development programs in target countries. Between 2000 and 2009, multilateral ODA increased from USD 26.6 billion to USD 36.2 billion. The rise represents an average annual growth rate of 3%, compared to total gross ODA's rate of 4% (2011 DAC Report on Multilateral Aid). The European Development Fund (EDF) and the UN receive the largest share of multilateral aid in recent years.

**How donors inflate their ODA**

- OECD reporting arrangements allow donors to report the entire stock of debt reduction as aid in the year it is written off, thus raising the real value of debt relief since the real financial savings to the recipient country come in the form of reduced debt servicing.
- Technical cooperation, meanwhile, primarily employs experts from donor countries, which may distort resource flows into priority areas for MDG financing. Emergency assistance is a response to financing requirements over and above those estimated for the MDGs.
- In addition, donors are also permitted to count as ODA support for refugees for their first year in a donor country and to impute a value on education provided to students from developing countries studying in donor countries.

Source: Primer on Development and Aid Effectiveness, IBON International (2007)

**Aid channels by thematic sectors**

- Gender equality and development
  - DAC members' aid flows in support of gender equality amounted to around USD 25.3 billion per year in 2009-10. This represents 31% of total bilateral aid allocated by sector. Gender equality-focused aid is concentrated in the social sectors of education, health and governance.
  - The focus on gender equality in aid programmes varies significantly between donors, ranging from below 10% (Korea and Portugal), to equal to or exceeding 50% (Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland and New-Zealand), to exceeding 80% (Sweden). Sweden's prioritisation of gender equality is a whole-of-government effort, signaled through a tenfold increase in spending on gender equality across government between 2007 and 2010.[1]

- Aid for trade
  - "Aid for Trade" (AfT) has become the catchphrase for aid that is used to foster and promote trade and liberalization. Forming a part of ODA (ODA), AfT commitments have risen considerably in recent years reaching roughly USD 40 billion in 2009 – a 60 percent surge from its 2002-2005 baseline.[2] While trade might be necessary to sustain industrial growth and can generate benefits for developing countries, liberalizing trade does not automatically result in development. In many cases, aid-funded programs on trade liberalization have even resulted to recipient countries being tied to new conditionalities under World Trade Organization (WTO)'s rules.

1 "Aid in support of gender equality and women's empowerment: Statistical overview", OECD-DAC (2011)

2 OECD/WTO (2011), 'Aid for Trade at a Glance 2011: Showing Results', http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264117471-en -

  - » AfT must be bound to respect democratic ownership, human rights, policy space, and freedom for developing countries to choose their own trade strategies in accordance with their local needs and priorities.

- Climate finance
  - » In 2011, OECD-DAC members' total bilateral climate change-related aid reached USD 17.1 billion, representing about 13 percent of total ODA during the year. Of this total, two-thirds was for mitigation, and one-third for adaptation.
  - » Finance for climate change mitigation and adaptation also flows through the multilateral system. The total of DAC members' contributions to specific climate funds (except Climate Investment Funds) plus the climate-related share of DAC members' core contributions to multilateral organisations was USD 894 million in 2011.

- Aid for private sector development (PSD)
  - » Donors and other aid providers relate to the private sector in many ways: 1) the private sector may be a direct recipient of aid for their investments and activities (subsidies and loans) 2) the private sector can be a contractor in implementing aid projects 3) the private sector can be partners in public-private partnerships or through blending commercial loans with aid grants; and 4) private sector-based organizations can be providers of aid-equivalent development resources (private philanthropic foundations and corporate donations (2012 Reality of Aid report)

**Principles for development effectiveness for the private sector engagement**

- The private sector should, as do other development actors, adhere to the development effectiveness principles and agenda, including the agreed commitments in Paris and Accra relevant to the sector and the internationally agreed standards and norms on human rights, gender equality, labour rights and decent work, disability and environmental sustainability.
- Policy coherence is essential for economic growth to be successful in contributing to development: social, employment, economic, trade, financial and environmental policies have to go together.
- Country ownership should be supported and promoted by respecting and using country systems by default (including local public procurement).
- Democratic and inclusive ownership of development should be supported and commitments made to promote social integration by fostering societies that are stable, safe and just and which are based on the promotion and protection of all human rights and on non-discrimination, tolerance, respect for diversity, equality of opportunity, security and participation of all people including the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons
- The private sector must promote and adhere to clean business practice, transparency and accountability in development co-operation.

Source: BetterAid position on Private sector and development, http://www.betteraid.org/en/betteraid-policy/betteraid-publications/statements/513-private-sector-and-development.html

# Summary and Evaluation

To the instructor/facilitator:

1. Recall the outline and summarize the main points in the module.
2. Ask the participants the following questions for evaluation:

- Were their expectations met?
- Did the course meet its objectives?
- What can they say about the following aspects of the course: a) content, b) time and method of instruction/facilitation, c) competence of the instructor/facilitator, and d) technical concerns
- Are there questions left unanswered?
- Are there suggestions for further improvement?

3. Summarize the key points of assessment and wrap up the course.

*Module II*

# People's Research in Development Cooperation

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Research on aid policies and their impact on recipient countries has been largely done in the past in donor countries or multilateral institutions that facilitate aid provision. This trend has resulted in uncritical analyses of existing aid policies that overlook development indicators such as human rights, gender equality, environmental sustainability, among others.

One of the significant achievements in Busan was the shift of discourse from mere aid effectiveness to development effectiveness. The latter entails that the principles of democratic ownership, human rights, women's rights and gender equality, environmental sustainability, and social equity must be upheld in any development cooperation agreements. More importantly, it recognizes civil society's role, as development actors in their own right, in defending the realization of these development effectiveness principles. To remain true to its commitment, CSOs will continue to advocate development effectiveness in development cooperation policy and practice, in particular as it relates to the accountability of governments and donor bodies to the broader development effectiveness agenda. In this regard, the importance of CSOs' work on monitoring and research on aid policies and their impacts cannot be overemphasized.

Research is always for someone and for some purpose. Development research has been traditionally perceived as a highly technical, complicated and scholarly undertaking, most often left to the hands of social science experts and the academe. Traditional development research carried out by elite groups are likely inclined to gloss over the everyday realities in communities and for people on the ground. This is why an alternative people's research defined and designed by the people themselves is important, if the research aims to contribute to genuinely improving development conditions for the poor majority. People's research in the context of aid and development effectiveness will underline how aid and development cooperation policies are understood by and affect local communities and grassroots. People's research is valuable in that it puts people's interest at its core. It is crucial in understanding the situation on the ground, the situation of the people themselves who ultimately should benefit from all development cooperation undertakings.

**This module is divided into two parts:**

*Part 1. People's Research and Its Application to Aid Research.* This part tackles the development of research throughout the history of the human mind. Discussion moves on to the traditional form of research as one dominated and used for the interest of the elite in a society. People's research will then be introduced and discussed as a new approach in studying social and development problems. This approach is best suited for development groups, including CSOs working in aid observatorios, as the ultimate goal of people's research is to forward the interest of marginalized groups and contribute in the achievement of human rights, equality, and social change.

*Part 2. Processes in People's Research in Development Cooperation.* The second part of this training course begins with the identification of various approaches and methods in policy research applicable in aid observatorio work. It then outlines the necessary steps in conducting research in development cooperation—from conceptualization to research design to data gathering techniques and analysis. This will be followed by a discussion on the fundamentals of writing a research report and then a session on the importance and ways of evaluating the research output and the research process undertaken by the CSO. Part 2 will end on the discussion of the application of people's research in aid observatorio work and how CSOs can contribute in the wealth of knowledge on development cooperation towards achieving significant and pro-people policy changes on development aid.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE MODULE

After finishing this module, participants are expected to:

1. Build and strengthen their capacity to conduct and facilitate people's research as part of CSO Aid Observatorio work;
2. Familiarize themselves with the basic concepts, objectives and methods of people's research; and
3. Acquire skills in conducting and facilitating people's research in CSO aid observatorio work.

**Estimated time:** Twelve (12) hours

# *Part 1*
# People's Research and Its Application to Aid Effectiveness

**OBJECTIVES**

1. Give participants a clear understanding of what research is and its historical development
2. Differentiate elitist/dominant forms of research against people's research
3. Be familiar with the concept and principles of people's research and the characteristics of a people's researcher
4. Understand the significance of using people's research in Aid Observatorio work

**Part 1 is divided into four sessions:**

*Session 1: Research and Its Development.* A discussion on what research is and how it has evolved throughout history.

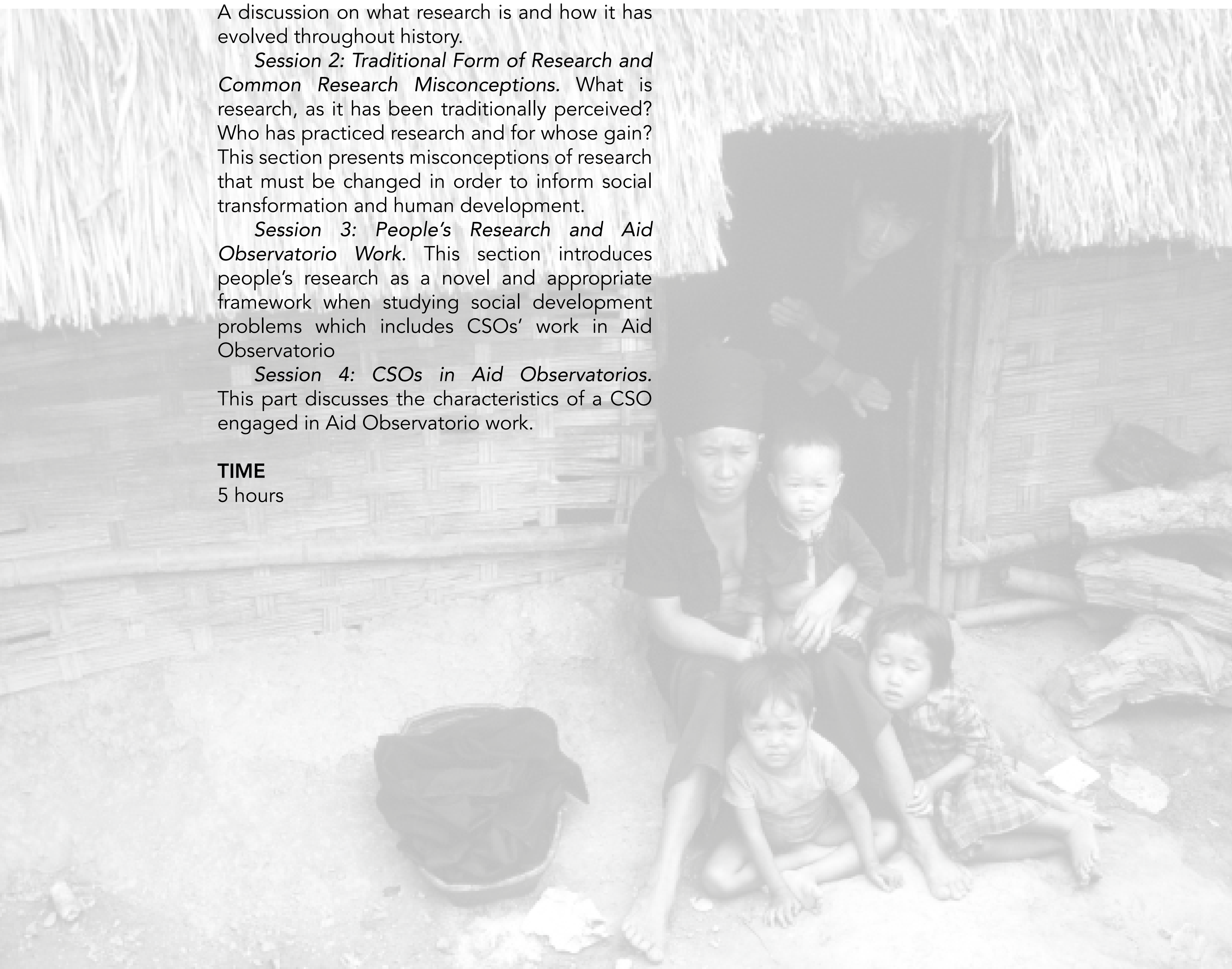
*Session 2: Traditional Form of Research and Common Research Misconceptions.* What is research, as it has been traditionally perceived? Who has practiced research and for whose gain? This section presents misconceptions of research that must be changed in order to inform social transformation and human development.

*Session 3: People's Research and Aid Observatorio Work.* This section introduces people's research as a novel and appropriate framework when studying social development problems which includes CSOs' work in Aid Observatorio

*Session 4: CSOs in Aid Observatorios.* This part discusses the characteristics of a CSO engaged in Aid Observatorio work.

**TIME**

5 hours



# *Session 1*
# Research and Its Development

**SESSION OBJECTIVES**
1. Review the definition of research as practiced in knowledge production
2. Give a brief history of the development of research throughout history and its role in the development of science and society

**TIME**
30 min

**MATERIALS**
whiteboard, whiteboard markers, flash/ metacards, permanent markers, laptop, projector, presentations

**PROCESS**
1. Allow the participants to introduce themselves. Facilitator to introduce him/ herself as well.
2. Share the course objectives and outline.
3. Let the participants share their expectations and/or preliminary questions about the course content, facilitator, and methodology. Facilitator to share his/her own expectations of the session.
4. Facilitator should explain the objectives of this session.
5. Ask the participants what comes to mind when they hear the word "research". The participants may be divided into groups with 3-5 members. Ask each group to discuss and list down what comes to mind when they hear the word research and then share with the rest of the participants their thoughts afterwards.
6. Present a PowerPoint to clarify and level-off understanding on key concepts.
7. Encourage questions, comments, and even constructive debate among participants during the discussion.

**CONTENT**

**What is Research?**
Research is defined as a scientific and systematic investigation and thorough study and analysis of phenomena (Simbulan 2008). Generally, it aims to broaden, strengthen, and reformulate past and present views, theories and beliefs. It is also used to clarify, explain, and analyze specific phenomena. While "research" is associated with science, expertise and strict discipline, its practice is never exclusive to experts and social scientists trained in the academe. Rather, it must be emphasized that everybody, through our constant search for answers to our daily inquiries, actually practice research. Thus, research may be loosely defined as a "simple process of looking for answers to the issues or problems we face."

**Who does Research?**
"Everybody" does research to find answers--from our most mundane activities "Where is the best place to dine?" to political questions "Who among the candidates are we going to vote for in the next election?" We do research specifically to make informed decisions.

**How did research develop?**
Research developed as the human mind developed throughout history. In pre-modern societies, people explained social and natural phenomenon through myths, religion and personal beliefs. As society progressed, people learned to use reason and methods in their search for truth. First by forming hypotheses and guesses, and then after testing them against what can be observed by the human senses, conclusions are made. Human's search for continuous growth and change led him/her to experiment, and became the foundation of scientific process (IBON Foundation, 2004).

Mythical beliefs insinuate that gods/ goddesses govern nature, for instance, calamities occur when people anger the gods. As science developed, people learned the science that explains storms, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. To some extent, people are able to predict typhoon patterns or the extent of the damage caused by an earthquake.

# *Session 2*
# Traditional Form of Research and Common Research Conceptions

**SESSION OBJECTIVES**
1. Understand the nature and characteristics of traditional form of research
2. Identify common research misconceptions and understand why it is best for development groups to break away from these misconceptions

**TIME**
1.5 hours

**MATERIALS**
laptop, projector, presentations, marking pens, flash cards

**PROCESS**
1. Facilitator should explain the objectives of this session.
2. Present a PowerPoint presentation. Use the contents below to guide your discussion.
3. After the presentation, mention the points below one by one and ask the participants whether each idea is true about research.
   - Since research entails a systematic and scientific process of knowledge oftentimes associated with theorists and philosophers, common people thus do not have the ability and intelligence to do research.
   - Because of the scientific process, only experts have the right to determine the purpose of research.
   - Research is neutral and it is not biased.
   - Research is a business and researchers can profit out of the output. Researchers may ask for a fee to conduct the research or may sell the research product.
4. After the activity, use the following guide questions to encourage more input from the participants before wrapping up the session.
   - Is knowledge production free for all?
   - How did the elite come to eventually dominate research and knowledge production?
   - How does this elite control of research benefit them? What are their stakes?
   - Is conducting research really value free?
   - Are there other misconceptions about research perpetuated by elite dominance?
   - Is the elite dominance in research reflected in research outputs concerning aid? How?

**CONTENT**
Research has invaluable contribution to society – from the understanding of human anatomy, to the cure of most communicable diseases, from Newton's law of motion to Einstein's theory of relativity. In the social realm, research is used widely by academics, policymakers and even marketers in order to interpret and even predict social behavior for various purposes.

**Elite dominance of research**

Research is equally essential in people's movements and advocacy work as the process of knowledge formation is a necessary endeavor for developmental groups and organizations to better understand the social condition, analyze social relationships and advocate or push for the policy changes and other courses of action that benefit the poor and marginalized. However, the traditional concept of research as a rigid and highly technical process continues to dominate society. This can be rooted to the unequal power in societies wherein the dominant groups and ruling classes are eventually able to monopolize and control research. Namely, they are the intellectuals from the ruling elite as well as corporations that ensure the benefits of research in increasing their profit. To a large extent, research, knowledge production, and dissemination are undertaken by, of and for the elites.

**Who do we consider the elite?**

Elite in this context consists of 1) individuals and groups who are technically and academically-trained in conducting research (think-tanks, theorists, social scientists); and 2) other organizations and classes whose interest in social research is to maintain their dominance in society (companies and state institutions). Corporations dominate research and development for industrial and commercial deployment. Research in engineering, agriculture, medicine, among other fields in the natural sciences, is done primarily to develop new technologies for more cost-effective production and innovations for consumption. Companies also exercise tremendous influence over social research through grants to academic and research institutions. Social science research for instance is used by companies to better understand consumer behavior. Moreover, the agenda of their donors can heavily influence even research by non-governmental organizations. Methods

**Chart 2.1** Elite Research vs. People's Research

| | ELITE RESEARCH | PEOPLE'S RESEARCH |
|---|---|---|
| Purpose (why is research undertaken?) | | |
| Who conducts the research? | | |
| Who benefits the research? | | |

and approaches to research were also developed for the kinds of ends that the researchers want to achieve.

**Some examples:**

- Results of election surveys in some way condition the public of who would likely win the elections. Thus, political parties and supporters of candidates at times commission independent groups to conduct surveys.
- Research on population growth and poverty may be commissioned by State institutions in order to justify a policy or legislation on population control.
- Although more information has become readily available in the Internet and new media, recent studies show that there is still monopoly control over Internet technology as well as cyberspace. Corporations and the elite have the power and finance to buy large spaces and develop webpages for their use. They use the Internet to advertise their products and deliberately misinform the public about their investments. Moreover, corporations continue to control large media outfits that can frame the news to their advantage and influence public opinion.
- Elite control over knowledge formation, even well meaning intellectuals and researches, are often out of touch with social realities. Their discourse is oftentimes unresponsive if not antithetical to the interests of people.

**Is research needed for social movements, activists, and CSOs?**

Research is very important for social movements, activists and CSOs. Through research, development groups are able to analyze conditions that perpetuate poverty, inequality, and oppression, other social problems and their root causes. Through research, groups are able to understand, even measure, the impact of government policies, projects, and even campaigns launched by activists themselves. Research helps organizations identify and understand the problems within a community, sector or the people in general and effectively forward the interests of stakeholders. Research is also important in building networks and relationships.

# *Session 3*
# People's Research and Aid Observatorio Work

**SESSION OBJECTIVES**
1. Introduce and familiarize the participants with people's research, its objectives and principles
2. To understand the significance of people's research in Aid Observatorio Work and to appreciate it as an appropriate approach in studying development cooperation

**TIME**
2 hours

**MATERIALS**
laptop, projector, presentations, flash cards, marking pens

**PROCESS**
1. Ask the participants to write down on flash cards their answers to these two questions:
- What does people's research mean to you?
- How do you think people's research relate to our Aid Observatorio Work?
2. Let them paste their cards on the board once done and proceed with discussion.
3. After discussing the principles and objectives of people's research, divide the whole group into two groups. Make them fill in Chart 2.1 to compare the characteristics and principles of dominant/elite research against people's research. Let each group present their answers to the rest of the participants. Sum up the table and main points before proceeding to the next subtopic.
4. Once done, ask the participants what other characteristics CSOs in aid observatorio work should possess and why.

**CONTENT**

**What is people's research?**
Broadly defined, people's research is one that serves the needs and interests of the people. "For whose interest do we do research?" is the fundamental question that must be answered. "Is it for the people or for the elite?" Various methods and approaches can be used in conducting people's research, but what is important is such research is of, by, and for the people.

**Who are the people?**
The people comprise a large chunk of society. They are poor, marginalized, deprived of their rights and suffer many forms of oppression. The marginalization of the majority is a result of inequality, the development model, lack of democracy, and elite dominance. The people in our current conditions are exploited and oppressed. They are hardly able to participate

in decision-making and the same is true in knowledge production.

**What are the principles of people's research?**

People's research is not a dead academic exercise that only aims to enrich the intellect of so-called scholars. While economists can debate on what economic models/theories will best work to increase growth *ceteris paribus* (all things being equal), people's research look into the impact of economic policies on the lives of the marginalized and look for possible alternatives.

People's research inquires on the "real" condition of the people and the nature of the condition of the people. Aside from laying down for instance the statistics on unemployment or poverty, people's research look deeper into why these two conditions pervade society and how do these manifest on the ground.

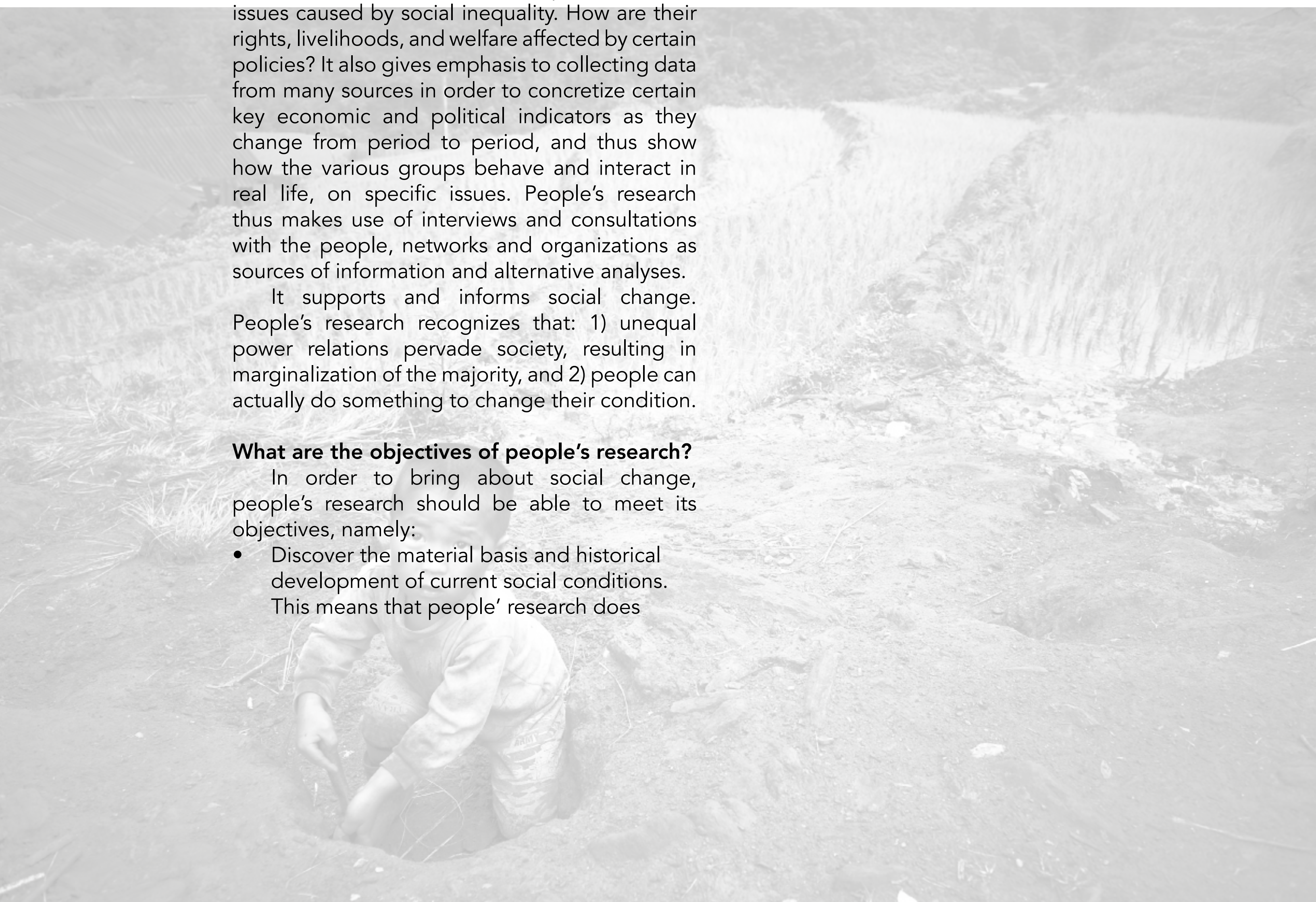
In people's research, the main source of information is the social practice of the people. This means that while we can read other previously published studies for references, people's research heavily relies on data coming from the people under study themselves. It looks into the "social practice" or the people's past and present experiences in production, and struggles when confronted by problems, and issues caused by social inequality. How are their rights, livelihoods, and welfare affected by certain policies? It also gives emphasis to collecting data from many sources in order to concretize certain key economic and political indicators as they change from period to period, and thus show how the various groups behave and interact in real life, on specific issues. People's research thus makes use of interviews and consultations with the people, networks and organizations as sources of information and alternative analyses.

It supports and informs social change. People's research recognizes that: 1) unequal power relations pervade society, resulting in marginalization of the majority, and 2) people can actually do something to change their condition.

**What are the objectives of people's research?**

In order to bring about social change, people's research should be able to meet its objectives, namely:

- Discover the material basis and historical development of current social conditions. This means that people' research does



not look merely into what is apparent but also looks into the actors at play in a given society/system and their relationships. It inquires into the current system as a whole (economic, social and political aspects), and how it relates to specific conditions of an exploited/oppressed people. Moreover, people's research historicizes present conditions: What gave birth to the current social conditions/social problems? How did such problems develop in history?

In people's research on official development assistance (ODA), it is necessary to look into its history vis-à-vis the history of colonialism of donor and recipient countries and how this relationship affects aid relations and conditionalities.

**Example:** "Bangladesh: Challenges for Democratic Ownership and Development Effectiveness" by Ahmed Swapan Mahmud and Farjana Akter in *Democratic Ownership and Development Effectiveness: Civil Society Perspectives on Progress since Paris, Reality of Aid 2011 Special Report. 2011.* Quezon City: Ibon Books. pp. 119-133.

- People's research seeks to uncover and understand the unequal power relations between various groups and social forces/ groups. As people's research recognizes that there are unequal groups in society, it also presumes that social groups have different if not divergent interests and stakes on certain issues and that some groups benefit more from the current system. People's research thus aims to expose how the interests, rights and freedoms of marginalized groups are sidelined and compromised.

  In research on development cooperation, it is particularly important to look into the relationship between donor and recipient countries: Is country ownership and sovereignty, and country-led approaches promoted as opposed to conditionalities? Is the principle of equality upheld in the development partnership?
- It serves as a guide in setting the proper actions and means in dealing with the problems of the oppressed sectors of society. People's research looks for alternative ways of resolving the problems faced by the people. What are the interventions/policies needed that bring about social change?
- Ultimately, research in aid observatorio aims to bring about changes in development aid policies that will promote development goals, sovereignty and democratic ownership of these policies. Aside from developing new policies, new means of information and knowledge production can also be developed as in the form of consultations and constant dialogue with stakeholders.

**How can people's research in CSO aid observatory work contribute to social change and social transformation?**

The principles and objectives of people's research go well with CSO Aid Observatorio work as research on development cooperation *must* ultimately promote democratic ownership and development effectiveness of aid policies. Thus, people's research in CSO aid observatory work can be used as a tool to reform aid policies for the benefit of the poor and marginalized.

**Why should we use people's research in Aid Observatory work?**

People's research ensures that grassroots organizations' and CSO's goals, programs and activities are grounded in their actual, living social environment and thus will be less likely to be co-opted by elite, corporate or donor interests. It will also ensure that the research endeavor will contribute to the goal of improving the conditions of the people.

In researching on development cooperation, CSOs need to be always cognizant of how policies concerning aid affect the lives of the marginalized. People's research is valuable in understanding the situation on the ground, the situation of the people themselves who ultimately should benefit from development cooperation. Furthermore, it consolidates and deepens CSO groupings and networks thus allowing constant exchange of information and

**Chart 2.2** List of Sample People's Research for Activity

| TITLE OF SAMPLE RESEARCH[1] | STRATEGY USED[2] | PURPOSE[3] | SAMPLING[3] | INFORMATION GATHERING[3] | DATA ANALYSIS[3] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Civil Society, Aid Effectiveness and Enabling Environment: The Cases of Burkina Faso, Ghana and Zambia | | | | | |
| Tendencies in International Development Cooperation (Mexico) | | | | | |
| Resources Giant, Development Failures Improving Local Living Conditions by Implementing the Aid Effectiveness Principles | | | | | |
| What's in it for development? Assessing the Belgian Investment Company for developing countries' (BIO) development outcomes | | | | | |
| Aid trends in a middle-income country: The Philippines case | | | | | |

1 See Reference list for sources and complete bibliographic entry
2 Description, Quantitative Survey, Critical analysis, or Evaluation
3 See table on Strategies and Approaches in Policy Research

analyses on development cooperation among other policies.

## *Session 4*
## CSOs in Aid Observatorios

**SESSION OBJECTIVES:**
1. Identify who and what groups are capable of implementing people's research on development cooperation
2. To appreciate what characteristics should CSOs in Aid Observatorios have in order to be effective in pursuing development effectiveness

**TIME**
30 to 40 minutes

**MATERIALS**
laptop, projector, presentations

**PROCESS**
1. Make a short presentation on characteristics of CSOs involved in aid observatorio. Use the content below as guide for your discussion. Ask the participants if they can think of other characteristics that CSOs in aid observatorio should possess to become effective in promoting development effectiveness.
2. Ask the participants to reflect and share their thoughts on 3 things:
- How can we use people's research in understanding development aid?
- Do you think people's research will be useful and effective in our work towards achieving development effectiveness? How?
- How do we popularize people's research as a better way of conducting research for development and advocacy work?

**CONTENT**
People's research is undertaken mainly by groups or individuals who work for social change and to improve the lives of the people. These people/groups appreciate research as a fundamental component of social change. Academics and experts in social research can also undertake people's research in Aid Observatorios if the purpose of their research is guided by the central question whether aid and other forms

**Chart 2.3** Summary of Approaches and Strategies in Policy Research and Design Components*

| DESIGN COMPONENT | DESCRIPTION | QUANTITATIVE SURVEY | CRITICAL ANALYSIS | EVALUATION |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Purpose* | Describe what has been happening in relation to a specific policy (development aid policy) | Investigate opinions, satisfaction with aid policies or inquiry into development variables (poverty, employment) | Commentary on assumptions, implementation, and effectiveness of policies (aid policies); highlight inconsistencies | Description of a programme or service and assessment of effectiveness and impacts |
| *Sampling* | Multiple information sources selected from the most closely related to policy topic and which are accessible to the researcher | Random representative samples selected using specified sampling method | Cases studies to illustrate topic or focus | Information sought from multiple stakeholder groups to ensure range of views are representative |
| *Information gathering* | Documents, media reports, interviews, focus groups | Self-completion questionnaires or structured interviews; responses usually coded as numbers | Documents, media reports, key informant interviews, focus groups | Multiple methods including interviews |
| *Data analysis* | Qualitative analysis (e.g. narrative report integrating information) | Standard statistical analyses | Narrative report, Discourse or content analysis | Combination of methods depending on types of data gathered |

*ibid.

of development assistance have effectively contributed to uplifting the conditions of marginalized groups. Scholars are capable of implementing people's research because as mentioned in the previous section, what is important is that people's research must serve the interest and needs of the people and work towards social change and social transformation.

**What are the characteristics of a CSO involved in Aid Observatorio Work?**

A CSO involved in research in development cooperation should be:

- Committed to the interests and needs of the people;
- Respects the rights of the people;
- Someone who does research with honor, integrity, and quality;
- Someone who will not cause injury/harm to those involved in the research.

# *Part 2* Processes in People's Research in Development Cooperation

**OBJECTIVES**

1. To familiarize with the nature of policy research focused on development cooperation;
2. To familiarize with the types and approaches to policy research applicable in conducting people's research in development cooperation;
3. To familiarize with the steps in conducting research in development cooperation/ development aid;
4. To attain some skill in developing a research problem, objectives, and design; and
5. To be introduced to several methods used in gathering, processing and analyzing data for people's research in development cooperation.

**Part 2 is divided into five (5) sessions:**

*Session 5: Approaches and Strategies to Policy Research.* Outlines the various approaches and strategies used in policy research that may be applicable in Aid Observatorio work.

*Session 6: Steps in Conducting People's Research in the Context of CSO Aid Observatorios.* Enumerates and discusses necessary steps in conducting people's research on development cooperation—from conceptualization to data analysis.

*Session 7: Writing the Research Report.* Discusses the qualities of a good research report.

*Session 8: Evaluation of the Research and the Process.* Tackles the importance of and steps in evaluating the research study and the research process.

*Session 9: Application in the Context of Aid Observatorio.* Discusses how the output of people's research can be applied and used in Aid Observatorio work.

**TIME**
8 to 10 hours

# *Session 5*
# Approaches and Strategies to Policy Research

**SESSION OBJECTIVES**
1. Become familiar with the various approaches and strategies to policy research and its different design components
2. Identify how these approaches have been used in previous research on aid and development cooperation

**TIME**
2 hours

**MATERIALS**
laptop, projector, presentations, flipcharts, hand-outs out of 3 to 4 sample research articles/ reports on development aid, marking pens

**PROCESS**
1. Discuss strategies and approaches in research using the contents below as guide.
2. Divide the class into three to four groups.
3. Provide each group with one distinct research in development cooperation (choose from the list on Chart 2.2) and let them identify using the table below what strategy and approach was employed in doing the research. Let them fill in the design components used by the research paper assigned to them.
4. Allow them to present their answers to the rest of the group after 30 minutes and give time for open discussion.

**CONTENT**

**Nature of Research in Development Cooperation/Aid**

Doing research on development cooperation is essentially doing policy research that contributes to the development effectiveness of aid policies. As development actors, CSOs have both ethical and social obligations in engaging in research on development cooperation particularly those who are engaged in Aid Observatorio work.

*Strategies and Approaches in Policy Research Applicable to Research in Development Cooperation*

Existing literature on development aid research show that various strategies and approaches in policy research are also applicable when dealing with development cooperation problems. These strategies and approaches (see p. 35) (David, 2000) are as follows:

1. *Description of policies* – mainly to narrate and explain the contexts of creating specific policies or a group of policies that have been made and their purported objectives. Description of policies also at times demonstrates specific aspects and key components of policies and policy processes.

   In aid observatories, description of policies on development aid in general may be used in organizing data from monitoring of aid available and that flow into recipient countries.

2. *Critical analysis of policies* – detailed analyses of several aspects or components of policies that include description, analysis and assessment of the following:

- What problems does the policy intend to address?
- What are the goals and objectives of the policy?
- What are the assumptions and values underlying the procedures developed to address the problems?
- How were the policies actually implemented?
- Who benefits from the policy implementations?
- How effective has the implementation been in addressing the policy objectives?
- Are there any gaps between the policy goals and implementation?
- How realistic or effective has the overall policy been?

  (lifted from *ibid.*)

  Critical analysis of policy evaluates if a certain policy is plausible or not given a particular context. It may also lead to pointing out of alternative policies or implementation. Historical, social and political context within which a policy was developed and implemented is also taken into account when using this approach. This strategy and approach is most useful in development cooperation research as it entails a deeper understanding of the objectives, content, assumptions, impact and nuances in implementation of aid policies. This strategy is usually mixed with evaluation of policy implementation and impacts strategy and may use case studies to illustrate the impact of aid (see 4 below).

3. *Quantitative surveys* – These are structured questions in the form of questionnaires administered through an interview or answered by the respondent. Surveys use a random sample or representative samples of respondents that will "represent" a larger population. Although quantitative surveys are rarely, if ever, used in understanding public perception of broader policies (i.e. economy, employment, or foreign relations), the value of quantitative research in these areas is its use in developing indicators which can be used to measure short- and long-term trends in economic growth, human rights or poverty.

4. *Evaluation of policy implementation and impacts* – This refers to the description of how a policy was implemented, its effectiveness and the costs incurred in the policy implementation. This strategy may coincide with the critical analysis of policies and assessment of effectiveness and cost of implementation. This approach in aid observatory work can be used to assess the impact of particular development cooperation policies or programs implemented at different levels—community, sectoral, national or even at an international level. This approach can make use of various qualitative methods and even case studies to evaluate if aid contributes to the achievement of development goals.

# *Session 6*
# Steps in Conducting People's Research in the Context of CSO Aid Observatorios

**SESSION OBJECTIVES**

1. Familiarize the participants with the steps in conducting people's research in the context of CSO Aid Observatorio from conceptualization to data analysis
2. Familiarize the participants with commonly used methods in research and their respective strength and limitations in gathering information
3. Provide some guidelines on how to formulate research problems relevant to Aid Observatorio work, and how to organize and analyze data

**TIME**

2 hours

**MATERIALS**

laptops, projector, presentations, flipcharts, marking pens

**PROCESS**

1. Initiate a discussion on the steps in conducting people's research in aid observatorio. Use the content below as guide for your presentation.
2. Divide the participants into groups with 4 members.
3. After the discussion on conceptualization, ask each group to pick a research topic on development aid for people's research and formulate the research problem using the steps below. Let each group present their output to the rest of the participants for further discussion. Maintain the groupings for the next activity at the end of the session.
4. After the session, ask the groups to go back to the research problem they have formulated and develop a full research design which will indicate the following: objectives, relevance of the research, scope and limitations, data gathering methods and tools to be used for analyzing data.

**CONTENT**

Conducting people's research in development cooperation may use different strategies and approaches. What is important however is to ensure that the research output is meant to promote development effectiveness and democratic ownership of aid policies.

**Step 1. Formulate the Problem**

This is the single most important part of doing a research. In doing people's research for development cooperation, it is important that we are able to identify a research problem that concerns the people themselves. This includes aid policies and their implications for human rights, social welfare, poverty, gender equality, and environmental sustainability. Conceptualization and delineating the scope of the research must first be done before one can identify and formulate the research problem.

Formulating the problem involves stages outlined below:

- *Conceptualization.* Conceptualization involves the fleshing out of ideas and possible topics for research. Traditionally, researchers identify possible topics based on their own perspective. In people's research on development cooperation, chosen topics should reflect the people's concerns on development effectiveness. The following questions may help in conceptualizing research problems:
  - » What is the topic's relevance to the people (community, sector or other marginalized group) and society?
- *Delineating the scope of the research.* Identified topics on aid and development may be too broad for research, thus delineating the scope of the research is a necessary step in formulating the research problem. A researcher can delineate the scope of the research either by identifying the level of research (international, local, community), by looking into subtopics or themes of an identified main topic and by making a review of previous studies and researches to identify the research gaps, which can serve as possible research inquiries.

  In research in development aid, various topics can come to mind mainly within the themes of democratic ownership, sovereignty, human rights, health, labor or women. It is also important to delineate what type of aid is under scrutiny as aid may come not only in the form of official development assistance (ODA).
  - » Can the research be done given the resources, time, and capacity of the researchers?
- *Formulating the research problem.* The research problem is a question that reflects the topic, subject matter or the aspect that will be studied. The following questions may be used as guide in formulating the research problem:
  - » Is the problem relevant and responsive to the development of the people?
  - » Is it clear (first the primary problem, then secondary problems)?
  - » Can it be investigated on or is it researchable?
  - » How did the problem arise?
  - » What is the relevance of research on the problem?

**Example of People's Research in Development Cooperation:**

"Mass Transport and Development in the Philippines: Privatizing the rail transit system" by Goldie Liza Tanglao published in *Aid and the Private Sector: Catalysing Poverty Reduction and Development?—Reality of Aid 2012 Report.* Philippines: Zoom Printing Co. 2012. pp. 94-101.

**Step 2. Setting the goals of the research**

Once the research problem is identified and formulated, the objectives of the research should be set. The goals of the research spell out the scope and limitation of the research. It also gives light into the importance or purpose of the research and reflects what information will come out of the research and where it will come from. Research objectives answer broadly the question: what does the research want to accomplish?

In people's research in CSO Aid Observatorio work, generally the goal of conducting research should be geared towards understanding and reformulating policies using human rights approach (Reality of Aid-Africa Report, 2009), gender equality and women's rights, among other developmental issues.

**Step 3. Identify the strategy and approach**

Once the problem and objectives have been identified, the next step is to identify the strategy and approach (see previous section). Looking into how previous studies on the research problem have been conducted may help in determining the research design.

The strategy and approaches to be used in conducting the research should reflect the objectives of the research. Although all the approaches outlined in the previous section may be useful in conducting particular research in CSO Observatorio, critical analysis may be the best strategy to inform research problems concerning people's issues on aid and development. Certain approaches may use different or a mix of methods in conducting policy research.

**Step 4. Identify sources of data and data gathering procedures**

Data can come from various sources, both primary and secondary. Among the sources of information include:

- Primary sources: surveys, focus group discussions, interviews;
- Secondary sources: policy documents, policy briefs, agreements, treaties, documents, data from aid monitoring of CSO observatorio, records of other CSOs or institutions that conduct monitoring of development cooperation, media information, government statistics.

Generally, methods in research can be classified into quantitative and/or qualitative methods. Policy research usually uses qualitative methods, particularly in scrutinizing impact of aid on communities. However, both qualitative and quantitative methods are useful in doing people's research in CSO Aid Observatorio to better inform recommendations and ways forward.

*Quantitative methods.* Quantitative methods use statistics and probability in understanding social behavior and social phenomenon. Examples of quantitative methods are survey, content analysis, full census, processing of secondary statistical data. These quantitative methods are widely used in policy research. For CSO Aid Observatorio, quantitative methods should look into indicators of development, human rights, social equity, and gender equality. Some economic indicators include poverty reduction, unemployment, income gap between rich and poor.

*Qualitative methods.* Qualitative methods inquire on the "why" and "how" and not just what, where, and when a social phenomenon occurred. Examples of qualitative methods are interviews, ethnography (participant observation), focus group discussions, and process documentation. People's research on aid and development effectiveness may have to look into the history and development of a particular aid policy or development cooperation and then proceed to how it has impacted on social development.

**Step 5. Data processing and Data Analysis**

Data processing and analysis differs depending on the methodology used in research.

*Quantitative Data*

For quantitative methods, data is processed and analyzed using statistical softwares such as SPSS, Excel and may make use of various statistical measures. Examples are simple descriptive statistics such as mean, median, model, standard deviation and inferential statistics (regression analysis) that show relationships between variables.

**Example:**
Regression analysis of "amount of ODA to countries" vs. "poverty reduction" or "unemployment." The hypothesis here is if a country receives more ODA, then human development is more likely to increase. Note that the variables are: ODA flows (indicator is amount of ODA a country receives) and human development (indicators are poverty reduction, unemployment, among others)

*Qualitative Data*

Processing qualitative data need not deal with complex quantitative analysis. Rather, interviews, FGDs and other methods used to gather data must have been properly documented, recorded and transcribed. Data may then be grouped according to themes and subthemes.

Tips in organizing qualitative data

- For descriptive research
  - » Show what is common
  - » Show the data gaps
  - » Show other aspects or characteristics of the data
  - » Conclude or make generalizations

- For explanatory researches
  - » Show the relations of variables
  - » Show the tendencies of the relations
  - » Refine the relations and show cause and effect
  - » Make predictions or general observations

**Some guidelines in analyzing data on research in aid and development effectiveness**

1. Generate generalizations from quantitative data.
2. Organize and synthesize these generalizations according to framework or worldview: hierarchy, historical, essential to know, good to know, nice to know, primary, secondary, tertiary issues.
3. Derive essential points and provide a summary of these.
4. Link to a framework or worldview. Judge if essential points support or question existing framework or worldview.

**Some caveats in analyzing policies on development cooperation:**

1. Never take what is written in policy documents as a given (e.g. UN papers, Government positions). Guide notes can be analyzed and contrasted with their actions to expose their true intent.
2. Be keen on the language and concepts being used in the policy documents. Do these documents promote democratic ownership and democratic governance as they claim to do?
3. Remember, what is missing is as critical as what is there.
4. Compare the declared intention of the policy with the actual effect. Does the intention reflect the people's interests? Did the actual effect result in attaining the people's interest?
5. Compare and contrast. Compare and contrast how similar policies in different countries for instance are being drafted and implemented or how the same international policy is being implemented in two different settings.
6. Dig deeper. Find out the politics behind the policy. Who is pushing for it and why?
7. Propose an alternative. Once the flaws within a policy has been identified and exposed, it is important for CSOs to propose alternatives to be able to truly forward the people's stake in a particular policy.

# *Session 7*
# Writing the Research Report

**SESSION OBJECTIVES**
1. Familiarize and understand the components of a good research report
2. Clarify the difference between writing for research results and writing for the general public

**TIME**
45 minutes

**MATERIALS**
laptop, projector, presentations

**PROCESS**
1. Explain the objectives of this session.
2. Make a presentation using the contents below for discussion.
3. Ask the participants to think of ways on how to creatively present data/write about the following:
   a. macroeconomic and poverty indicators
   b. current ODA flows in Southeast Asia
   c. history and development of aid
4. After this, regroup them according to their groupings in the previous session and ask them to make a logical outline of their research and how they could creatively present their data. Give them 15 to 20 minutes to discuss. Allow them to present their output to the rest of the participants. Facilitate open discussion.

**CONTENT**
After analysis has been done, researchers must then face the task of writing the research report. In writing the report, the following must be seriously considered:

*a.* *Accuracy* – writing for any development work, including Aid Observatorio, requires correct information as it provides credibility to the CSOs doing the research as well as to the study itself. Wrong and inaccurate information also misinforms future plans, steps, undertakings and possible recommendations.

*b.* *Order* – An outline demonstrating a logical order of information and analysis must also be considered. Writers must also avoid obscuring the report by writing in a complex manner. The challenge is to keep the report simple but not simplistic.

*c.* *Imagination* – Use your imagination in presenting ideas and arguments. At times, the writing style affects the reader of the report. Although most of the researches in development cooperation are within a particular set of themes of human rights, development, equality etc., it must not result in boring and monotonous research reports.

*d.* *Distinguishing writing research results from writing for popularization* – Writing a research report and its results means to expound thoroughly on the research process, findings, and implication of the study. Writing for popularization is simpler, focusing mainly on the findings and analysis of the research and is aimed primarily at informing the general public. In the former, researchers may be free to use jargon common to Aid Observatorio work, as its audience are likely to be more familiar with the language of development cooperation. Writing for popularization, on the other hand, must be simple, with terms and concepts explained in common language.

# *Session 8*
# Evaluation of the research and the process

**SESSION OBJECTIVES**
1. Grasp the importance of evaluating the research output and the process of research in development work
2. Provide some insights on how to properly and thoroughly evaluate a research study and the process it underwent

**TIME**
1 hour

**MATERIALS**
laptop, projector, presentations

**PROCESS**
1. Enumerate and explain the objectives of this session.
2. Make a presentation using the contents below for discussion.
3. Divide the participants into two groups and make them reflect on the following questions:
- Based on your experience, have you encountered any challenges in conducting research related to aid monitoring? What are these?
- How were these challenges addressed?
- What were your lessons, if any?
4. After 15 minutes, let each group present the results of their discussion.
5. Group the list of challenges into various aspects in implementing a research study. Do they fall under i) personnel and resources, ii) training and capacity, and iii) external factors and unforeseen events?
6. Give time for open discussion on how shortcomings and difficulties in implementing research can be effectively addressed.

**CONTENT**
Evaluation of the research and the process means taking a look at: 1) the impact of the research vis-à-vis a CSO's goal or thrust in promoting democratic ownership and development effectiveness; and 2) how the research itself was conducted by the researchers. Through this, groups are able to assess the contribution of their research endeavor in development cooperation and how they have progressed in the process of knowledge production.

In evaluating the research and process, researchers look into the following questions:
- Did the research achieve its objectives?
- What were the difficulties faced while conducting the research? Were these overcome? How?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses in conducting the research?
- Did the research ultimately serve the interest of the people? Can the research contribute to development effectiveness and democratic ownership of new policies?
-

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# *Session 9*
# Summary of Application of People's Research in the context of Aid Observatorio

**SESSION OBJECTIVES**
1. Appreciate how the results of people's research in development cooperation can be used in our continuing work in aid observatorio
2. Enumerate some ways on how to add a new body of knowledge to existing literature on aid policy

**TIME**
45 minutes

**MATERIALS**
laptop, projector, presentations

**PROCESS**
1. Enumerate and explain the objectives of this session
2. Make a presentation using the contents below for discussion
3. With the same groupings in Session 1, ask each group to list down and present afterwards how the sample researches assigned to them can be used in Aid Observatorio work.

**CONTENT**
The ultimate goal of conducting people's research in aid observatorio work is to promote development and human rights approaches in the analysis of aid policies and re-formulation of policies that are often one-sided towards the interest of donor states or multilateral agencies. The challenge is to provide cutting-edge knowledge and new information to the stakeholders regarding a policy on development aid. Through this, CSOs in Aid Observatorio work (or CSOs engaged in policy work in general) can make timely interventions in shaping development aid policy. Some ways of adding cutting edge knowledge to existing body of policy research are:

- By acquiring and/or making public yet-unpublished and informal knowledge about the policy. These can come in the form of draft documents, critiques, records of proceedings, even email threads, which are not yet widely known, but definitely shape public policy.
- Through constant monitoring and producing timely research through our aid observatorios.
- By keeping strong networks. Regularly engaging in dialogues with those involved in the policymaking process at all levels regardless of political views that may include conservative CSOs, opposition politicians, and government representatives.

**Utilization of research outputs in Aid observatorio work**

Doing people's research in development cooperation is only one component of the many tasks in Aid Observatorios. As emphasized many times, the value of people's research lays not so much on the research output, but more on its contribution to the achievement of development goals. Research in aid observatories can or should be used to improve efforts towards achieving development effectiveness and democratic ownership. Some ways of utilizing people's research are:

- Advocacy in policy reforms. Research can be used as strong basis for repeal or changes in certain policies and programs on development aid.
- Inform possible interventions of CSOs at different levels to effect change.
- Reference for campaign materials, educational materials for capacity building, and future research endeavors.
- Research outputs can also introduce new methods and approaches in studying certain development problems.
- Indirectly, research can help in widening and consolidating networks through constant exchange of information and research reports.

# Summary and Evaluation

To the instructor/facilitator:
1. Recall the outline and summarize the main points in the module.
2. Ask the participants the following questions for evaluation:
   - Were their expectations met?
   - Did the course meet its objectives?
   - What can they say about the following aspects of the course: a) content, b) time and method of instruction/facilitation, c) competence of the instructor/facilitator, and d) technical concerns
   - Are there questions left unanswered?
   - Are there suggestions for further improvement?
3. Summarize the key points of assessment and wrap up the course.

# *Module III*

# Data Management

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The data presented in the 2011 Survey on Monitoring Paris Declaration showed that donor countries were only able to achieve 1 out of the 13 targets. The survey also showed considerable variations in progress reached by both donor and recipient countries. Around the same time, Reality of Aid released a Shadow Report underlining the lack of democratic ownership and the disconnect of programmes to development outcomes in many Southern countries. The RoA Shadow Report also provided input to the development of the CSO Key Asks – the document outlining the policy positions and key recommendations of civil society during the Fourth High Level Forum in Busan, South Korea. The results of the RoA Shadow Report and the subsequent policy effects of this document would not have been possible if data that supported its conclusion were not acquired from a wide range of information sources and managed to fit the purpose and the agenda of CSOs in the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness.

The scenario mentioned above illustrates why many CSOs rely on data to inform strategies, recommendations and policy positions. This is particularly true in this era where discernment of what is relevant information is important, given the vast amount of data available. This module will discuss the significance and the challenges related to data management as well as the importance of ensuring that the public has access to key information regarding development effectiveness.

This module is divided into six sessions:

*Session 1 Concept of Open Data.* This part discusses the concept of open data and its significance to Aid Observatorio work.

*Session 2 Data Management.* Introduces the concept behind data management and its difference with developing database.

*Session 3 Principles of Data Management* will discuss core principles of transparency, accessibility and reliability in relation to data management.

*Session 4 Data Relevant to Aid Observatorio* will provide CSOs a guide on what data to collect and manage as part of the work of Aid Observatorio.

*Session 5 Sources of data*. This section of the module will provide various sources of data – from governments, multilateral institutions, CSOs and research or academic institutions.

*Session 6 Challenges in Data Management: Issues on Enabling Environment.* This section will discuss key challenges that can affect the work of CSOs in Aid Observatorios.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE MODULE

After the module, the participants are expected to:

1. Appreciate the importance of Open Data
2. Understand the concept and principles of data management
3. Learn where to find data related to development effectiveness
4. Provide some recommendations on how to address issues related to enabling environment and Aid Observatorio

**Estimated time to complete this module:** 3.5 hours

# *Session 1*
# Concept of Open Data

**SESSION OBJECTIVES**
1. Know the meaning and concept of Open Data;
2. Understand the importance of accessing information related to development effectiveness.
3. Familiarize with the work of IATI.

**TIME**
30 minutes

**MATERIAL**
pens, markers, manila papers, computer and projector for PowerPoint presentation

**PROCESS**
1. Group the participants to four groups. Ask each group to assign a rapporteur and a facilitator.
2. Each group will discuss the following questions:
- What is my definition of "open data"?
- What do I think are the advantages of "open data"?
- What do I think are the disadvantages of "open data"?
3. Allow each group 20 minutes to discuss.
4. Ask each group to present the highlights of their discussion in the plenary session.
5. The facilitator will summarise the discussion points. Begin the discussion on Open Data through powerpoint presentation based on the contents below.

**CONTENT**

**What is Open Data?**
Open Data is the idea that certain *data* should be freely available to everyone to use, manipulate and republish as they wish, without restrictions from copyright, patents or other mechanisms of control. The goals of the open data movement are similar to those of other "open" movements such as open source, open hardware, open content, and open access.

The philosophy behind open data has been long established (for example in the Mertonian tradition of science), but the term "open data" itself is recent, gaining popularity with the rise of the Internet and World Wide Web and, especially, with the launch of open-data government initiatives such as Data.gov.

In 2004, the Science Ministers of all nations of the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development), which includes most developed countries of the world, signed a declaration which essentially states that all publicly funded archive data should be made publicly available. Following a request and an intense discussion with data-producing institutions in member states, the OECD published in 2007 the *OECD Principles and Guidelines for Access to Research Data from Public Funding* as a *soft-law* recommendation.

**What are the Potential Advantages of Open Data?**
- Transparency and democratic control
- Participation
- Self-empowerment
- Improved effectiveness of government services
- Impact measurement of policies

In 2011, the European Commission adopted a Communication on Open Data and launched the Open Data Portal a year later. In similar undertaking, the World Bank also launched an Open Data Catalog intended to provide all users with access to World Bank data especially on aggregate and individual governance indicators for 215 *countries* and territories. The United Nations through http://data.un.org/ provides access to more than 60 million records and links of UN-member countries. However, according to data.gov, only 41 countries are into open data practice.

**What is IATI?**

International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) is a voluntary, multi-stakeholder initiative that seeks to improve the transparency of aid in order to increase its effectiveness in tackling poverty. IATI brings together donor and developing countries and CSOs who are committed to working together to increase the transparency of aid.

IATI was launched at the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra in 2008 and was specifically designed to support donors in meeting their Accra commitments on transparency as set out in the Accra Agenda for Action as follows:

- Donors will publicly disclose regular, detailed and timely information on volume, allocation and, when available, results of development expenditure to enable more accurate budget, accounting and audit by developing countries.
- Donors and developing countries will regularly make public all conditions linked to projects/programs in the IATI database.
- Donors will provide full and timely information on annual commitments and actual disbursements so that developing countries are in a position to accurately record all aid flows in their budget estimates and their accounting systems.
- Donors will provide developing countries with regular and timely information on their rolling three- to five-year forward expenditure and/or implementation plans, with at least indicative resource allocations where possible so that developing countries can integrate them into their medium-term planning and macroeconomic frameworks. Donors will address any constraints to providing such information.

In the run up to the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, IATI contributed to the Building Block on Transparency. The Busan outcome document, includes a specific reference to IATI, committing all those who endorsed it to:

> "Implement a common, open standard for electronic publication of timely, comprehensive and forward looking information on resources provided through development cooperation, taking into account the statistical reporting of the OECD DAC and the complementary efforts of the International Aid Transparency Initiative and others. This standard must meet the needs of developing countries and non-state actors, consistent with national requirements. We will agree on this standard, and publish our respective schedules to implement it by December 2012, with the aim of implementing it full by December 2015". *(paragraph 23c of the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation; quoted in http://www.aidtransparency.net)*

# *Session 2*
# Data Management

**SESSION OBJECTIVE**
Level-off understanding of data management

**TIME**
30 minutes

**MATERIALS**
markers, meta-cards, computer and projector for PowerPoint presentation

**PROCESS**
1. Give each participant 1 meta-card.
2. Ask them to write their definition of data management in the meta-card. Post their definition on a flipchart.
3. The facilitator will summarize the result of the activity and present the concept of data management through a powerpoint presentation based on the contents below.
4. Ask the participants if they have questions or other ideas about data and data management.

**CONTENT**

**What is the meaning of data?**
Data is defined as the *values* of *qualitative* or *quantitative variables*, belonging to a set of items. In *computing* (or *data processing*), data are represented in a structure, often tabular (represented by rows and columns), a tree (a set of nodes with parent-children relationship) or a graph structure (a set of interconnected nodes).

Data are typically the results of *measurements* and can be *visualized* using *graphs* or *images*. A data as an abstract concept can be viewed as the lowest level of *abstraction* from which information and then knowledge are derived.

There are three types of data namely: *raw data, field data, and experimental data.*

- A *Raw data* or an unprocessed data, refers to a collection of *numbers, characters* and is a relative term. Data processing of raw data commonly occurs by stages, and the "processed data" from one stage may be considered the "raw data" of the next.
- *Field data*, on the other hand, refers to raw data collected in an uncontrolled *in situ* (on site) environment.
- *Experimental data* refers to data generated within the context of a scientific investigation by observation and recording.

**What is Data Management?**
The concept of "Data Management" arose in the 1980s as technology moved from sequential processing (first cards, then tape) to random access processing. According to Data Management Body of Knowledge, "data management is the development, execution and supervision of plans, policies, programs and practices that control, protect, deliver and enhance the value of data and information assets."

Data management is an administrative process by which the required data is acquired, validated, stored, protected, and processed, and by which its accessibility, reliability, and timeliness is ensured to satisfy the needs of the data users.

Many people think that data management is synonymous to database. The term *database* is oftentimes used casually to refer to any collection of data - perhaps a spreadsheet, maybe even a card index. A general-purpose database management system is a system designed to allow the definition, creation, querying, update, and administration of databases. Database management oftentimes works with more than one database for a single application of work.

# *Session 3*
# Principles of Data Management

**SESSION OBJECTIVES:**
Learn the different principles of data management

**TIME**
30 minutes

**MATERIALS**
pens, meta-cards, markers, manila papers, computer and projector for PowerPoint presentation

**PROCESS**
1. Discussion of Principles of Data Management using the contents below as guide.
2. For each principle, encourage sharing of concrete experiences and key learnings from participants.

**CONTENT**
**Principle 1. Data is an asset.** Data is a core asset of CSOs. The rationale behind this principle is that data is a valuable organizational resource – it has real, measurable value. In simple terms, the purpose of data is to aid decision-making. Accurate, timely data is critical to accurate, timely decisions.

**Principle 2. Data is shared.** Data is necessary to perform the duties of CSOs. Data must be shared because timely access to accurate data is essential to improving the quality and efficiency of organizational decision-making. It is less costly to maintain timely, accurate data in a single application, and then share it, than it is to maintain duplicative data in multiple applications.

**Principle 3. Data is Accessible.** Wide access to data leads to efficiency and effectiveness in decision-making. It affords timely response to information requests and service delivery. Furthermore, it ensures that development programmes contribute to poverty alleviation.

**Principle 4. Data is Transparent.** Open data provide the foundation on which to establish the accountability of public institutions and the collaboration with all kinds of stakeholders (Swartz, 2010). Public reporting of data related to development effectiveness promotes higher quality and more efficient services, participation of the citizenry and accountability of stakeholders.

**Principle 5. Data is Reliable.** This means data is accurate. Accuracy is the likelihood that the data reflect the truth. Statistical tools increase the accuracy and reliability of data.

**Principle 6. Data Quality is Fit for Purpose.** Data quality is acceptable and meets the needs or purpose of the CSOs in their advocacy towards development effectiveness.

**Principle 7. Data is Compliant with Law and Regulations.** Organizational information management processes comply with all relevant laws, policies, and regulations.

**Principle 8. Data is Secure.** Data is trustworthy and is safeguarded from unauthorized access, whether malicious, fraudulent or erroneous. Open sharing of information must be balanced against the need to restrict the availability of classified, proprietary, and sensitive information. Pre-decisional (work-in-progress) information must be protected to avoid unwarranted speculation, misinterpretation, and inappropriate use.

**Principle 9. There is a Common Vocabulary and Data Definition.** Data is defined consistently and the definitions must be understood by all stakeholders. This should be observed to enable sharing of data. A common vocabulary will facilitate communication and enable for smooth multi-stakeholder dialogues.

**Principle 10. Data Management is Everybody's Business.**All government agencies and CSOs have the responsibility to maintain, monitor and manage their data and find ways to sustain them. Likewise, CSOs must participate in information management decisions to maintain the integrity of data.

# *Session 4*
# Information & Data Relevant to Aid Observatories

**SESSION OBJECTIVES:**
1. Identify different types of information necessary for Aid Observatorio work
2. Learn how to ensure that data is accurate and appropriate

**TIME**
30 minutes

**MATERIALS**
Markers, Flip Charts

**PROCESS**
1. Begin by discussing the objectives of the session and its supplementary activity.
2. Provide a presentation based on the contents below.
3. Divide the participants to 5 groups. Ensure that no two individuals coming from the same country belong to the same group. This will ensure that for each group a variety of examples can be shared for each type of aid information.
4. Assign a type of aid information for each group and ask each group to provide specific examples of aid information, including definition. Ask them to write their answers on a flipchart.
5. Ask each group to share the highlights of their discussion during the plenary session.
6. Ask the participants if they know of any other aid information that was not discussed.

**CONTENT**

**What are the types of aid information?**
1. *Public Policy on aid.* Public policy is a set of system, laws, guiding principles or a set of regulations that serves as standards on the use of aid and its implementation and delivery as defined or promulgated by the government and/or its representatives.
2. *Budget.* A budget is a document that summarizes expected revenue and expenditure for a particular calendar or fiscal year. National budget is the official financial projection of a government that provides information on both its revenue generation and expenditure that includes aid (for donor countries) or debt-servicing (for recipient countries).
3. *Public Expenditure.* This refers to the expenses incurred by the government. It should reflect expenses that were committed to improve the lives of the poor and marginalized groups.
4. *Foreign Debt.* Foreign debt is the amount of money owed by a country to a creditor country.
5. *Aid flows.* Aid flows provide information about the volume of money being exported from a donor country to a recipient country. Information on aid flows that are widely disseminated are usually generated by donor countries.

Sustained public awareness can be facilitated by the establishment of information or network center. This may take the form of an online portal where information regarding official development assistance or aid can be accessible to the public. It can also be designed in such a way that the public will be engaged to contribute to the information drive or archiving by using available online tools for possible crowd-sourcing of information on aid. To protect the credibility of the information portal, any crowd-sourced information should be subjected to verification.

The database should be able to provide crucial information such as:
- Who are the multi-stakeholders involved in the facilitation of the specific aid?
- What is the extent of CSO participation in monitoring the aid?
- What is the specific objective of the aid?
- What are the outcomes of aid? Or the expected outcomes?

- What is the response of the public?

To sustain and gravitate people to get involved in development effectiveness, a mechanism for aid monitoring and evaluation should be developed and made accessible to the public. In this manner, the weight of policy advocacy reforms will not be concentrated on CSOs, the public can be considered as partners in the success of the policy advocacy.

Aid information can be enhanced if there is coordination between and among civil society and other pertinent platforms and involved in aid monitoring in the country level. Ideally at the country level, aid is monitored, delivered and evaluated by various groups. Thus, it is crucial to synergize these decentralized efforts to establish country-level facts on development effectiveness. CSOs at the country-level can convene or devise coordination mechanisms to develop reports that can be made available to the public. These reports can be published through newsletter or similar publications.

# *Session 5*
# Sources of Data

**SESSION OBJECTIVES:**
Know the possible sources of data related to development effectiveness.

**TIME**
30 Minutes

**MATERIALS**
computer and projector for PowerPoint presentation

**PROCESS:**
1. Ask participants to list possible sources of data for aid observatorio that can be accessed at the country, regional or global levels.
2. Share other sources of data based on the mapping of existing monitoring systems facilitated by RoA-AP (see table below).

**CONTENT**
Data related to development effectiveness and aid effectiveness can be acquired from government agencies (both donor and recipient countries), academe and civil society organizations. The most prominent source of development effectiveness data can be accessed from OECD and UN agencies. Data on specific themes on aid and development effectiveness (e.g. agriculture, women, health) are oftentimes available in organizations working on such areas. Please see Annex 1 to see the result of the observatorio mapping exercise facilitated by RoA-AP.

# *Session 6*
# Challenges in Data Management: Issues on Enabling Environment

**SESSION OBJECTIVES**

1. Enumerate and discuss some of the challenges faced by CSOs in relation to enabling environment
2. Discuss how to address issues on Enabling Environment

**TIME**

1 Hour

**MATERIALS**

computer and projector for PowerPoint presentation

**PROCESS**

1. Begin the discussion by presenting some of the challenges faced by CSOs involved in aid monitoring. Use the contents below as guide for your presentation.
2. Ask the participants about difficulties they experienced in monitoring aid and how they were able to address these issues. Allow for an open discussion on this topic.

**CONTENT**

Below are some of the serious issues related to enabling environment faced by CSOs involved in aid monitoring:

*Legal restrictions on CSO operations at the country level.* These legal restrictions prevent CSOs from operating as legal entities in their countries and make them vulnerable to closure. Lack of legal identity inhibits CSOs from accessing grants from major funding sources. In some countries, CSOs are harassed and branded as enemies of state, when they release information that criticizes governments. Some were charged of trumped up cases.

*Lack of recognition of CSOs as key development actors in their own right.* The lack of recognition can hinder access to important information and can consequently restrict release of credible data on aid and development effectiveness by CSOs .

*Issues on participation in local, national, regional and global level dialogues.* When CSOs are not included in policy decision-making processes (including, but not limited to, development planning, implementation and monitoring), they lose the opportunity to present valuable evidence on the impacts of aid to development. It also prevents CSOs from presenting evidence-based policy recommendations to decision-makers.

# Summary and Evaluation

To the instructor / facilitator:

1. Recall the outline and summarize the main points in the module.
2. Ask the participants the following questions for evaluation:
    - Were their expectations met?
    - Did the course meet its objectives?
    - What can they say about the following aspects of the course: a) content, b) time and method of instruction / facilitation, c) competence of the instructor / facilitator, d) technical concerns
    - Are there questions left unanswered?
    - Are there suggestions for further improvement?
3. Summarize the key points of assessment and wrap up the course.

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https://opensource.com/government/13/4/open-government-beyond-open-data

**Annex 3.1** List of Observatories

| ORGANIZATION AND COUNTRY | AID MONITORING WORK | SOURCES / FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO: |
|---|---|---|
| Center for International Policy, Latin America Working Group and Washington Office on Latin America | Jointly maintains Just the Facts, a constantly updated website about security in the Americas, the only project in Washington that seeks to oversee and catalogue all U.S. cooperation with the military and police forces of Latin America and the Caribbean. Just the Facts is the best place to go for up-to-date data about U.S. military and police assistance levels to all Latin American and Caribbean countries, including grant aid, arms sales, military training programs and deployments. It offers current information about not only aid programs but legislation, policy statements and policy events, while the Just the Facts Blog highlights trends and offers perspectives.<br>Beyond database, the organizations working jointly on this also do publications and direct advocacy to deliver analysis and recommendations to key constituencies like congressional oversight staff, administration officials, journalists and activists. | http://www.ciponline.org/programs/just-the-facts<br>http://justf.org/ |
| Observatorio de Cooperación al Desarrollo desde las Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil<br>Ecuador | Has been working since 2005, and conducts research from perspectives of CSOs in the country; some researches are investigative in nature; also does impact analysis of cooperation projects in the country, analysis of trends in development cooperation in Ecuador, analysis territorial cooperation.<br>Participates/contributes articles in the Journal of Reality of Aid Coordination in Latin America; also wrote the Ecuador chapter for Shadow Report, participated in the Open Forum; did joint actions with ALOP;<br>Currently partakes in the National Committee of Cooperation, as part of the Civil Society, which is an advisory body of the Technical Secretariat for Development Cooperation. | |
| Open Knowledge Foundation Germany | OKF runs the OpenAid project for transparency in development cooperation to promote open data in development, aid transparency and feedback processes.<br>The OpenAid Project aims to improve transparency and accountability not only of single organizations, but of the overall aid system, with a special focus on German development agencies.<br>Methodology/Activities<br>• Raises awareness about open data, transparency in the digital age and the International Aid Transparency Initiative through events, training workshops, information material and through direct talks with development agencies, parliamentarians and development experts.<br>• Builds data based tools to improve the fact base in development cooperation, to encourage data-based analysis and to illustrate the value of open data.<br>• Establishes a network of experts and enthusiasts of open data and transparency in development cooperation to promote a culture shift in German development cooperation.<br>• Offers consultancy services to individual development agencies to publish their data in open formats, to improve internal use of data and to enhance feedback processes. | okfn.de/<br>http://www.openaid.de/ |
| Development Initiatives | Since 1992, it has been working with governments, multilateral organizations and NGOs. Its programmes of work have a focus on poverty elimination; has a particular expertise in analyzing, interpreting and improving information about international aid and development and making it more transparent and accessible.<br>The African Hub, in Nairobi, provides a regional perspective to its work on eradicating poverty. The Hub sees better information in East Africa as being a fundamental tool to improve policies and influence the allocation of resources to address chronic and extreme poverty in the region. | http://www.devinit.org/ |
| CONCORD/Aidwatch | In 2006, CONCORD set up the "Aid Watch" Initiative to monitor the quantity and the quality of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) provided by the EU member states and the European Commission.<br>"Aid Watchers" in all EU countries are monitoring and advocating on the quality and quantity of development aid provided by EU governments and the European Commission. This initiative includes an annual report, an annual seminar on aid quantity and quality, capacity building activities for national platforms as well as ongoing tracking and advocacy work on European aid in all EU member countries. | http://www.concordeurope.org/Public/Page.php?ID=71 |

| ORGANIZATION AND COUNTRY | AID MONITORING WORK | SOURCES / FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO: |
|---|---|---|
| Center for Global Development | Maintains the Commitment to Development Index, conceived in partnership with Foreign Policy Magazine, which quantifies the full range of rich country policies that have an impact on poor people in developing countries. The Index's annual rankings have become a tool for discussions not only of aid, debt and trade, but of environmental, security, and immigration policies.<br>Their Commitment to Development Index conceived in partnership with Foreign Policy Magazine, quantifies the full range of rich country policies that have an impact on poor people in developing countries. Each year, the CDI scores wealthy governments on helping poor countries via 7 linkages: aid, trade, investment, migration, environment, security, and technology. It averages over the 7 for an overall score. The Index's annual rankings have become a tool for discussions not only of aid, debt and trade, but of environmental, security, and immigration policies.<br>The Center's work on aid effectiveness focuses on the policies and practices of bilateral and multilateral donors. It includes analyzing existing programs, monitoring donor innovations, and designing and promoting fresh approaches to deliver aid. CGD researchers also investigate how foreign aid and other aspects of development—such as trade, migration, investment, and climate change policies—undermine or complement each other.<br>Specific work includes:<br>• Research, analysis, and policy outreach on U.S. foreign assistance reform through the Rethinking U.S. Foreign Assistance Program<br>• Monitoring the activities of the U.S. Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) through CGD's MCA Monitor<br>• Comparative analysis of the three largest donor responses to the HIV/AIDS epidemic: the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; the World Bank's Multicountry HIV/AIDS Program (MAP); and the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the HIV/AIDS Monitor.<br>• The design and promotion of a "Cash on Delivery" approach to aid under which donors would pay for measurable progress on specific outcomes pre-agreed with recipient governments.<br>• Research on improving the effectiveness of health aid through CGD's Global Health Policy Research Network, including an initiative to close the "evaluation gap" and a major study of what has worked in health aid, Millions Saved.<br>• Research on aid in fragile states through the Engaging Fragile States project, and special analysis of the challenges confronting U.S. assistance to Pakistan .<br>• Design of a new analytical tool to assess and compare bilateral and multilateral donors on the quality of aid. In addition, the aid component of CGD's Commitment to Development Index includes indicators for both the quantity and quality of aid. | |

| ORGANIZATION AND COUNTRY | AID MONITORING WORK | SOURCES / FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO: |
|---|---|---|
| Development Gateway | Development Gateway is a non-profit organization that delivers information solutions to the people on the front lines of international development work. Its information technology tools and practical ideas put information in the hands of the right people at the right time. Through a combination of global services and custom solutions, it makes development information easier to gather, access, use, and understand. It hosts global information platforms that provide access to critical development knowledge, data and resources.<br>Aid monitoring tools and systems:<br>• It implements aid information management systems that allow governments to make more informed decisions. It geocodes aid projects to create virtual feedback loops between donors and other stakeholders. Finally, it provides training, workshops, and process analysis to strengthen its partners' capacity to manage their own information.<br><br>Aid Data<br>AidData is a partnership between Brigham Young University, the College of William and Mary, and a non-profit development organization, Development Gateway. The AidData program is run by an interdisciplinary team comprised of staff from all three institutions, and benefits from the advice and support of a network of experts at partner institutions. The AidData team includes specialists in development, IT, economics, political science, and sociology.<br>AidData was formed in 2009 through the merger of two existing programs: Project-Level Aid (PLAID) and Accessible Information on Development Activities (AiDA). PLAID, begun in 2003, was a joint effort between the College of William and Mary and Brigham Young University. It aimed to create a database of development finance activities with granular activity and purpose coding and as much descriptive detail as possible at the project level, for use in the research community. AiDA was established in 2001 by Development Gateway to serve as a current, timely registry of aid activities to improve aid coordination and effectiveness.<br>AidData is an initiative that aims to (a) increase the impact of development assistance by making aid information more transparent and accessible to a wide range of stakeholders, and (b) improve the quality of research on aid allocation and aid effectiveness. AidData provides a searchable database of nearly one million past and present aid activities around the world, aid information management services and tools, data visualization technologies, and research designed to increase understanding of development finance. Currently, the AidData team is working with a wide range of development organizations to collect, visualize, and leverage aid information in ways that will improve development policy, practice, and research.<br>The information available through the AidData database serves as a platform for testing new ways to make aid information more relevant for different audiences. For example, recent work on geocoding aid can help civil society organizations identify the aid-funded activities that are underway in their communities. AidData's work supports the efforts of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) by allowing users to download data in IATI format. Additionally, AidData Raw serves as a repository for datasets that have not yet been vetted or that are not appropriate for inclusion in the main AidData database but provide added informational value. | http://www.developmentgateway.org/about |

| ORGANIZATION AND COUNTRY | AID MONITORING WORK | SOURCES / FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO: |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Development Gateway | In order to build and maintain the core database of nearly one million aid activities around the world, AidData staff collaborate with partners at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and with individual donor agencies and institutions to gather, standardize, and republish project-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 its work. Additional descriptive information is also culled from related documents, making it easier for users to understand how aid funds are being spent.<br>In addition to the resources it provides to the public, the AidData program provides services for development organizations that require custom solutions for managing or analyzing aid information.<br>Geocoding is the process of tagging aid activity records with precise geographical information--in other words, rather than simply specifying the country where a project is being implemented, geocoding requires identifying the district, town, or even latitude and longitude where a project is active (and in many cases, a single project can be implemented in many separate locations across a country). Geocoding allows a wide range of stakeholders to easily understand where aid activities are taking place, to monitor implementation, and to evaluate their effectiveness.<br>AidData worked with Uppsala University's Conflict Data Program to develop a comprehensive geocoding methodology that is both rigorous and flexible enough to be applied to all development aid projects. The methodology is referenced in the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) data standard and can be downloaded for use by any organization at open.aiddata.org.<br>Organizations involved in designing, analyzing, implementing, and monitoring development projects around the world need tools and processes to manage and share location-based information on these activities. AidData can work with organizations in developing their capacity on the following:<br>1. Collect, standardize, and organize geo-enabled data. Teams of experienced researchers are available to geocode project data so that it can be used for maps and other visualizations. AidData has partnered with the World Bank Institute, through the Mapping for Results initiative, and works with the African Development Bank, the Kellogg Foundation, and the Malawi Ministry of Finance to geocode information.<br>2. Prepare visualizations and analytics that leverage the power of geo-enabled data. Once an organization has geo-enabled data, they work in partnership with Esri to visualize this information on state-of-the-art interactive maps. Custom dashboards that combine maps with graphs and charts support monitoring and evaluation efforts, and help analysts and decision-makers identify risks and define next steps.<br>3. Prepare implementation reports with recommendations. AidData works with organizations to determine challenges and opportunities to geo-enable their data collection and dissemination efforts, and prepare reports with actionable recommendations. Reports can include roadmaps for compliance with international data standards such as the aid information reporting standard developed by the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI).<br>4. Build and implement custom IT solutions. Based on these reports and recommendations, Development Gateway can help design, integrate, and implement custom geo-enabled modules and applications that extend current client systems/processes to create sustainability. Mobile applications can be developed to enable real-time data collection and increase accessibility to broader user groups. Seamlessly integrated web and mobile applications offer organizations a comprehensive way to make their work more efficient and effective. | http://www.developmentgateway.org/about |

| ORGANIZATION AND COUNTRY | AID MONITORING WORK | SOURCES / FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO: |
|---|---|---|
| Publish what you fund<br>UK | Launched the 2012 Aid Transparency Index, aiming to assess how closely donor organizations' data conforms to best practice.<br><br>**Projects (Tools/Technologies)**<br>The Uganda aid visualisation project was a joint between the OKFN and Publish What You Fund to combine two key types of fiscal data, revenues from aid together with spending information, and present them together in an informative way for the first time through an interactive visualisation. Maintains an Aid Transparency Index and offers aid data visualizations; produces papers and advocacy letters, joins campaigns, provides updates on aid transparency, and is part of the IATI | http://www.publishwhatyoufund.org/uganda/uganda-with-data.htm#/~/aid-and-domestic-spending-in-uganda-br----usd-<br>http://openspending.org/ugandabudget<br>http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/nov/25/uganda-aid-confusion-analyse-spending?newsfeed=true |
| Access Info<br>Spain | Access Info is part of a global campaign to promote transparency of international aid. It started researching this field in 2007 and in 2008, alongside Tiri, it helped to launch the Publish What You Fund initiative. Access Info helped draft a set of principles, the Aid Transparency Principles and has conducted monitoring of donor government transparency. It also conducts training and provide assistance to civil society organisations in developing countries who are trying to get more information about international aid flows.<br>As an NGO, Access Info is not a member of the IATI but it sees it as an important development in establishing aid transparency and ensuring that adequate information is available about aid.<br><br>As part of its work on aid transparency, Access Info has contributed comments and recommendations throughout the consultation process of the development of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI). | http://www.access-info.org/en/aid-transparency |
| Institute of Development Studies<br>UK | The Institute of Development Studies (IDS) is a leading global charity for international development research, teaching and communications providing knowledge services such as Eldis, which aims to share the best in development, policy, practice and research.<br>Eldis aims to (1) support the documentation, exchange and use of evidence-based development knowledge; (2) communicate this knowledge effectively through a range of appropriately designed services, using the Internet (web and email) as the main communication medium for delivery; (3) reach audiences of researchers, development practitioners and policy formers at national and international levels; and (4) play a role in the processes of evidence-based policy formation and provide this information and services free of charge at point of use<br>Eldis has an Aid Monitor, which compiles News and commentary on aid issues from around the web | http://www.ids.ac.uk/go/about-us<br><br>http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/aid |
| INTRAC<br>International NGO Training and Research Center<br>UK | INTRAC has long been engaged in monitoring the way international aid agencies work individually and together. It focuses on aspects of aid policy changes which affect civil society and civil society organisations. It monitors aid flows to CSOs, policies regarding civil society and development, how donors interact with *NGOs*, and how NGOs interact with each other. It also scans the aid environment for policies which might indirectly affect *CSOs*. | http://www.intrac.org/pages/en/aid-architecture-trends.html |
| Development Data.org | Provide easy access to free, reliable developing country data. The data linked to via developmentdata.org are provided by reputable international organizations and research institutions and data documentation is available for all data. | http://www.developmentdata.org/about.htm |

| ORGANIZATION AND COUNTRY | AID MONITORING WORK | SOURCES / FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO: |
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| Cash and Voucher Monitoring Group (CVMG) | Includes six INGOs and eight local NGO partners that developed an M&E Framework, which was eventually adopted by more agencies. All of the agencies that decided to work together using this common framework went on to form the CVMG. One of the main initiatives of the CVMG was the implementation of a common M&E framework across different agencies working in different regions. While not yet perfect, the framework used both internal (NGO) and external (ODI and independent field monitors) monitoring of process, markets, and impact. Data were collected through monthly and quarterly PDMs, weekly market price monitoring, and beneficiary feedback. A built-in system of checks and balances was also established through a partnership with ODI, who independently analyzed and reported on the M&E data and on a monthly basis cross-referenced it with FSNAU and FEWS NET. Finally, a system of Independent Field Monitors (IFMs) was set up. The IFMs were managed by ODI and conducted focus group discussions and key informant interviews with traders, elders and beneficiaries. This provided supplementary qualitative information that was triangulated with data from the NGOs, including on traders/market supply, targeting and diversion. Overall, the system strived to ensure that data collection and analysis were transparent. Monitoring data were triangulated through different sources, and data were shared amongst all the NGOs that adopted the M&E system, promoting trust building and lesson-learning (CVMG, 2011). | http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2211912412000090<br><br>http://www.odihpn.org/humanitarian-exchange-magazine/issue-55/monitoring-results-of-the-somalia-cash-and-voucher-transfer-programme-phase-i |
| Aid Monitor | Aid Monitor seeks to develop a comprehensive consensus-based list of Aid Effectiveness Indicators proven to be necessary for foreign aid to achieve its stated purpose with ongoing monitoring for improved results and accountability. | http://www.aidmonitor.org/index.php?page=purpose |
| For Transparency of Public Finances<br>Georgia | TPF projects include an analysis of existing legal frameworks; the development of alternative EITI reporting templates; the translation and dissemination of EITI materials in local language; foreign aid monitoring of Millennium Challenge funds | http://caspianrevenuewatch.org/our-work/projects/georgia-revenue-transparency-of-public-finances.php |
| NGO Forum on Cambodia | Has an aid effectiveness program which targets the following as one of its outputs: aid allocation and disbursement with regard to transparency monitored against the poverty reduction goals. | http://www.ngoforum.org.kh/eng/en_project_artticle.php?artticle=2 |
| Humanitarian Outcomes | Monitors/maintains a database on the security of aid workers https://aidworkersecurity.org/ The Aid Worker Security Database (AWSD) records major incidents of violence against aid workers, with incident reports from 1997 through the present. Initiated in 2005, to date the AWSD remains the single most comprehensive global source of this data, providing a much-needed quantitative evidence base for analysis of the changing security environment for civilian aid operations. | http://www.humanitarianoutcomes.org/researchandconsultancyareas.php |
| La Alianza<br>(The Alliance of Social Organizations by Cooperation for Peace and Democracy)<br>Colombia | The "Centre for International Cooperation" is an initiative of the Alliance as a tool intended to) provide objective and relevant information, b) involving qualified CSO, c) present a political analysis of the cooperation and its impact d) visible learning and impacts political, economic, social and cultural policies, programs and projects being implemented with funding from bilateral cooperation in e) advocacy.<br>The Alliance has been proposed in response to the objectives, three observation lines that determine the conceptual structure of the monitoring and tracking of International Cooperation: International Cooperation and Foreign Investment Government Procurement, noting their sources, supply, Projects, and Bilateral Relations their programs, through instruments such as the Geo-referenced system of international cooperation in Colombia and its Mechanism Case Study and Local Observation System in coordination with grassroots organizations.<br>Thus, the observatory produces thematic reports, sectoral and regional spaces for different national and international participation and influence of the alliance as the agenda of Bogota and Cartagena London Process Effectiveness of International Cooperation, among others.<br>Programs<br>The Observatory monitors programs and projects supported with resources cooperation with the aim of verifying whether or not these contribute to building peace, strengthening of the rule of law, respect of the Human Rights / Humanitarian Law, and overcoming discrimination and inequalities of gender, race, ethnicity, culture, or political opinion. Has a tool for providing statistics and geo-referencing of aid. | http://www.laalianza.org.co/observatorio/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=63&Itemid=54 |

| ORGANIZATION AND COUNTRY | AID MONITORING WORK | SOURCES / FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO: |
|---|---|---|
| Observatorio Cooperacion Internacional, Mexico | The Observatory is an open space for plural participation where many different actors converge to provide information and promote analysis, monitoring and proposals on key issues of international cooperation for development in Mexico. The Observatory will find information on policies and practices international cooperation on the various stakeholders on the policy process and institutional trends and basic documents, bibliography, attractions, news, events and various calls. Observatory seeks to promote discussion spaces, communities of practice and dynamics of exchange and generation of knowledge between people who have a career in the field of international cooperation, researchers, students, officials, civil society organizations, among others. | www.observacoop.org.mx/ |
| ONE, Development Initiative | Jointly maintains Budget4Change which maps, tracks and analyses donor government budgets against official development assistance (ODA) financing. It presents, by donor, a baseline understanding of where, within government departments and budgets, ODA comes from and applies this to budgetary announcements to consider the implications for ODA | http://www.budget4change.org/about/ |
| CCIC | CCIC works with its members on the ongoing monitoring of Canadian aid policy and practice. This includes analyzing, commenting and providing recommendations on major policy statements and program developments at CIDA, as well as analysis of Canadian commitments made internationally on development and humanitarian issues. CCIC is also a member of the Coordinating Group of BetterAid, the Global Facilitation Group of the Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness and the Management Committee of the Reality of Aid network. | http://www.ccic.ca/about/index_e.php |
| ALOP | Observatorio Social de las Relaciones EU-LA<br>- created as a support tool for the systematization, analysis and dissemination of information on economic relations and cooperation in the European Union and Latin America. Observatory is responsible for providing continuous monitoring of regional relations, especially in the areas of interest to social organizations; it also works to systematize and classify information, make public announcements of emerging activities to civil society organizations and make available to a broad public unions, NGOs, women's organizations, indigenous peoples, local authorities, universities, officials, among others, critical elements of analysis and reflection on the relationship between Europe and Latin America. | http://www.observatorioueal-alop.eu/wcm/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=55&Itemid=96 |
| FRIDE and Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations | Jointly runs the European Strategic Partnerships Observatory (ESPO) project which provides information and analysis on the EU's relations with its strategic partners and on the connection between bilateral partnerships and multilateral cooperation. The purpose is to monitor the evolution of the partnerships, collect data and provide a regular stream of timely, tailor-made analyses from experts in Europe and beyond. (no further info on the website) | http://www.fride.org/project/28/european-strategic-partnerships-observatory |
| Groupe URD<br>France | Has established several observatories of aid practices - currently in Haiti, and formerly in Chad (no longer operational) and in Afghanistan (office closed already due to lack of funding but still conducts training) in order to work close to field realities and to share lessons | http://www.urd.org/article/the-association<br>http://www.urd.org/Observatory-Haiti |
| ODA Watch Philippines | Identifies aid "monitoring and research" as among its tasks, as below:<br>Monitoring and Research<br>• conduct different kinds of researches; including action research to deepen the understanding on ODA as development tool and how it is implemented in the country<br>• disseminate researches and other information to different ODA stakeholders through seminars, workshops and public forums<br>• conduct of action researches on different issues that affect ODA policy implementations<br>Legislative and Executive Advocacy<br>• dialogues, negotiations and consultations with government and funding agencies for policy formulation and reforms<br>• advocacy in the different executive bodies that are mainly in charge of ODA policy formulation and policy implementation<br>Networking towards Building Effective Institutions<br>• generate broad unity among Civil Society Organizations<br>• establishing linkages with the business sector<br>• public information dissemination on how different ODA institutions are performing | http://www.mode.org/oda/about%20us.html |

*Module IV*

# Disseminating and Popularizing Information on Development Effectiveness

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A good measurement of whether an enabling environment exists for civil society organizations (CSOs) is their capacity to access information on aid and use this information to promote development effectiveness. Subjecting aid information to public awareness encourages people to participate in dialogues and push for appropriate reforms. Advocacy becomes an important facet in Aid Observatorio.

This module emphasizes the advocacy role of CSOs involved in aid observatorio as well as the importance of disseminating and popularizing aid information.

**This module is divided into six sessions:**

*Session 1. Advocacy and Approaches in Advocacy Work.* Discusses the basic approaches of advocacy and its importance in Aid Observatorio work.

*Session 2. Carrying out Advocacy Work.* Emphasizes advocacy as one important area of work in Aid Observatorio. This session provides step-by-step pointers on how to do advocacy with development effectiveness as a theme.

*Session 3. Purpose of Public Awareness.* This section emphasizes the role of CSOs in delivering aid information to the public. It also provides a venue to share CSO experiences in information and dissemination campaign.

*Session 4. Ensuring Accurate and Appropriate Data and Information.* This section helps systematize CSOs efforts in accessing and disseminating aid information. It provides the different strategies that CSOs can maximize to make the public aware about information on aid and development effectiveness.

*Session 5. Main Channels of Raising Public Awareness on Development Effectiveness.* This section provides information regarding the various media channels, their corresponding advantages and disadvantages to facilitate the delivery of development effectiveness-related information.

*Session 6. Maximizing Media for Public Awareness on Development Effectiveness.* This section highlights the importance of using media for maximizing dissemination of development effectiveness information. It discusses the different media platforms that can be used to effectively disseminate information.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE MODULE

After finishing this module, participants are expected to:

1. Understand and appreciate the importance of engaging the public through awareness and advocacy
2. Strengthen the resolve of CSOs as development actors in their own right, in accessing and popularizing aid information
3. Discuss the importance of conducting public awareness and advocacy in aid monitoring
4. Create or design a public awareness aid information plan that they can carry out in the future

**Estimated Time to complete the module:** 3.5 hours

# *Session 1*
# Advocacy and Approaches in Advocacy Work

**SESSION OBJECTIVE**
Understand the importance of development effectiveness advocacy

**TIME**
30 mins

**MATERIALS**
Powerpoint presentation

**PROCESS**
1. Discuss the session objectives.
2. Ask questions regarding past or present initiatives of the participants in advocacy to gauge their experience.
3. Continue the discussion with the use of a powerpoint presentation to highlight the contents below.

## CONTENT

**What is advocacy and what are the key dimensions of advocacy?**
Different authors cannot agree on a single definition of what "advocacy" is and defies restricting it to a rigid framework. What they agree on however are key dimensions that deal with at least three fundamental elements: (1) vulnerable groups that need representation; (2) the context of inequality marked by the uneven distribution of power; (3) the need to influence.

According to David Brancdon (as cited in Wilks, 2012), **advocacy** involves a person(s), either a vulnerable individual or group or their agreed representative, effectively pressing their case with influential others, about situations which either affect them directly or, and more usually, trying to prevent proposed changes which will eventually worsen the situation. Both the intent and outcome of such advocacy should be to increase the individual's sense of power, to help them feel more confident, to become more assertive and gain increased choices.

**What are the approaches in advocacy work?**

*Lobbying*

Lobbying involves the direct communication with decision-makers (legislators) who have direct power over policy analysis and policy change or to influencers who have resources or substantial connections to decision-makers.

*Campaign*

It deals with maximizing a wide-range of platforms and designing a phase to optimize each medium's effectiveness. Campaign includes the promotion of sign-on or petition papers, engagements with media through press briefing or conferences, use of propaganda materials such as posters and flyers, and it may also include the social mobilization of your stakeholders.

**Why is it important to engage in development effectiveness advocacy?**

Advocacy on development effectiveness entails the realization of an action plan to influence decision-makers to act on and implement reforms that will benefit the country's poor and marginalized groups. Advocacy is also necessary to ensure that foreign aid still follows the principles of aid effectiveness.

# *Session 2*
# Carrying out advocacy work

**SESSION OBJECTIVES**

1. Understand the different elements of an advocacy
2. Carry out an advocacy plan for aid observatorio.

**TIME**

1 hour

**MATERIALS**

audio/visual presentation, cartolina or manila paper, markers

**PROCESS**

1. Explain the session objectives.
2. Using a powerpoint presentation, facilitate a discussion based on the content below. Allow room for questions and clarifications.
3. Divide the participants into groups of three or four depending on the number of attendees.
4. Instruct the groups to do an advocacy plan based on the session discussion. Give them 15-20 minutes to discuss the plan and write it on the cartolina or manila paper provided to them.
5. Ask each group to present their advocacy plan. The other participants should critique or comment on each group's presentation to help in the evaluation of each group's effort.

**CONTENT**

Different frameworks have been developed in the advancement of advocacy work. A lot of them deal with almost the same principles. Advocacy, especially if it deals with the advancement of dignity of peoples, should not be appreciated as a pursuit that progresses on a linear pattern. There should be a constant drive to create plans and strategies based on previous implementation of advocacy work. Advocacy should always be dynamic and evolving if it is to be effective.

Below are the fundamental aspects of advocacy. There are elements that can be employed during the process as many times as necessary. Thus, this process should not be appreciated in a ladderized approach where each element is considered a prerequisite of the next one.

Below articulates the process by which advocacy on development effectiveness can be implemented.

**A. Mapping out the environment, framing the problem**

- In pursuing any advocacy it is crucial that we know the environment that we want to work in. It also means analyzing the conditions and categorizing which ones can be favorable and/or dangerous to CSO work.
- Since most advocacy activities deal with influencing decision-makers and other influential personalities, it is imperative to have a critical analysis of the political landscape.
- A comprehensive knowledge of the subject or theme (e.g. women and development effectiveness) is crucial in determining the foundations of the advocacy. It will also facilitate the articulation of the problem and sheds light on the desired output and impact.

**B. Defining goals and objectives**

In any endeavor, it is fundamental to keep SMART goals and objectives. Meaning, these should be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound.

**C. Getting to Know the Audience**

Before any advocacy can be communicated, it is primary to determine "who do we want to communicate it to." Any advocacy should have a specific target audience, otherwise, it will have a tendency to over-reach and it will lack direction and overall purpose. The audience can be best profiled by asking the following questions:

- "who are the agents of change for the advocacy?"
- "what do they know about the advocacy?"
- "what are their attitudes towards the advocacy?", and
- "what do they really care about"

**D. Defining and Delivering the Key Message**

The key message is considered as the fundamental idea that you want to render to your target audience. It should be clear, substantial yet concise and this should be able to hold your audience captive.

Advocacy should have a primary key message that is reinforced by several secondary key messages that can be adapted to be more engaging to different types of audience. In terms of development effectiveness, CSOs can develop key messages with the Four CSO Key Asks as Guide (BetterAid, 2011):

a. CSOs are calling for progress in four interdependent areas:
   - Fully evaluate and deepen the Paris and Accra commitments
   - Redress the failure to make progress on Paris and Accra commitments
   - Carry forward and strengthen the Paris and Accra commitments through realizing democratic ownership in development cooperation
   - Implement full transparency as the basis for strengthened accountability and good governance
b. Strengthen development effectiveness through practices based on human rights standards
   - Commit to and implement rights-based approaches to development
   - Promote and implement gender equality and women's rights
   - Implement the Decent Work Agenda as the cornerstone for socially inclusive and sustainable development strategies
c. Support CSOs as independent development actors in their own right, and commit to an enabling environment for their work in all countries; and
   - Endorse the *Istanbul Principles* and acknowledge the Open Forum's *International Framework on CSO Development Effectiveness* to put these *Principles* into practice
   - Agree on minimum standards for government and donor policies, laws, regulations and practices that create an enabling environment for CSOs
d. Promote equitable and just development cooperation architecture.
   - Launch an inclusive Busan Compact at HLF4, which brings together specific time-bound commitments and initiates fundamental reforms in the global governance of development cooperation
   - Create an equitable and inclusive multilateral forum for policy dialogue and standard setting

Delivering the key message may be done by maximizing different media platforms. Engaging the media, however, is a challenging yet rewarding way of conveying the key message to the general public. It could be done by holding a press briefing or a conference where the media can be informed comprehensively about the development effectiveness advocacy and accompanying references may be provided to them.

**E. Monitoring and Evaluating an Advocacy**

Monitoring is largely based on the indicators identified at the outset. Indicators may include key messages of your advocacy. Monitoring may include transcriptions of interviews and engagements with target audiences and their responses. It can also include impact on public opinion by taking note of every media exposure on TV, radio, print and online platforms. Evaluation, on the other hand, measures the achievement of goals and objectives.

Monitoring and evaluation can be carried out through qualitative methods involving social research (i.e—focus interviews, focus group discussions) or quantitatively through surveys. These two processes may be employed several times during the whole implementation of any advocacy. Indicators and measurements may change according to the developments mandated by the outcomes of every monitoring and evaluation processes.

**E. Capacity Building**

Advocacy also deals with the smart disposition of machinery. In the social work discipline, advocacy demands at least four skills: (a) information gathering (mapping the environment); (b) negotiation skills and assertiveness; (c) skills in case presentation; and (d) skills in working with different types of people and groups

- **Training.** Training may be appropriated in accordance with the envisioned output and impact of the advocacy. At the frontline of training is education—both on the subject of the advocacy and the theoretical foundations provided by different social work disciplines.
- **Practice**. The most effective way of building and improving the capacity of the advocates is subjecting their theoretical knowledge to incessant practice where their application can be a gauge of their development. Practice should always be subjected to monitoring and evaluation.

**F. Expanding Network and Mobilizing Support**

- Alliance-building, Coalition-building:
  - » In generating support for any advocacy, you should map out the actors that play crucial roles in the achievement of your goals and objectives. These can be other CSOs, labor unions, people's organizations, government offices, cabinet secretaries, and so on.
  - » Forge unity: different sectors, groups or individuals may initially have a different perspective or stand on your advocacy, the important thing is finding the common ground. Unity may not be primarily about principle, but an agreement on activities that forward your advocacy. Once they have been engaged in a single unity, their involvement can be struggled out to reach heightened unities, until their full potential is maximized for the success of the advocacy.
- Stakeholder Involvement:
  - » Finding a way to mobilize the stakeholders will contribute to the credibility of the whole advocacy. If an advocacy is backed by a strong movement, the more likely it can gravitate more supporters and networks.

# *Session 3*
# Purpose of Public Awareness on Development Effectiveness

**SESSION OBJECTIVE**
Understand and appreciate the importance of informing the public on aid

**TIME**
30 mins

**MATERIALS**
Powerpoint presentation

**PROCESS**
1. Discuss the objective of this session.
2. Open the session by asking the participants the following questions (this should also help gauge the extent of participants' initiatives in terms of engaging the public on aid)

- What are your initiatives in informing the public regarding development effectiveness?
- What was/were the public's response?
- How are CSOs instrumental in engaging the public to be aware on development effectiveness?
- Why is it important to get the public involved and informed about development effectiveness?

**CONTENT**
The crucial impetus for engaging the public on aid is the fact that aid flows from one developed country to help developing/emerging economies achieve development. Each nation's right to development is enshrined in the United Nation's Declaration 41/128 as well as in the Vienna Declaration of 1993.

Development actors, especially CSOs recognize the importance of aid to achieve development. However, they equally recognize that aid is vulnerable to misuse and abuse—making conditions worse rather than resolving them.

The public should be considered as important machinery in ensuring development effectiveness. By engaging the public, massive and collective grassroots support is encouraged to prevent aid from being used for graft and corruption, illegal debt, tied aid, and so on. Public information is also important to ensure that aid money contribute to alleviating poverty and other development agenda of a nation.

## *Session 4*
## Ensuring Access to Accurate and Appropriate Data and Information on Development Effectiveness

**SESSION OBJECTIVE**
Learn some strategies on how to ensure access of CSOs and other stakeholders on information related to development effectiveness

**TIME**
30 min

**MATERIALS**
Powerpoint presentation, projector, computer

**PROCESS**
Present a powerpoint presentation based on the contents below. Allow for questions, clarifications and sharing at the end of the presentation.

**CONTENT**[1]

**Establishment and maintenance of database**

a. Sustained public awareness can be facilitated by the establishment of information or network center. This may take the form of an online portal where information related to development effectiveness (e.g. official development assistance) can be accessible to the public. It can also be designed in such a way that the public will be engaged to contribute to the information drive or archiving by using available online tools for possible crowd-sourcing of information on aid. To protect the credibility of the information portal, any crowd-sourced information should be subjected to verification.
b. The database should be able to provide crucial information such as: who are the multi-stakeholders involved in the facilitation of the specific aid? What is the extent of CSO participation in monitoring the aid? What is the specific objective of the aid? What are the outcomes of aid? Or the expected outcomes? What is the response of the public? etc.

**Popularize research, monitoring and evaluation results and transform these as tools for development education.**
To sustain and gravitate people to get involved in reforms, tools for aid monitoring and evaluation should be developed and made accessible to the public. In this manner, the weight of development effectiveness advocacy will not be concentrated on CSOs. The public can be considered as partners in the success of the advocacy.

**Publication of reports at the country-level**

a. Information on development effectiveness can be enhanced if there is coordination between and among civil society and organizations at the country level. It becomes crucial to synergize efforts in monitoring aid to develop cooperation and establish country-level facts on aid and development effectiveness.
b. CSOs at the country-level can convene or devise coordination mechanisms to develop reports that can be made available to the public. These reports can be published through regularized newsletter or similar publications.

1 The content of this session is likewise used in Session 4 of Module III on Data Management. However, as this is an important component of the whole training on Disseminating and Popularizing and Information on Development Effectiveness, it has been included here. If a prior training on Data Management was conducted, the outcome and discussion points in that training can be used as take off point in this session to avoid unnecessary repetition.

# *Session 5*
# Main Channels of Raising Public Awareness on Development Effectiveness

**SESSION OBJECTIVE**

Learn and appreciate the different channels that can be maximized as tools to facilitate public information on aid and development effectiveness

**TIME**

30 mins

**MATERIALS**

Powerpoint presentation

**PROCESS**

1. The facilitator should explain the session objective to the participants.
2. Begin the discussion by presenting a powerpoint presentation based on the content below.
3. Solicit examples from the participants to gauge their experience in public awareness initiatives on any advocacy of their respective CSOs.

**CONTENT**

**What are the main channels of public awareness on development effectiveness?**

*Forums*

The most appropriate way of informing the public regarding any type of issue, subject or advocacy is doing a series of forums that provides venue for a comprehensive discussion. It also allows the participants to be engaged by allotting time for questions and answers. It can also be maximized as a venue for movement building where discussants and the audience alike can agree on a unity statement or a manifesto, share common aspirations and commit to its achievement.

Aside from large-scale discussions, education can also take the form of publicity materials that also allows for an in-depth discussion of any topic. These include infographics, primers, newsletter, and so on.

*Public Participation*

Another effective way of informing the public is by directly engaging them in the information awareness drive on development effectiveness. At present there is a wide-range of platforms where receptiveness of the public can be measured by their participation. These include *sign-on efforts or online petitions* that can be annexed to social networking sites. The signatures collated can be used for future *lobbying efforts* to decision-makers and influencers.

*Broadcast*

Traditional media such as television and radio promise to reach a wide and diverse demographic. Regardless of platform, it is key to know your target audience and your key message.

Broadcast media may be costly but has proven to be an effective way of reaching the general public. It also delivers timely information and has a high-impact to the audience. CSOs can explore creative ways to get the media involved. CSOs can approach media outfits and propose their advocacy as a public service segment/infomercial/CSR activity.

*Print media*

Broadsheets and tabloids have a diverse profile of readership. To most, broadsheets deal with more serious readership from middle class to businessmen and corporate people, while tabloid is often associated with the masses that actively look for the light side in every hard news. Magazines have a more narrowed and specified audience.

*Information and network centers*

It is important to establish both a physical and virtual headquarters where the general public can access immediate information regarding your advocacy. The need for physical headquarters facilitates local engagements while virtual portals such as websites promote international exchanges and access to information.

## *Session 6* Maximizing Media for Public Awareness on Development Effectiveness

**SESSION OBJECTIVES**

1. Learn the importance of using media for maximizing dissemination of development effectiveness information
2. Create a media action plan for disseminating or popularizing aid information

**TIME**

45 mins

**MATERIALS**

audio/visual presentation, cartolina or manila paper, markers

**PROCESS**

1. Discuss the session objectives.
2. Present a powerpoint based on the contents below. Encourage questions at the end of the presentation.
3. Ask the participants to go back to their respective groups in Session 2. From their initial advocacy plan that they carried out in the previous session, ask them to implement a complementary media plan. Remind the participants of the following considerations:
   - Who is your target audience? (This will guide your participants in choosing the media most efficient for their advocacy)
   - What medium or media are you going to use to optimize the delivery of your key messages?
   - When are you going to deliver your key messages over media? (what are your timing considerations)
   - What are your expected output or impact in using media for your advocacy mileage?
4. Ask each group to share the media plan they developed.

**Table 4.1** Advantages and Disadvantages of Different Media Platforms

| MEDIA PLATFORM | ADVANTAGES | DISADVANTAGES | HOW TO OPTIMIZE FOR EFFICACY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Television | • It can reach a wide demographic<br>• Creates an impression of urgency; delivers timely message | • Very costly<br>• repetition is needed to create an impact to the audience | • Choose the top-ranking networks<br>• Choose the peak hours of viewership/ listenership<br>• Choose which shows are being watched/ listened to by your target audience |
| Radio | • -It can be effective for those who spend a significant amount of time listening to the radio or has loyalty to a specific program or station<br>• Cost-effective | • No visuals<br>• Commercials or out-of-the-program advisories are often neglected by listeners | |
| Broadsheets | • it can discuss any topic comprehensively<br>• subject appeal can be maximized by strategizing the use of text and visuals | • Dwindling reach or circulation<br>• weak content recall<br>• Has the tendency to be cluttered, makes it hard to grab the attention of target audience | • Choose the print media that best appeals to your target audience<br>• design the content in such a way that will hold your audience captive<br>• aim for sustained print media mileage by having columns dedicated to your advocacy |
| Magazines | • has a distinct target audience | • has the tendency to be shelved, it cannot deliver timely message/s | |
| Online Media | • very cost effective, different online platforms are free<br>• different programs can be integrated with one another<br>• can merge print, audio and visual all at the same time<br>• facilitates rapid exchange of information across the globe | • can be discriminating for those who don't have regular access to the internet<br>• some programs or websites can be difficult to some users | • Different online platforms have been created to suit the specific needs. Be discriminating of the online platform to use that will deliver the envisioned outcomes and impact of any advocacy. |

**CONTENT**

An important reminder in disseminating information on development effectiveness is the articulation of the key message/s across different target audiences. Different media platforms can be used to effectively disseminate information.

# Summary and Evaluation

To the instructor / facilitator:

1. Recall the outline and summarize the main points in the module.
2. Ask the participants the following questions for evaluation:

- Were their expectations met?
- Did the course meet its objectives?
- What can they say about the following aspects of the course: a) content, b) time and method of instruction / facilitation, c) competence of the instructor / facilitator, d) technical concerns
- Are there questions left unanswered?
- Are there suggestions for further improvement?

3. Summarize the key points of assessment and wrap up the course.

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## ABOUT REALITY OF AID-ASIA PACIFIC

The Reality of Aid Network - Asia Pacific is the regional unit of the Reality of Aid Network. The goal of the RoA Network is to coordinate global civil society voices, with leadership from the South, for effective development cooperation strategies to eliminate poverty and inequality, based on principles of human rights, global solidarity and equity in North/South development cooperation. RoA achieves these through the preparation and publication of evidence-based researches and critical analyses on international development cooperation, capacity development of CSOs, and national and international lobbying.

RoA AP implemented BetterAid's project "Catalyzing the Broad Country Implementation of the Accra Agenda for Action." From 2009-2011, RoA AP provided technical and financial assistance for CSOs to implement their plans in 20 countries. In addition, RoA AP also conducted 3 special regional consultations and workshops in the Pacific, North Africa and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, reaching out to CSOs in 24 countries. Overall, RoA AP, through the program, was able to reach out to thousands of CSOs and national platforms in 44 countries. In 2012, RoA-AP was elected to be the Asia Pacific secretariat of the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE), a reconstituted framework replacing BetterAid and Open Forum, which unites CSOs from around the world on the issue of development effectiveness.

The Reality of Aid
An Independent Review of Poverty Reduction and Development Assistance

in partnership with

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## ABOUT THIS MODULE

This training course on CSO Aid Observatorio is part of the project of the Reality of Aid Network – Asia Pacific (RoA AP) to strengthen the capacities of CSOs to monitor aid and to promote CSO partnerships and cohesiveness of aid monitoring work towards evidence-based policy engagement on aid and development effectiveness in their countries. It is developed to equip various CSOs from different countries in the region with necessary skills in setting-up and sustaining CSO Aid Observatorio for better informed advocacy and policy recommendations. The training course aims to impart basic knowledge on the purpose of a CSO Aid Observatorio, to establish the roles and functions of a CSO Aid Observatorio, and to equip the participants with necessary knowledge to manage and overcome challenges in operating a CSO Aid Observatorio. At the end of the whole training, the trained participants are expected to take the lead in reaching out to other CSOs and communities to involve them in the aid monitoring and lobbying work.

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