

BetterAid update

BetterAid is a civil society open platform that has been working on development cooperation and challenging the aid effectiveness agenda since January 2007.

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A newsletter from BetterAid. Contact comms@betteraid.org to subscribe or make contributions.

Welcome to the BetterAid Update, covering civil society activities globally on aid and development effectiveness. Activities are gaining pace towards the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4) in Busan at the end of this year.

This newsletter showcases the document 'CSOs on the Road to Busan: Key Messages and Proposals', drafted at a civil society strategy meeting in March in Sweden, and finalised in collaboration with civil society organizations (CSOs) worldwide. The document will serve as a backbone for civil society policy demands for HLF4. You can endorse the document on the BetterAid website. The document launches along with a video shedding light on a wide range of civil society voices speaking about the challenges and successes, hopes and vision for Busan.

The last few months have seen global civil society consultations on development effectiveness in the context of major themes: labour, agriculture, and and gender. African CSOs also held a meeting to establish African CSO asks towards Busan.

National consultations have taken place in Nigeria, Philippines and Indonesia, and updates can be found on the Reality of Aid website.

Civil society has also been active monitoring and pushing donors and partners to respect aid effectiveness commitments around the world. In Bangladesh protestors have been protesting against a \$1bn IMF Loan to Bangladesh, in the US, civil society has been monitoring how the US has been respecting the Paris Declaration, and Japanese CSOs have been urging Japan not to cut its aid budget in the face of the tsunami crisis in Japan.

In recent months civil society has engaged in several important international events crucial to the aid and development effectiveness agenda, starting with the UN Development Cooperation Forum (UNDCF) symposium on May 5th -6th in Mali. Just before the event, BetterAid submitted a response to the UNDCF's draft strategy for 2012.

BetterAid was also present at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the

Least Developed Countries, submitting a statement asking for ambitious commitments on aid effectiveness, and running a side event on development effectiveness and Busan.

Last month BetterAid wrote a letter to G8 members, asking for the G8 to take a stronger stance on aid effectiveness commitments, following the G8 summit in Deauville, France, earlier in May.

BetterAid with partner organization Reality of Aid will work in the coming months to share the CSO key asks and proposals documents with CSOs and other aid actors worldwide, and will take the document to meetings of the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness in Paris in July.

To contribute to the BetterAid newsletter or website, please email comms@betteraid.org. The BetterAid Update will be sent out monthly in the run up to Busan.

Civil society visions for Busan

Civil society organizations worldwide contribute in unique and essential ways to development as independent and innovative agents of change. For the first time in the history of high level OECD events, the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness will include CSOs as official participants, recognizing them as equal and important development actors in their own right.

CSOs believe that substantial progress in four inter-dependent areas of reform is essential for a meaningful and ambitious Busan Compact on Development Effectiveness.

Firstly, there should be a full evaluation and deepening of the Paris and Accra commitments. For civil society, through BetterAid (which is an open platform for all CSOs participating in aid effectiveness processes), this means taking stock of where existing commitments by governments and donors haven't been respected, and why. It also means ensuring that future commitments bind development actors – donors and partners alike – to fulfilling these commitments, and to making

their processes transparent. Most importantly, the Busan compact should promote meaningful democratic ownership of development policies, planning and actions through full engagement with, and accountability to, all development stakeholders.

Civil society would also like to see that development effectiveness is strengthened through practices based on human rights standards that focus on the eradication of the causes of poverty and inequality. Central to this idea is the respect of gender equality, human rights and decent work standards.

Thirdly, CSOs ask that the Busan Compact continues to recognize CSOs as independent development actors in their own right, and commits donors and recipient governments to facilitating an enabling environment for their work in all countries. In practice this means that signatories to the Busan Compact acknowledge the Open Forum's International Framework on CSO Development Effectiveness as a collective global CSO statement on the principles that guide our work as development actors and how we put those guiding principles into practice. This also means committing to minimum standards for government and donor policies, laws, regulations and practices that create and sustain an enabling environment for CSOs.

Finally, beyond the HLF4, civil society calls for future

aid effectiveness commitments to promote an equitable and just development cooperation architecture. As an immediate successor to the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness, a fully inclusive, developing country-led multilateral forum should be created. This forum will have a clear mandate for policy dialogue and standard-setting on development effectiveness, and will take account of the important role of the United Nations in these areas.

CSOs represent a vast and diverse range of voices in development policy debates at national, regional and global levels, and will be bringing that diversity of expertise and experience to the discussion and debates at HLF4. Through BetterAid and the Open Forum, civil society organizations will be actively engaging with all of the important issues that all development actors must tackle in our collective efforts to improve the effectiveness of aid and development around the world. Indeed, we all must keep the issues of human rights, poverty reduction, gender equality, social justice, decent work and environmental sustainability at the core of our work at HLF4.

This article represents the views of global civil society. Its preparation was facilitated by BetterAid in agreement and cooperation with a wide range of international CSOs.

Latest news on official aid and events

2010 – 2012: a crucial time for the UN Development Cooperation Forum

BetterAid submitted a statement in response to the draft strategy for Phase III of the United Nations Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) released on 24 March 2011.

While CSOs welcome the ambition of DCF to become “the main global forum where developed and developing countries hold each other to account” on international development cooperation commitments, there are some concerns regarding the breadth of the commitments as well as regarding some key substance areas.

Read the statement here: http://betteraid.org/es/member-downloads/doc_download/265-ba-cso-statement-on-dcf-strategy-2010-2012.html

BetterAid statement to the UN LDC IV Conference

BetterAid issued a statement calling for the UN LDC-IV Conference 9-13th May 2011 to transcend ‘business as usual’ to yield robust and ambitious plans. According to BetterAid, this is the only way that the gap between the ‘haves and have-nots’ can be narrowed within the coming decade.

Download BetterAid’s statement to the UN LDC IV Conference: http://betteraid.org/en/member-downloads/doc_download/277-betteraid-statement-to-the-un-ldc-iv-conference.html

G8 declaration won’t work without effective development aid

The G8 Deauville Declaration includes no commitments to making development aid more effective, despite this being vital to achieving the G8’s broader concerns. With a key international forum on aideffectiveness approaching in December, the time is now for the G8 to demonstrate that aid effectiveness is a priority.

BetterAid sent a letter to G8 members outlining this, and detailing concrete actions on aid effectiveness that governments must commit to.

Download the letter here: http://betteraid.org/en/member-downloads/doc_download/285-betteraid-letter-to-g8-june-2011.html

CSO activities

Country consultations on aid effectiveness

The implementation of the Paris Declaration (PD) and the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA)- international commitments on aid effectiveness- is at country level, and different stakeholders- including civil society organizations - are expected to effectively engage their country governments and financial partners/donors. To this end, IBON and the Reality of Aid Network are organising a series of consultations with civil society organisations in several countries around the world. These processes are expected to contribute towards strengthening the civil society voice in the High Level Forum IV on Aid Effectiveness in 2011, including BetterAid position papers and advocacy. On this page are updates from some of these country consultations.

Africa

Nigerian CSOs urge government and donors to provide an enabling environment for cooperation

A CSO and multi-stakeholder consultation on aid effectiveness took place on April 19-20, 2011. CSOs endorsed the BetterAid Key Asks document as the Nigerian CSOs' position towards Busan, and urged the federal government and the donor community to create an enabling environment that maximizes aid and development effectiveness, in accordance with the AAA.

Asia/Pacific

Philippines- at Busan and beyond: claiming the people's right to development:

CSOs from all over the Philippines gathered on Friday, April 29 in a strategy meeting tagged as "In Busan and beyond: Claiming the People's Right to Development". The meeting merged aid effectiveness and its parallel process CSO development effectiveness in the country. This initiative which aims to further advance Filipino people's development issues in the global community is the first of its kind in Asia-Pacific.

After the workshop, AidWatch Philippines announced its series of CSO gatherings towards the HLF4 and its projects, which include an independent report on the Philippine government's implementation of the 2005 Paris Declaration in the country.

Indonesia- Asia regional workshop on CSO aid and development effectiveness:

Jakarta – The Open Forum, in cooperation with the Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN), organized a regional workshop on CSOs aid and development effectiveness in Jakarta Indonesia, May 3-4. CSOs aimed to gather momentum and intensify their advocacy towards the HLF4 in Busan Korea. In this capacity, the IBON/

RoA Country Outreach Team presented the BetterAid's process that offers opportunities for CSO involvement on the road to Busan, by commenting and endorsing BetterAid's 'CSO Key Asks' document. The workshop succeeded in raising awareness of CSO's development effectiveness agenda, deepen the discussions on the draft global framework for CSO development effectiveness and come up with plans and mechanisms to coordinate national and regional advocacy towards Busan.



Upcoming country consultations

Asia/Pacific

Regional

– Eastern Europe and Central Asia

CSO Workshop and Multistakeholder Consultation

Turkey, August 2011 (tentative)

– Pacific CSO Workshop on Aid and Development Effectiveness

Nadj, Fiji, July 8-9 2011 Indonesia

-Road Map Busan: The Role of Civil Society in Development Effective-

ness

8-9 June 2011, Jakarta

Pakistan

12-13 June, Lahore

China

– Research Meeting on the Future of

Chinese ODA (TBA)

Lebanon

– Aid and Development Effectiveness CSO Workshop and Multi-stakeholder Consultation

21-22 June 2011, Beirut

Fiji

– CSO Workshop on Aid and Development Effectiveness

– 05 July 2011, Suva

Tajikistan

– CSO Workshop and Multistakeholder Consultation on Aid and Development Effectiveness

21-22 July 2011

Latin America

Bolivia

CSO asks on the road to Busan

“CSOs on the road to Busan: Key messages and proposals” lays out the main demands from civil society organizations (CSOs) in the run up to the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan in November 2011.

It was drafted in consultation with CSOs participating in the BetterAid and Open Forum processes. The final version was drafted following a CSO strategy meeting in Sweden in March 2011. The paper is a living document. We invite CSOs to propose comments and contributions, to be considered in the future when the paper is revisited.

Civil society organizations can sign on to the paper on the BetterAid website.

Please send any comments on the paper, or tell us how you have used the “CSO asks on the road to Busan” to affect change or initiate dialogue in your work. Write to us at comms@betteraid.org.

“CSOs on the road to Busan: Key messages and proposals”
http://www.betteraid.org/en/member-downloads/doc_download/275-csoasks.html

Rights group in Bangladesh protest \$1bn IMF Loan and its conditionality

On April 19th, thirteen right based civil society organizations led by EquityBD, protested the government plan to take a 1 Bn USD loan and fulfil its conditionality. They urged the government not to take the loan as such conditionality, especially money contraction and VAT expansion, are anti poor and anti country. The rally and human chain were held in front of the national press club, participated by Arpan, Bangladesh Bhumihin Somitee, Bangladesh Kshihani Shova, Coastal Development Partnership, Bangladesh Krishok Federation, EquityBD, Lead

Trust, La via Campesina Bangladesh, Media Foundation for Trade and Development, On Line Knowledge Center, Prodip, VOICE and Uddipan. The rally was moderated by Mostafa Kamal Akanda of EquityBD; other speakers at the rally were Ziad Iqbal Khan, Subal Sarkar, Syed Aminul Haque, Prodip Kumar Roy and Rezaul Karim Chowdhury.

More information here: <http://www.equitybd.org/campaigns/economicjustice/debtandifis/humanchain19042011>



African civil society drafts key messages to fourth high level forum on aid effectiveness

African civil society organizations met in February to discuss their key messages to the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, Republic of Korea, in November/December. Effective use of development aid is crucial in Africa, where nearly 50% of the population lives on less than USD 1.25 per day.

African CSOs note that in order for Africa to see a fundamental change, the continent needs the aid effectiveness debate to shift towards the development effectiveness agenda. This requires that discussions and negotiations on aid and development take cognisance of the need for an inclusive process of all citizens of the continent, a rights-based approach and democratic ownership principles.

While African CSOs note progress on current

aid effectiveness commitments, especially on operational and administrative responsibilities of aid, they call on aid actors to strengthen and deepen the gains already made. The leadership of Africa must push for aid effectiveness to deliver development results.

See African CSO demands to governments in Africa here: <http://betteraid.org/en/news/aid-and-developing-countries/434-african-civil-society-drafts-key-messages-to-fourth-high-level-forum-on-aid-effectiveness-.html>

Japanese NGOs urge Japan's government to maintain ODA budget following tsunami

On April 7, it was reported that the Democratic Party of Japan's Great East Japan Earthquake Recovery and Reconstruction Study Commission asked the government to reduce the ODA budget for the current fiscal year by 20% in order to secure enough funding for the first supplementary post-earthquake reconstruction budget.

Seeing the situation as a serious crisis of Japanese ODA, Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC) released a statement against the proposal. Aid predictability

is a cornerstone of aid effectiveness agreements such as the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action- development planners need certainty that what is pledged is actually what is made available.

The statement is available here: <http://betteraid.org/en/news/aid-and-development/443-japanese-ngos-urge-japans-government-to-maintain-oda-budget-following-tsunami.html>

Evaluating the Paris Declaration in the U.S.

Five years after signing the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the U.S. government is among the more than twenty donors whose implementation of the Declaration's five principles has been reviewed and assessed as part of the OECD/DAC's evaluation process. Independent evaluators conducted studies of seven U.S. government agencies that manage aspects of U.S. foreign assistance. These include USAID, the Department of State and the Millennium Challenge Corporation. The resulting reports were incorporated into an overall synthesis report.

The Paris Declaration is a five-year plan for reform of aid practices comprising five principles intended to make aid delivery more effective. Those principles are:

- country ownership,
- alignment to country priorities,
- harmonization of the terms for aid,
- management for results of aid, and
- mutual accountability for these results.

Given that key aspects of these principles are reflected in the outcomes of the recent foreign assistance reform processes in the U.S. and that the Paris Declaration's state-centric definition of country ownership has been used to the detriment of civil society organizations in countries around the world, it is important that U.S. NGOs make their voices heard in the succeeding agreement. The 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, which will determine the shape of commitments beyond the Paris Declaration, will take place November 29-December 1 in Busan, South Korea.

For more information on the Paris Declaration and its implementation by the U.S. government, please visit: <http://www.interaction.org/article/evaluating-paris-declaration>

Trade unionists gather in Paris for development effectiveness consultation

60 trade unionists from around the globe, including a large representation from Africa and Latin America and from South Korea, together with representation from Europe and North America, gathered at the OECD Conference centre in Paris for a three day consultation on Development Effectiveness from 8 to 10 of March 2011.

The consultation, supported by BetterAid, addressed the questions of the promotion of a new development model focusing on the Aid Effectiveness Agenda. Responding to John Evans, Secretary General of the Train Union Advisory Committee (TUAC), Brian Atwood, Chair of the Development Assistance Committee/OECD stressed that the Fourth High Level Forum on Development Effectiveness (HLF IV) to take place in Busan at the end of 2011 will be the last big opportunity to fuel more decisive action on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). He therewith stressed the urgency

for action and lifted the ambition for the HLF IV.

Raymond Torres, International Institute for Labour Studies (ILO), Gemma Adaba International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and Tony Tujan (BetterAid), identified global changes and challenges for development, including growing inequality as the consequence of jobless growth strategies and unproductive capital accumulation; the need for redistribution policies and the primacy of social development strategies over economic strategies in order to develop a sustainable growth for development.

Read more from the consultation here: <http://betteraid.org/en/news/events/436-trade-unionists-gather-in-paris-for-development-effectiveness-consultation.html>

Philippine CSO national consultation on ODA, Agrarian Reform and Food Sovereignty:

ODA for foreign dominance, counter-insurgency and corruption in the midst of worsening poverty, hunger and landlessness

A national consultation on ODA, agrarian reform and food sovereignty held in Quezon City on March 25, 2011 was attended by over 60 representatives hailing from diverse sectors including peasant leaders from nearly every region of the country. The consultation revealed that at present, aid in agriculture reinforces corruption in bureaucracy and has been used to facilitate land-grabbing, and to intensify corporate agriculture. As a consequence it has contributed to the militarization of the countryside. Based on the experiences of peasants and other marginalized sectors in the Philippines the consultation concluded that to this date, ODA supported programs in agriculture have failed for the poor and contributed to the intensification of poverty, hunger and landlessness.

The consultation was characterized by diverse views from different actors. For

example the contribution of Danilo Ramos, Secretary General of Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) and the Asia Peasant Coalition, discussed the Imperatives of agrarian reform and food sovereignty as a platform for advocacy and campaign against poverty, hunger and landlessness. Highlighting the struggle of the KMP for genuine land reform in the Philippines, he called for the nationwide and international strengthening of multi sectoral support for the peasants' struggle. Overall, participants agreed to engage on the issues of aid and development and heighten the campaigns against different land-grabbing and corporate farming schemes that impact negatively on the poor. The event was a collaborative effort of the Peoples' Coalition for Food Sovereignty(PCFS), the Asian Peasant Coalition, (APC), the Reality of Aid, (RoA) and the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, (KMP) with the support of BetterAid.



Upcoming events

Calendar of aid effectiveness events:

<http://betteraid.org/en/activities/month.calendar/2011/06/04/--.html>

Open Forum Global assembly 2011

27th-30th June 2011, Cambodia

http://www.cso-effectiveness.org/spip.php?page=rubrique&id_rubrique=75

12th AWID International Forum on Women's Rights and Development

April 19-22, 2012, Istanbul

Transforming economic power... are you up to the challenge?

<http://www.forum.awid.org/forum12/>



REPORTS

Transparency International

Global Corruption Report

http://www.transparency.org/news_room/in_focus/2011/gcr_climate_change

Alliance 2015

Democratic ownership beyond Busan: building inclusive partnerships for development

<http://www.alliance2015.org/index.php?id=54>

Access Info

The Secret State of EU Transparency Reforms

<http://tinyurl.com/5whyv8w>

Intermón Oxfam

Reality of Aid report 2010

http://www.intermonoxfam.org/UnidadesInformacion/anexos/12115/110209_realidadayuda.pdf

Reality of Aid

2010 Reality of Aid report

<http://tinyurl.com/6fqomwy>

Eurodad

Procurement, tied aid and country systems in Nicaragua, Bangladesh

http://www.eurodad.org/uploadedFiles/Whats_New/Reports/Nicaragua.pdf?n=2854

Afrodad

Assessment of progress made in PD and AAA: The Case of South Africa

http://www.afrodad.org/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=141&Itemid=16

AWID

'Development cooperation beyond the aid effectiveness paradigm: A women's rights perspective'

http://www.awid.org/Media/Files/Dev_Co-Op_Women-Rights_Perspective_ENG

Primer 8: The Accra Agenda for Action: A brief review from a women's rights perspective

<http://www.awid.org/content/download/103005/1189184/file/Primer%208.pdf>

Primer 9: The road to Korea 2011: Key official and civil society actors

http://www.awid.org/Media/Files/IDeA_Primer9

Brief 10: The Impact of the Global Economic Crisis on Women and Women's Human Rights Across Regions (2010 Edition)

http://www.awid.org/Media/Files/ICW_2010_Regional

Save the children

The Least Developed Countries: Biggest Challenges, Least Assistance

www.betteraid.org/.../466-the-least-developed-countries-biggest-challenges-least-assistance.html