

BetterAid update

A newsletter from BetterAid. Contact cbirkett@eurodad.org to subscribe or make contributions.

UPDATE FROM THE BETTERAID COORDINATING GROUP

The BetterAid Coordinating Group has been working hard to promote civil society's key asks ahead of the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4) since these important demands were launched during meetings of the WPEFF in July. Over 1200 CSOs globally have already endorsed the asks, and organizations all around the world have been using the document "CSOs on the road to Busan: Key messages and proposals" to advocate to their governments and other development stakeholders. The key asks were the result of CSO collaboration from groups across the globe. As well as these global demands, different thematic groups have developed their own key asks towards Busan. There is more detail on these and how they are being used in this newsletter.

Civil society key asks to Busan:

- A fully evaluate and deepen the Paris and Accra commitment
- B strengthen development effectiveness through practices based on human rights standards
- C support CSOs as independent development actors in their own right and commit to an enabling environment for their work in all countries
- D promote equitable and just development cooperation architecture.

Sign on to the CSO Key Messages and Proposals for HLF4 on the BetterAid website: <http://www.betteraid.org/en/about-us/sign-on-to-cso-asks.html>

The Paris Declaration Monitoring Survey was released on 22nd September and showed that in the past five years there has been little progress in meeting aid



effectiveness commitments, particularly on the donor side. This disappointing progress proves that an ambitious outcome document coming from the HLF4 which includes civil society's demands is even more urgent. Yet the outcome document from the HLF4, currently in the drafting stages, still does not adequately address civil society's concerns. More on BetterAid's response to the survey and to the first draft of the outcome document is covered in this newsletter. BetterAid is currently drafting a response to the second draft of the document. In a recent bid to strengthen it, BetterAid sent a letter to the Task Team on Conditionalities at the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness asking for a stronger message in the document on putting a stop to conditionalities. The plenary and side meetings of the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness in the first week of October were the latest opportunity for

civil society to push for their messages to be included in the outcome document. The week included meetings of the 'building blocks' - initiatives set up after the previous WPEFF meetings in July to implement aid effectiveness commitments after Busan - and the plenary focused on discussions of the next outcome document from HLF4. An update from the meetings will soon be posted on the BetterAid website.

Outside of the official OECD process on aid effectiveness, BetterAid sent a letter to the G20 Development Working Group asking the G20 to put aid effectiveness high on their agenda.

The BetterAid Coordinating Group is also making progress with preparations for the Global Civil Society Forum that will precede HLF4 from 26th-28th November. More information follows in this newsletter.

UPDATE FROM THE OPEN FORUM ON CSO DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS

At the Open Forum Global Assembly 2011 in Cambodia, delegates agreed on the final edits to the International Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness in what is now referred to as the Siem Reap CSO Consensus. The product of over 70 consultations worldwide, the International Framework is a consolidated statement from global civil society on the principles and standards that guide our development work and the enabling conditions required from governments and donors. With the finalization of the International Framework, the Open Forum is entering the final phase of its mandate - that of encouraging context-

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specific implementation and advocacy of the International Framework by CSOs worldwide with the help of two accompanying Toolkits. Open Forum will be disseminating the International Framework amongst CSOs and seeking its acknowledgement by governments and donors at the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in December 2011 (HLF4).

Indeed, the International Framework is an integral part of the CSO Key Asks for HLF4 under point C, detailing the role of civil society as independent development actors. Independent of its HLF4 role, the International Framework represents a distinct collective, representative and long-term reference for development work by CSOs the world over, and which CSOs will

be building on in years to come.

Endorse the International Framework as a civil society organization, and share your plans for implementation. More information: www.cso-effectiveness.org and info@cso-effectiveness.org.

Events

The Fourth high Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4)

HLF4 will take place on the 29th of November, 30th of November and 1st of December 2011 in Busan, South Korea. 300 CSOs will be present for the official HLF4 negotiations at the BEXCO Convention Centre. The CSOs at HLF4 were selected via the global call to be accredited as a Civil Society Organization participant publically launched on April 8 2011 and closed on May 15th.

CSOs that are attending should have received an invitation letter for the HLF-4 (29 November – 1 December 2011) from the Republic of Korea, and should complete the online registration for the HLF-4 as soon as possible:

<http://www.hlf4-registration.org/r/>.

Official website of HLF4: www.busanhlf4.org

Journalists can now apply for accreditation to attend HLF4.

See here: <http://www.aideffectiveness.org/busanhlf4/fr/newsroom/media-accreditation.html>



Global Civil Society Forum

The Global Civil Society Forum will take place on 26- 28 November 2011 in Busan, South Korea – just ahead of the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4).

The purpose of the CSO pre-event ahead of HLF4 is to coordinate and mobilize civil society around the multi-lateral negotiations on aid and development at this important event. Indeed, HLF4 marks the first time that civil society will take part in these series of events on an equal basis with governments and donors.

The agenda of the CSO pre-event is currently being finalized, and will include plenary sessions as well as self-organized workshops.

For additional information, please contact simonds@tuac.org, secretariat@betteraid.org and aporteria@ibon.org.

BetterAid for the World We Want

On 17th October- the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, civil society organizations all around the world officially launch the “Better Aid for the world we want” campaign, mobilizing public support for the civil society asks towards the upcoming High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness that will take place in Busan, South Korea in November this year. Events take place in Uganda, Liberia, Ghana, Malawi, Cameroon, Sri Lanka, India, Argentina and Nicaragua, encouraging the public to sign the petition asking governments to ensure that citizens’ voices are heard in development and aid decisions. The signatures will be collected on the campaign postcards as well as online at www.betteraid.org/campaign. The campaign is part of the wider ‘The World We Want’ campaign led by Global Coalition for the Eradication of Poverty.

CSO activities

Country Outreach on Development Effectiveness

The IBON/Reality of Aid (RoA) country outreach program increased its efforts to facilitate country consultations of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), on the broad implementation of the AAA, to reach countries in Asia Pacific, Africa and Latin America. The common objective of each of these consultations is to increase CSO involvement and engagement with government agencies, donor organizations and other aid actors in ensuring the effective implementation of the AAA and PD. Information on recent consultations is available in the Country Outreach team's newsletter, available here: <http://www.realityofaid.org/country-outreach/downloadv2/82>

The second part of the Reality of Aid's 'Case Stories of Civil Society Engagement on Aid Effectiveness' booklet is now in the

making. The first booklet contained entries from seven selected CSOs in seven countries, namely Bolivia, Cambodia, Cameroon, Ecuador, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho and Philippines, each with a short article documenting their experiences and participation in establishing a national aid policy platform. This second booklet like the first, aims to document lessons learned by CSOs in the process of engaging in the aid effectiveness debate, specifically in policy reform and AAA implementation. This booklet aims to contribute to the sharing of CSO experiences, challenges and victories, as well as the different mechanisms, processes and structures they used. The booklet will be launched at the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness.

Upcoming events from the Reality of Aid Country Outreach Team

Regional Events:

Eastern Europe and Central Asia Workshop on Aid and Development Effectiveness
Istanbul, Turkey, Oct. 19 – 20

North Africa Workshop on Aid and Development Effectiveness
Nairobi, Kenya, Oct. 23 – 24

Country Consultations on Aid and Development Effectiveness:

Morocco, Oct. 27 – 28
Palestine, Oct. 30 – Nov. 4
North Sudan, tentative November

Regions and thematic areas prepare for HLF4

Along with the consolidated civil society asks for the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4) - the CSO Key Messages and Proposals - groups of regional and thematic CSOs are also putting forward their own statements that complement these common messages:

- African CSO Messages for HLF4
- Women's demands to HLF4 (now also in Russian http://www.awid.org/content/download/117067/1332965/file/Women's%20Key%20demands_Russian.pdf)
- Asia Pacific CSO Statement on Development Cooperation for Sustainable Development
- CDA Collaborative Learning Projects - Local Perceptions of International Engagement in

Fragile States and Situations

- CONCORD statement (European NGOs)
- CSOs and the International Dialogue Peacebuilding and Statebuilding: Paper 1, Paper 2, Paper 3, Paper 4
- ICSOs Position Paper on Accountability
- The Nairobi Declaration: African faith-based groups put forward demands to HLF4
- African women's groups declaration to Busan

These documents can be found on this page: <http://betteraid.org/en/about-us/fourth-high-level-forum-on-aid-effectiveness.html>

Aid for agriculture

The proportion of ODA allocated to agriculture has declined from nearly 20 percent in the early 1980s to barely 5 percent today. Similarly, allocations at the national level have declined sharply during this period. At the same time, while increases in aid to ARD is important, CSOs are more concerned on the quality of aid and critical in challenging aid mechanisms like Green Revolution, genetically modified organisms (GMO) promotion, and corporate agriculture, among others.

With this myriad of challenges in agriculture, the People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS), member of the BetterAid Coordinating Group, has led a process of organizing thematic consultations on aid and development effectiveness in agriculture and rural development (ARD) and has come up with a set of recommendations. Overarching issues highlighted were results, accountability and multi-stakeholder engagement.

But CSOs also raised disappointment in the way governments and development agencies inadequately responded to the global food crisis experienced in the same period that AAA commitments were made on developing and implementing a global partnership on agriculture and food. On this note, CSOs strongly positioned to ensure that their voices will be heard evaluating the Accra commitments in Busan for the HLF-4.

Participating CSOs in the regional consultations arrived at a consensus to put forward a specific set of recommendations:

Read the recommendations document: http://www.betteraid.org/en/member-downloads/doc_download/356-pcfs-badevelopment-effectiveness-recommendations.html

African civil society interviews aid effectiveness agenda leaders

In June 2011, Africa Civil Society Platform (ACPPP) conducted interviews with some of the leaders of the Aid Effectiveness agenda, including Bert Koenders, Co-Chair of the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness. As part of their support of the common African CSO position on the road to HLF4, ACPFP has made these interviews available online for viewing:

Interview with Nigel Roberts, World Bank Director and co-author of the World Development Report 2011: <http://www.youtube.com/user/Africacsoplatform#p/u/8/aljmktrZllw>

Interview is with Dr. Alioune Sall, Executive Director, African Futures Institute: <http://www.youtube.com/user/Africacsoplatform#p/u/5/Sn2suuYOSPw>

Interview with Bert Koenders: <http://www.youtube.com/user/Africacsoplatform#p/u/7/9iDYEXOoqD0>

Campaigning for better aid to save children's lives

Ben Phillips

When 7.6 million children are dying every year, it's clear, amongst other causes, that aid is not yet of the required quantity and quality to be as effective as it can be. In the run up the High Level Forum Save the Children will be working on a range of aid effectiveness issues, specifically pertaining to health. A major campaign is on the quantity and quality of resources available for health workers.

All the donors¹ accept that health workers can prevent most child deaths, that the world needs more health workers, and that existing health workers need more support, equipment and training.

Aid is generally much better now than it was in the 1980s. That's one of the reasons why child mortality is falling. But child mortality is not falling fast enough – not, principally, because of a lack of technical knowledge, but because of a lack of political will. No G8 country yet meets the long agreed level of 0.7% of national income for aid. (The UK will be the first, from 2013). Not enough aid has been predictable and joined up, and not enough aid has been driven by poverty reduction. When aid supports developing

countries in strengthening their health systems, when aid is accompanied by a firm sense of mutual accountability, aid is more effective, and more lives are saved. Donors – and developing countries – need to make new, substantial and specific commitments to expand the number of health workers and better support those in place, as a fundamental part of strengthening countries' own health systems and capacity.

To motivate this kind of bold leadership requires a powerful coalition with strong public support. That's why over 300 organisations have come together in issuing an urgent call for more health workers, better supported. (See <http://www.healthworkerscount.org> – and if your organisation is not yet one of them, you can do so on the site.)

Ben Phillips is helping to coordinate efforts by over 300 organisations for more health workers, better supported. Find out more about the campaign at <http://www.healthworkerscount.org> and twitter @healthworkers

¹ As illustrated by statements from meetings of the G8, EU, UNGA, WHA and Human Resources for Health fora

Make Aid Transparent campaign gains momentum towards Busan



The Make Aid Transparent campaign is now in its final two months before Busan, and activity is ramping up. The campaign aims to demonstrate public demand for increased transparency ahead of the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in November, and has now been endorsed by 96 organisations and signed by over 5700 people from 125 countries.

The Make Aid Transparent campaign calls on aid

donors to publish more and better information about the aid they give, in line with the international standard.

So far the petition has been handed over to the co-chairs of the OECD DAC Working Party on Aid Effectiveness in Paris, and presented at the World Bank and other high-profile events. This month it will be shown at the UN Human Rights Social Forum, and presented at OpenAid data camps. We hope to get as many people as possible to sign the petition before Busan so that we can hand over 10 000 signatures to the donor representatives there.

If you have not yet signed the petition, please do so here: <http://www.makeaidtransparent.org/>. If your organisation would like to endorse the campaign, or help to promote it, please get in touch with Claudia at Claudia.elliott@PublishWhatYouFund.org.

Latest news on official aid

BetterAid's response to second draft HLF4 outcome document

BetterAid submitted a response to the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness (WP-EFF) with respect to the Second Draft of the Outcome Document from the upcoming High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness

BetterAid welcomed the new draft and language that continues to focus on:

- Poverty reduction through the lenses of human rights, gender equality, decent work and disability.
- Needs-based and demand-driven cooperation, country leadership, south-south cooperation and democratic ownership.
- An enabling environment for CSOs as development actors in their own right.
- Improvements on transparency, among others, through the inclusion of time-bound commitments with reference to the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standard.
- Greater policy coherence for development.
- Untying aid and strengthening predictability by 2015.
- Favouring the broadest possible partnership and the re-affirmation to implement in full the actions agreed under the Paris Declaration (PD) and Accra Agenda for Action (AAA).

However, BetterAid called on the WP-EFF and Co-Chairs to address the following concerns:

- Time-bound targets for PD/AAA and BOD implementation
- Development effectiveness framed by human rights and democratic ownership
- Moving beyond PD and AAA through minimum standards for an enabling environment for CSOs
- Moving away from state-centric approaches in political contexts of state

- Tackling growing inequality
- Enabling a truly inclusive global aid architecture by adopting inclusive multi-stakeholder processes and structures.

Read the full response here: <http://betteraid.org/en/betteraid-policy/betteraid-publications/statements/503-2nd-draft-bod-reponse.html>

Aid effectiveness targets have been missed: Paris Declaration Monitoring Survey points at unfinished business

With the release of the OECD's "Aid Effectiveness 2005-2010: Progress in Implementing the Paris Declaration", on 22nd September, BetterAid notes that donors have made less effort and less progress than developing countries in implementing aid effectiveness commitments since 2005, even though the commitments demanded less from donors.

While developing country progress was praised as 'significant' in the report, OECD countries, which currently provide the lion's share of development aid (\$120 billion of aid annually), have made disappointing progress in making this significant sum work to address poverty.

Little progress has been made on donors untying their aid, getting information on aid flows, and in donors delivering promised aid, and donors have only met 1 of the 9 global targets that they are primarily responsible for meeting. Furthermore, donors are perceived as 'bottlenecks' that stop developing countries making even better progress.

According to the OECD survey, Denmark met 7 of its reform targets, Ireland 6 and Australia and Sweden 5. Although the UK only met 3 of its targets, it has made progress across a range of areas and is one of the top performing donors overall. France only met 2 targets and is in the bottom third of donors. The US met just 1 target and only avoids being the worst performing donor by Turkey – a new donor of whom little is yet expected.

In contrast, the survey finds that there are three times more developing countries with sound national development strategies in place

compared to 2005, and many invested in high-quality monitoring and planning and systems. But progress differs between developing countries, and there is still room for improvement:

Read BetterAid member UKAN's full analysis of the progress since Paris report: http://www.ukan.org.uk/fileadmin/user_upload/Paris_Monitoring_Survey_Briefing_270911.pdf

Read BetterAid's press release in response to the launch of the report:

<http://www.betteraid.org/en/press-area/501-aid-effectiveness-targets-have-been-missed-new-oecd-survey-points-at-unfinished-business-.html>

The Development Assistance and Governance Initiative at Brookings hosted the launch of the OECD's report in Washington DC on September 22nd. Read transcripts from the event or listen to the full audio here: http://www.brookings-tsinghua.cn/sitecore/content/Home/events/2011/0922_paris_declaration.aspx

Civil Society Perspectives on Progress since Paris

Dubbed as the RoA Shadow Report, the 2011 Reality of Aid Report entitled *Democratic Ownership and Development Effectiveness: Civil Society Perspectives on Progress since Paris*, was published and launched in early October. The Report presents country-based civil society perspectives on the progress of reforms under the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action. With 35 contributions, 32 of which are reports from aid-recipient countries, the Report is largely based on evidence drawn from in-country research, meetings and interviews with various development actors. It shows the impact of aid reforms since implementation of the PD and AAA and provides important insights on national development outcomes and seeks to contribute to international development cooperation efforts towards the Busan High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness and beyond.

The RoA Network exists to promote national and international policies that contribute to innovative and effective strategies for eradicating poverty and inequality, based on solidarity and equity. Established in 1993, RoA is a collaborative, non-profit initiative, involving non-governmental organisations from North and South.

Download the report here: <http://www.realityofaid.org/roa-reports/index/secid/379/part/3>

BetterAid calls for G20 action to make development effective

A week before the G20 Development Working Group met, BetterAid called on the group to advance concrete actions that promote development effectiveness. Such a response fits within the G20 multi-year action plan on development (Seoul, 2010) and broader government commitments that have been made on aid effectiveness (Paris, 2005; Accra, 2008).

Including concrete actions on aid and development effectiveness would underscore the importance of the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4) to be held in Busan, South Korea in November 2011.

Specifically, BetterAid called for:

- the aid effectiveness agenda to be explicitly integrated within the nine outcome areas of the working group.
- the simplification and harmonisation of procurement rules and practices as part of advancing infrastructure projects in low-income countries (LICs).
- the pursuit of employment and livelihood- focused economic development strategies based on the recognition of social and economic

rights, including social inclusion, protection and dialogue.

- the harmonisation of different policies when it comes to promoting a country's development. Development aid should not be used as a tool to promote a free trade agenda. Moreover, development assistance should not be used to attach donor policy conditions.
- private sector involvement that is oriented toward development that promotes self-sustaining livelihoods.
- the promotion of a comprehensive set of policy reforms on food security that impact a country's development.
- strengthening the implementation and monitoring of current gender equality and human rights obligations and commitments.
- knowledge sharing in south south cooperation that guards against the threat of creating or reinforcing existing country development dependencies
- clear steps to ensure the participation of the full diversity of CSOs as independent development actors in their own right.

Read BetterAid's asks to the G20 Development Working Group in full:

http://www.betteraid.org/en/member-downloads/doc_download/390-betteraid-to-g20developmentworkinggroup13sept2011.html

REPORTS

Afrodad

An Assessment of the Progress made in the Implementation of the PD and AAA in Uganda

<http://tinyurl.com/4yhvgfh>

Asia Foundation

How Civil Society Organizations Work Politically to Promote Pro-Poor Policies in Decentralized Indonesian Cities

<http://tinyurl.com/644p7ru>

Action for Global Health

Aid Effectiveness for Health: Making Health Aid work better

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

Aid Effectiveness: Progress and the status quo of democratic ownership and meaningful civil society participation in the health sector

<http://tinyurl.com/6ecojk8>

Health Spending in Mozambique: The impact of current aid structures and aid effectiveness

<http://tinyurl.com/6xmuz2p>

Eurodad

How to spend it: Smart procurement for more effective aid

<http://www.eurodad.org/whatsnew/reports.aspx?id=4639>

Read about the launch, attended by EC Commissioner Piebalgs: <http://tinyurl.com/6k7vxrc>

Action Aid

Is the implementation of the Aid Effectiveness agenda reducing aid dependency?

<http://tinyurl.com/625gwaw>

Reality of Aid

Democratic ownership and development effectiveness: civil society perspectives on progress since Paris

<http://www.realityofaid.org/roa-reports/index/secid/379/part/3>

AWID

Strengthening Monitoring and Evaluation for Women's Rights: Thirteen Insights for Women's Organizations

<http://tinyurl.com/6fdvt27>

AWID

Food Sovereignty: Exploring debates on development alternatives and women's rights

<http://tinyurl.com/5tqxf7l>

Video

The Peace Dividend Trust has developed a video on the benefits of spending more aid local. See here:

<http://buildingmarkets.org/videos.html>

