AidData and the Crowd
Increasing transparency and accountability with crowd-based tools

The Need for Crowd-sourced Development Information

Each year, governments and international organizations provide nearly $150 billion to developing countries in order to finance economic and social development. Unfortunately, recent research suggests that only a small portion of this funding actually reaches individuals in developing countries. Corruption, in-country bureaucracy, and – most importantly – a lack of information about the actual outcomes of specific development activities prevent recipient communities from sounding the alarm when development outputs differ from what donors intended. Additionally, journalists, researchers, and even policy makers in recipient governments lack the tools needed to share their experiences, observations, and experiences with interested development stakeholders. At AidData, we're working on a new effort to extend our development finance database by adding the tools needed by citizens in recipient countries to augment donor-provided data with first-hand observations, photos, videos, news reports, and documents.

AidData.org

AidData has created a free, easy-to-use, widely accessible, comprehensive, and timely resource describing the universe of development finance project-by-project, including all grants and loans committed by all major bilateral (DAC and non-DAC) and multilateral donors. AidData tracks more than 957,000 projects spanning 87 donor agencies and totaling more than $4.2 trillion dollars. Building upon the OECD's DAC/CRS database, our organization has added 45 donors, many more years of coverage, more detailed project descriptions, and finer-grained categorizations of each development project. In total, AidData has added more than $1.8 trillion to the "known universe" of development grants and loans.

Augmenting AidData with information from the Crowd

Each development project on the AidData portal currently has its own "project view" page where users can get information about the project from as many as 70 distinct fields in the database (such as donor name, recipient name, commitment amount, project description, financing terms, sector codes, activity codes, and environmental impact). However, almost all of this information comes from donor governments and multilateral organizations, which means the flow of information is only one-sided. At the local level this lack of transparency can lead to problems in accountability and critical information being lost. We are currently seeking to expand and extend our webportal to enable field workers, policy makers, researchers, journalists, and aid beneficiaries to add content to an "enhanced project view" page. As users weigh in on individual projects, upload documents such as impact evaluations, add geographic information codes, add photos and videos, highlight news reports, and create links to other related projects and organizations, all channels for information will open. This will allow users to dramatically increase the transparency of flows and the behavior of contractors, donor governments, recipient governments and NGOs. Our goal in allowing development stakeholders to share such information with the world is to create a results-oriented feedback loop on project outputs and outcomes.

Detailed Project View

The new detailed project view is divided into two parts. Those sections with a lighter blue header are provided by AidData. Those sections with darker blue headers (comments and contributed content) are populated by interested parties including donors, recipients, citizens, and journalists.

http://www.aiddata.org/project/3284186

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Property Regularization Project
Funded by United States - MCC in Nicaragua in 2008

$5,918,542.70
Commitment Amount in USD 2000

Implemented by: Donor Government/Extending Agency

Description: Land Tenure/Reform - Property Regularization Project (Compact Activity) for Cadastral Mapping Activity.

COMMITMENT	DISBURSEMENT	TOTAL COST
Nom. Amt: $7,400,000 USD	Nom. Amt: $1,742,751 USD	[No Data]
Const. Amt: $5,918,542 USD	Const. Amt: $1,393,857 USD	

DONOR PROJECT ID	CRS ID	AIDDATA ID	DATA SOURCE
06MCC00052	2006006736	29816380	OECD CRS

Project Contacts

DONOR	RECIPIENT
Resident Country Director	**MCA-Nicaragua**
Lola Hermosillo	Dr. Juan Sebastián Chamorro,
(+505) 252-7478	General Director
Washington DC	Cuenta Reto del Milenio - Nicaragua
	(+505) 311 9000
	jschamorro@cuentadelmilenio.org.ni

AidData Purpose & Activity Codes

ACTIVITY CODES
31130.04: Land surveys
43040.04: Land use and managment
15105.01: Government and civil society

PURPOSE CODE
31130: Agricultural land resources

CRS Codes and Markers

PURPOSE CODE
15140: Government administration

CRS Thematic Markers

Biodiversity	No
Climate Change	No
Desertification	No
Gender	No
Trade	No
PDGG	Yes
Sector Programme	Yes
Trade	No

Recent Comments on Project

C. Ford (15 May): AidData's very sparse description of this project could be significantly improved by using project-level information on MCC's website (here and here). According to MCC, "the Property Regularization... [More]

J. Smith (16 May): MCC conducted extensive analytical work to project the estimated economic benefits of land titling and property registration in Nicaragua. Recent studies in Nicaragua show that regularizing property rights through land titling and property registration have been associated with a 30% increase in asset values and a 10% increase in the... [More]

Witness for Peace Nicaragua Team (20 May): Mr. Smith provides a very clear and compelling rationale for this project, but unfortunately none of these estimated benefits will ever be realized by low-income individuals living in the district of Leon. Due to the circumstances... [More]

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AidData Community Content

Donor Contributed Content ✓ Verified
- Millennium Challenge Compact with Nicaragua (PDF)
- Projected Long-Term Results (Ext. Link)
- Compact Performance Indicators (Excel Spreadsheet)
- View All (5 more)

Recipient Contributed Content ✓ Verified
- Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (PDF)
- Environmental and Social Assessment Documentation (PDF)
- MCA-Nicaragua Electronic Bulletins Num. 1 (Ext. Link)
- MCA-Nicaragua Progress Report on Gender Mainstreaming (PDF)
- View All (2 more)

Third-Party Contributed Content
- Freezing out the Farmers: The MCC and the used of foreign aid as a political tool in Nicaragua (PDF -)
- Center for Global Development 2007 Nicaragua Field Report (PDF - 25kb)
- View All (2 more)

News Reports
- Primera Feria Agropecuaria en León (Video)
- CRM terminará la ejecución de $15 Millones en 2010 (Video)
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View All Comments

This is the page you would see if you clicked the "Read All Comments" link at the bottom of the comments section on the Detailed Project View. Users can login using their usernames from other popular web services like Facebook, Google, Twitter, OpenID. Users can post via a web browser or a mobile telephone. Those users claiming to represent government agencies will be verified using their email addresses. For example, someone from the Millennium Challenge Corporation should have an email address ending in "mcc.gov."

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Land Tenure/Reform - Property Regularization Project
Funded by United States - MCC in Nicaragua in 2006

User Comments

Chris Ford
FAO Nicaragua
Posted: 15 May 2010 @ 12:45PM
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AidData's very sparse description of this project could be significantly improved by using project-level information on MCC's website (here and here). According to MCC, "the Property Regularization Project is designed to increase investment by strengthening property rights in León. The key activities of the Property Regularization Project include:

1. Institutional Capacity Building. Provide technical support to government institutions to implement and sustain tenure regularization reforms in León.
2. Cadastral Mapping. Conduct area-wide cadastral mapping in León to obtain current property descriptions to be recorded in a geographic information system.
3. Land Tenure Regularization. Clarify land tenure, resolve disputes, and improve formal documentation of property rights.
4. Database Installation. Link municipal and national registry and cadastral databases by installing the Integrated System of Cadastral and Registration Information (SIICAR) in León.
5. Protected Area Demarcation. Demarcate and legally validate the boundaries of four environmentally-sensitive protected areas, regularize land rights within the perimeter of each, and facilitate the adoption and use management plans by occupants therein.
6. Analysis and Communications. Fund short-term technical assistance, policy analysis and outreach to promote participation in, the use and the sustainability of the improved property registration system."

MCC somehow estimates that this project will create $30 million of economic value, but I can't tell where or how they came up with this number. Can anyone point me in the right direction?

James Smith
Office of the Chief Economist
MCC
Posted: 19 May 2010 @ 2:45PM
View Profile

MCC conducted extensive analytical work to project the estimated economic benefits of land titling and property registration in Nicaragua. Recent studies in Nicaragua show that regularizing property rights through land titling and property registration have been associated with a 30% increase in asset values and a 10% increase in the probability of landholders undertaking additional investments in that property. Clearer definition of property rights through improved land titling is expected to benefit the economy through a number of channels: by increasing the private returns to investments on land, by improving the ability to use land to leverage credit, by reducing high costs of land-related transactions, and by reducing the need for defensive expenditures to protect property rights.

Our estimate of the "economic rate of return" (ERR) for the Property Regularization Project in Nicaragua incorporates several of these channels as benefits streams, including increases in land values and reduced transactions costs in purchasing and selling land. These benefits are consolidated in a cash flow model with a horizon of ten years. Property values are assumed to grow at a constant rate necessary to achieve the full 22% increase by year 10. Regarding saved costs of transactions, each parcel is assumed to be subject to two transactions over the ten year period, occurring in the fifth and the tenth year. The project's estimated ERR is 29 percent. That means that for every US tax dollar spent on the project, Nicaragua receives $1.29. For more on how MCC estimates economic rates of return, click here. MCC has also recently published a paper called "Aid Effectiveness: Putting Results at the Forefront" that makes the case for this type of ex-ante analytical work.

Witness for Peace Nicaragua
Posted: 19 May 2010 @ 2:45PM
View Profile

Mr. Smith provides a very clear and compelling rationale for this project, but unfortunately none of these estimated benefits will ever be realized by low-income individuals living in the district of Leon. Due to the circumstances surrounding the November 2008 municipal elections, MCC has decided to suspend all financial support for the Property Regularization Project. Check out our report entitled "Freezing out Farmers: The Millennium Challenge Corporation and the Use of Foreign Aid as a Political Tool in Nicaragua".

Ryan Powers
AidData.org
Posted: 26 May 2010 @ 4:00pm
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Many thanks to Chris Ford for bringing MCC's more detailed description of this project to our attention. We have updated our database with this information.

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The user arrives here by clicking the "View all" link under the Donor Contributed Content section of the Detailed Project View. Individuals from donor agencies and organizations will be able to post documents, photos, videos, and/or links and associate them with single projects or groups of projects. Users can comment on, download, or share the contributed content with friends or colleagues.

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Property Regularization Project

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$5,918,542.70

Commitment Amount in USD 2000

Donor Contributed Content

Millennium Challenge Compact with Nicaragua (PDF)

Posted by J. Smith (jsmith@mcc.gov)   Verified Donor Rep

This MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE COMPACT (the "Compact") is made between the United States of America, acting through the Millennium Challenge Corporation, a United States Government corporation ("MCC"), and the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua (the "Government") (referred to herein individually as a "Party" and collectively, the "Parties"). A compendium of capitalized terms defined herein is included in Exhibit A attached hereto.

Tags: MCC   Document   Nicaragua   Transportation

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Projected Long-Term Results (External Link)

Posted by R. Powers (rpowers@aiddata.org)   Verified AidData Rep

These estimates are based in the best, currently available information and may be updated if new, reliable data become available. The total beneficiary count for the Compact may not be the sum of the different project beneficiary counts because of overlaps between Projects. In other words, some beneficiaries benefit from more than one project but are counted only once in the total beneficiary count.

Tags: MCC   Website

Read Comments (0)   Add a Comment   Visit Link

Compact Performance Indicators (Excel Spreadsheet)

Posted by J. Smith (jsmith@mcc.gov)   Verified Donor Rep

[No Summary for Excel Documents]

Tags: MCC   Document   Nicaragua   Transportation

No Preview

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Third-Party Contributed Content

Similar to Donor Contributed Content, this is a space for third-party groups to post documents related to a given record or group of records. These need not be specific to a single project, but could be reports, videos, and/or presentations thematically related to the record at hand.

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Property Regularization Project — $5,918,542.70

Funded by United States - MCC in Nicaragua in 2006

Commitment Amount in USD 2000

Third-Party Contributed Content

Nicaragua Field Report - CDG (PDF)

Posted by S. Lucas (slucas@cgd.org) [Verified NGO Rep]

Excerpt: The news from Nicaragua is good. The Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) is living up to a number of its key principles—encouraging policy reform, maintaining political independence, promoting innovation and application of best practices, and fostering ongoing consultation. Beyond these broad principles, and despite having only nine months of compact implementation under its belt, the Nicaragua story yields a number of practical, operational lessons.

Tags: MCC CDG Nicaragua

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Productividad en el Occidente de Nicaragua ha crecido un 25% (Video)

Posted by A. Reporter (reporter@email.org)

Excerpt: Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Nunc sit amet arcu nulla, in luctus augue. Vestibulum sollicitudin tempus lorem, eget elementum enim facilisis in. Proin lobortis eleifend justo, at tincidunt erat aliquam vel. Sed fermentum varius volutpat. Proin eget vestibulum magna. Morbi id massa nisi, vel feugiat nisl. Ut vel lacus placerat erat pulvinar auctor eget ac diam. Sed rutrum porta urna quis viverra.

Tags: MCC CDG Nicaragua Video News Report

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Primera Feria Agropecuaria en León (Video)

Posted by A. Reporter (reporter@email.org)

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