

Donor Assistance Database (DAD) – Fact Sheet

The Donor Assistance Database (DAD) is an Aid Management and Coordination system for use in national reconstruction environments that strengthens the effectiveness and transparency of international assistance. DAD is a powerful, Web-based information collection, tracking, analysis and planning tool for use by national governments and the broader assistance community, including bilateral donors, international organizations, and NGOs. The DAD can help achieve the following objectives:

- Identify national priorities and requests for donor assistance, and link aid assistance to the national budget.
- Enable the effective management of international assistance rendered by the donor community to the recipient country by tracking donor funded projects, promoting private sector projects for foreign investment, as well as Public Investment Programs funded by the national budget.
- Provide a consolidated overview, understanding and impact assessment of the entire assistance effort, facilitating coordination among various donor organizations and national government agencies to avoid duplication.
- Expand public information and awareness on the reconstruction process.

DAD enables stakeholders in the reconstruction process to capture the most critical international assistance data on a donor and project-specific basis, including pledges, committed and disbursed amounts, sector and region of implementation, brief description, implementing agency and other contacts. The system tracks funding that has been allocated to various Trust Funds and also helps in the assessment of how assistance flows are meeting national development priorities. This assists the national government to build the capacity to effectively track aid support to and within their national budget.

Summary of Functionality

The DAD provides secure access through the Web for data entry and updates of grant programs by donor and recipient agencies. Grant and loan programs are broken down into projects and activities with programmatic and budgetary details, as well as disbursement schedule and execution. Users can filter, group and sort all projects by any category or group of categories. The DAD system provides users with a wide range of analytical functions, including querying, reporting, charts and Geographic Information System (GIS) functions. Various predefined and ad-hoc reports and charts can be produced with a powerful report generator on the Web. The integrated GIS allows for plotting projects on the map of the country with zooming and other functions. The system operates on the Web Server and supports back-end databases such as SQL 2000 and Oracle 9i. Users of DAD can access the database by simply using a Web browser (IE 5.5 and Netscape 4.7 and higher).

“The transparency, user-friendliness, and functionality of the software have been well received by users.”

-- United Nations Development Programme on use of DAD in Afghanistan

DAD – Afghanistan

Through financial support from the governments of the United States, Italy and the Netherlands, DAD was originally delivered in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, and is currently being employed by the government of Afghanistan as a strategic instrument in their ongoing reconstruction efforts. Public access to DAD is available at: <http://www.undp.org/aacadad/>

According to the UNDP:

DAD tracks donor contributions inside and outside the National Budget, enables identification of funding gaps with the National Development Budget and the assessment of the rate of translation of donor pledges into projects, trust funds and direct budget support. This data assists line ministries in resourcing and managing their programs. DAD reporting promotes:

- Transparent and accountable management of external resources
- Resource mobilization
- Effective program planning, implementation and monitoring;
- Rational resource allocation
- Accountability of Ministers and Donors



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Key Features and Capabilities

On-line data entry: donors can easily submit and subsequently modify all project/program information directly through the Internet, enhancing the quality of the data by facilitating the collection/submission process. Where internet access is limited, an off-line version of the DAD, based on MS Access, can be offered which will fully synchronize with any Web-based DAD counterparts.

On-the-fly querying/searching: as a Web-database tool, any number of users can work with the system simultaneously through a simple Web browser. Each user can conduct custom querying of the data by any combination of variables (sector, donor, project status, executing agency, etc).

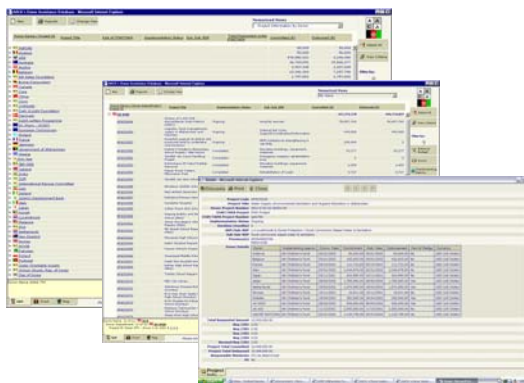
Analytical reporting, charting, mapping: users can easily create sophisticated reports, charts and maps to support policy-making through analysis. All analytical tools are integrated into the software, providing a consistent user-interface and allowing non-technical users to develop customized analytical reports on-the-fly.

Multi-lingual: DAD can be easily adapted to the specific needs of a given country, including the localization of the software into the national language.

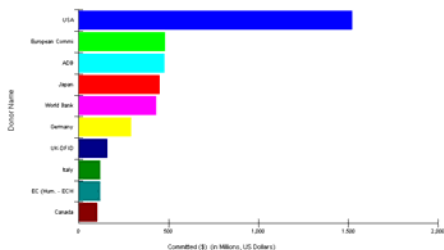
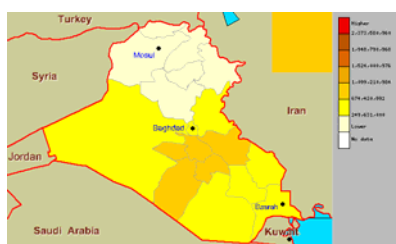
Sustainable: DAD contains all-inclusive database administrator tools which are designed to create the database structure, develop user interfaces, and change/augment the system as the need arises. The tool set also includes importing and exporting functions, the creation and management of users' access rights, backup/restore features, etc. All administrator functions are standardized and centralized, and require minimum time for training. Therefore, it is not necessary to have a highly specialized team of programmers to administer the database.

Discussion Forum: Users may utilize the Discussion Forum to share best practices, provide qualitative and quantitative evaluation of information in the database, obtain contact info, etc.

Highly Scalable : DAD's flexible, seamless architecture allows it to be easily deployed and extended for use in both technically austere and sophisticated environments, and accessed by any number of users via its Web interface.



Analysis and Evaluation - Providing stakeholders with the capability to produce analytical reports, charts and GIS:



DAD enables comprehensive, multi-dimensional analysis and measurement of the impact of aid assistance on economic and social development, and the identification of gaps and priority areas for future investments.

Implementation Status

With financial support from the US government through NAVAIR and Booz Allen Hamilton, Synergy International Systems is implementing DAD in Iraq. This work is being done in close cooperation with the Council for International Coordination (CIC) and the Information Management Unit (IMU) of the CPA. The DAD system will be hosted and maintained by the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation (MoPDC) as part of their overall aid management role.

In close partnership with UNDP, DAD has also been successfully implemented in 12 countries around the world: Afghanistan, Armenia, Georgia, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.



DAD was developed by Synergy International Systems and is based on the Intelligent Data Manager™ (IDM) technology framework. IDM™ has been adapted for use in a broad spectrum of high-performance, mission critical applications in the public and private sectors. Examples include: knowledge management for eGovernment; case management for Law & Public Policy; proposal and grants management for Public Health; portal gateways for International Trade promotion and development.