

# OPEN DEVELOPMENT MOVEMENT

## CO-CREATION LEADS TO TRANSFORMATION

**Sustainable development is development that starts from the bottom up. It builds on the perspectives of local communities about what matters to them most. The open development movement reinforces this bottom-up approach. Providing open access to evidence-based information and knowledge gives citizens a valuable tool to influence the policies and decisions that are meant to improve their lives. It promotes citizen engagement and strengthens social accountability. Cordaid is convinced that making information about projects and their impact available to everyone will transform development cooperation. Actively engaging stakeholders has started a process of co-creation which will contribute to a better world.**

### Open development: strengthening accountability and citizen engagement

At four High Level Forums for Aid Effectiveness (2002-2011), the international community committed itself to transparency and accountability as two cornerstones for effective development cooperation. With the post-2015 Global Development Agenda in sight, the growing open development movement appeals to all stakeholders to step up their efforts and provide open access to accurate and up-to-date information about all aid flows and projects and openly engage with citizens.

**The principles of transparency and accountability mean opening up the full development process to all stakeholders: from initial identification of policy objectives through implementation to evaluation of outcomes and impact.**

In Cordaid's vision, open development is a vital route to empowering citizens and allowing them full participation in the development process and transforming it to make it their own. Thanks to open development, local communities are no longer merely the receivers of aid. Their role is transformed to that of customers who actively use evidence-based information to set the agenda for their priorities, and to evaluate efforts to pursue them. Open development is a catalyst for citizen engagement and social accountability. Moreover, the transparency it achieves contributes to the trust that underpins social contracts between citizens and the state. In conflict and post-conflict situations, this trust has often been deeply damaged. Cordaid's mission is to build flourishing communities in fragile and conflict-affected situations. The comprehensive open data strategy that Cordaid implemented in 2013 contributes to this mission.

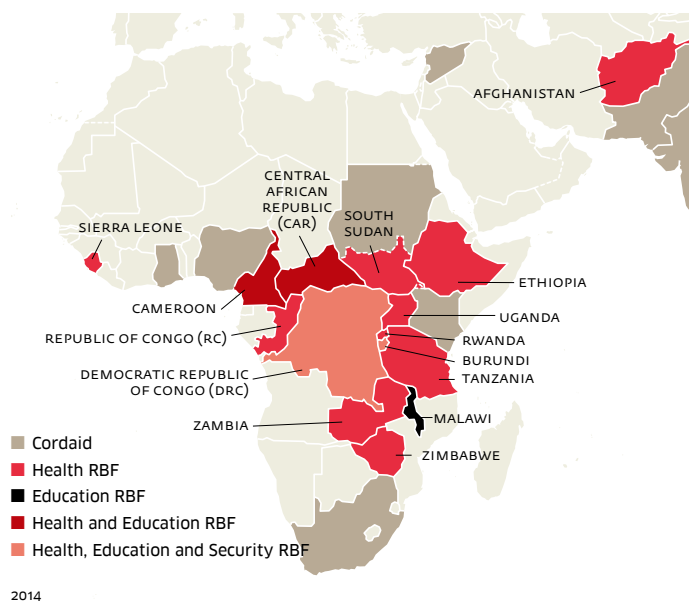
### Open development in practice: Open RBF

In 2001, Cordaid was the first organization to introduce Result Based Financing (RBF) for the health sector in Sub-Saharan Africa. It now executes RBF in thirteen countries, in cooperation with local and national governments.

RBF helps to improve the quality of health services by making a direct link between patient experience and results and payments made to clinics and hospitals. This renews the contract between communities and state-operated social services.

Open RBF takes this social contract to the next level. 'OpenRBF' (<http://openrbf.org>) is an open source IT tool to strengthen RBF programs and increase their efficiency and transparency. It allows patients and citizens to have a direct say over the quality of services provided to them and records these data for further analysis by communities and policy-makers.

### FOOTPRINT OF CORDAID RBF



This is how open RBF works:

- Health care centers define their improvement goals in a Health Care Business Plan.
- Each month or quarter health care providers enter their performance data in the system.
- These data, as well as the quality of services, are verified and validated externally and the results entered into the system.
- Additionally, the local community verifies service delivery and quality by providing independent feedback through interviews and mobile devices.
- The RBF system measures all these performance data against the agreed criteria and determines the amount of money to be allocated. This will then be transferred to the clinic or hospital.

A fundamental aspect of Open RBF is that, once validated, all data are displayed on the internet for everyone to see and accessible through easy-to-read dashboards. This allows funders to see how resources are allocated, but more importantly, it encourages citizen engagement with a vital development issue. Through the Open RBF system, patients can follow the budgets, targets and performances of any clinic or hospital in real time. This information enables them to hold their governments to account for their efforts to provide better health care for all. The transparency offered by Open RBF can moreover help to restore trust between citizens, local and national governments and private sector service providers.

*‘ Thanks to Open RBF, people in Burundi can help improve their country’s health system. For the first time, their opinions about the services offered to them really count. They contribute to planning through health committees, they verify performance, and every quarter this information is discussed with them. It puts communities in the driver’s seat.’*

**Dr. Rose Kamariza**, Cordaid Program Officer, Burundi

### Strengthening health systems in Burundi

Starting in 2006, Cordaid initiated RBF Health in Burundi. During 2006 – 2010, the quality of health services and transparency improved drastically. The Burundi government was convinced of the value of RBF and by end 2010 responsibility for RBF was handed over to the government. The government initiated a multi-donor basket investment fund. It is now scaling up to full coverage and investing government money and a percentage of the basket fund in RBF Health. Cordaid is now playing a new role as technical assistant to the Burundi government. Trust in Cordaid’s approach has resulted in additional demands, and the initiation of RBF Education and RBF Security.

*‘ Encouraged by the positive results with RBF in health care, Cordaid introduced RBF projects in the areas of Education and Security. Providing open information and meaningful feedback about the quality of service delivery, allows citizens to go beyond social accountability and to take the lead in influencing policy agendas.’*

**Piet Vroeg**, Director Cordaid Child&Education

### Flourishing Community Index: giving local communities a global voice



Cordaid has developed an innovative new methodology for the objective and inclusive assessment of the development priorities of local communities. The Flourishing Community Index (FCI) captures the needs and aspirations of communities independently of specific projects, development actors or donors. Cordaid is piloting the FCI as a tool for open development. Modern technologies make it possible to collect, aggregate and share information at a large scale: local communities get a global voice.

Features of the FCI:

- **Smart data collection:** By using tablets or smart phones communities articulate what matters most to them through storytelling, complemented with questions for signification. This provides a unique combination of independent and authentic qualitative and quantitative information that can be aggregated and analyzed.
- **Community-owned information:** the primary beneficiaries of the FCI are communities themselves. Information is fed back through workshops, local radio, billboards, newspapers or SMS. Communities use this information to prioritize the development activities they need most.
- **Multi-use:** The analyzed information can also be used by service providers, local and national governments, social enterprises and (I)NGOs.
- **Scalable:** The simple, easily applicable and replicable methodology can be used on a large scale in local communities in different countries.

**Rens Rutten**, Cordaid Monitoring & Evaluation Officer  
[rens.rutten@cordaid.nl](mailto:rens.rutten@cordaid.nl)

## Open RBF: state of the art innovation

Cordaid works together actively with the IT development team at Open RBF (<http://openrbf.org>). Its project experiences in different countries are fed back to the team to keep the Open RBF system state of the art. Cordaid moreover works together with the development team to add several innovations to the Open RBF core system, related to Cordaid's social accountability and intelligent data ambitions. Starting in 2009-2010, Cordaid extended its Open RBF services to Education and Security, which makes delivery on multi-sector based projects on Open RBF possible.

## International commitments to transparency

At the 4<sup>th</sup> High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Busan, South Korea, 2011) donor governments, multilateral organizations, NGOs and partners committed themselves to improving transparency by *implementing a common open standard for aid information by 2015*. Open access to up-to-date information about aid flows promotes mutual accountability and transparency. In particular, it helps:

- governments of developing countries to target, budget and manage the aid they receive more efficiently.
- donors and NGOs to share knowledge, learn from each other, define clearer goals and strategies, and coordinate their efforts and financial commitments.

At the First High Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (Mexico City, April 2014), development providers were urged to accelerate their efforts in opening up their project data and to make timely, comparable, comprehensive, accessible and forward-looking information available and accessible to all. Commitments towards improving transparency and accountability will also underpin the Post-2015 Global Development Agenda.

**By openly sharing information on the internet in easy-to-read formats it becomes easier to answer not only the question 'Are we doing things right?' but also 'Are we doing the right thing?'**

## IATI Standard. Cordaid's position and practice

### Commitments

Since 2013, anyone can see exactly what Cordaid does, where, how and what money it spends. Cordaid has taken a unique position by committing itself to publishing a complete file of project data including results that is compliant with the standard developed by the International Aid Transparency Initiative (<http://iatistandard.org>). Using the IATI standard makes it possible for Cordaid to make up-to-the-minute overviews and analyses more quickly and, at the same time, allows other organizations and institutions to benefit from them too. Because data in itself is not meaningful information, Cordaid publishes narrative information about nearly all its projects on its website. This information is directly drawn from the IATI file. Moreover Cordaid is implementing visualisation tools on its website to produce insightful graphs, maps and charts.

### Deliverables

With its approach to implementing the IATI Standard, Cordaid has delivered on the transparency commitments that were agreed at the High Level Forum in Busan:

**Accessibility:** full IATI compliant project data of 1255 projects have been published and is open for anyone to read and use. This reflects 89% of all Cordaid projects (exclusion rate 11%). <http://www.iatiregistry.org/dataset/cordaid-activities>

**Comprehensiveness:** the information Cordaid publishes includes project plans, goals and results, budgets and transactions, GEO locations, partner and contact information.

**Timeliness:** Cordaid's data file is refreshed automatically every 3 months. On top of that narratives on project progress from the field are updated regularly.

## Open data strategy: fringe benefits

In addition to boosting citizen engagement and supporting social accountability, implementing an open data strategy also has considerable fringe benefits:

- **Improving organizational efficiency.** Using one common standard for all project data has improved efficiency within the organization. Following the *single source, single entry* principle allows the organization to work more intelligently, monitor more efficiently and communicate more effectively.

*'Using one standard methodology to represent project data has made our work much more efficient. Through the IATI Standard we work with one set of indicators, monitoring becomes more meaningful and we get a better insight into what we achieve over time in very diverse contexts. This also helps us to communicate more effectively to both a local and a global audience.'*

**Elly Rijnierse**, Senior Advisor, Cordaid Extractives

- **Easing accountability by open reporting.** The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs has decided that, as of 2016, reporting and publishing on the basis of the IATI Standard will be mandatory for all NGO's receiving funding. Cordaid's implementation of the IATI Standard serves as an example and inspiration for the new reporting policy. The principle of *publish once, use often* is a major benefit of open data and IATI compliance.

*'We are impressed by the completeness and detail in how Cordaid reports results. This demonstrates courage and commitment to the transparency agenda of development aid. It inspires and is a source for replication.'*

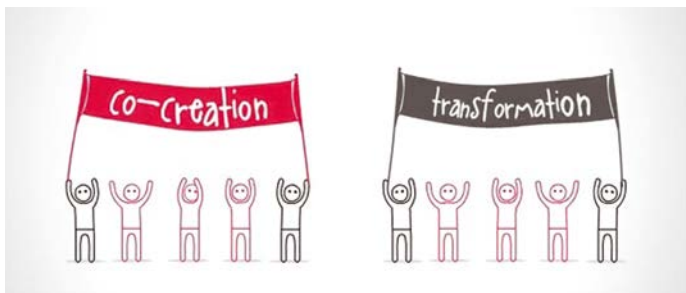
**Theo van de Sande**, Open Data & Transparency, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## Cordaid's position in short

Cordaid is convinced that co-creation leads to transformation. The more organizations open up their data and make use of it, the more valuable this information becomes. This is a powerful route towards enhancing both social accountability and citizen engagement with development policies and programs that are meant to improve their lives.

Cordaid therefore:

- actively shares its vision and practical experiences with its open data strategy and implementation with other INGOs and development actors.
- reaches out to universities and data journalists to facilitate and stimulate the use of data effectively for evidence based stories.
- inspires and works actively together with tech developers to design meaningful and accessible tools.
- involves governments and national authorities to build evidence-based development strategies and planning and step up on efforts to openly engage with citizens.
- calls upon development actors and donors to also commit to and implement an open data strategy.



[www.cordaid.org/en/open-data](http://www.cordaid.org/en/open-data)

## ABOUT CORDAID

Cordaid is the Catholic Organisation for Relief & Development Aid, with its headquarters in the Netherlands. We have been fighting poverty and exclusion in the world's most fragile societies and conflict-stricken areas for almost a century. We support people in vulnerable regions and areas of conflict to build flourishing communities.

We do this by enhancing safety, by creating opportunities and bringing out the best in people. Our network consists of 634 partner organizations in 36 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America. As social entrepreneurs we work together with parties who want to participate in development and cooperation. With almost 400,000 private donors we enjoy broad public support and are deeply rooted in Dutch society.

### 100 years of experience

The last 100 years Cordaid has been helping the most vulnerable people worldwide. Times have changed, but our mission has not. Today we work in the most vulnerable regions and conflict areas worldwide as well as in the Netherlands, as our 100 years experience has taught us that creating opportunities is key for all.

## INFORMATION

For more information check [www.cordaid.org/en/open-data](http://www.cordaid.org/en/open-data) or send an email to: [opendata@cordaid.nl](mailto:opendata@cordaid.nl)

### Ingrid Hagen

Director Strategy Unit  
[ingrid.hagen@cordaid.nl](mailto:ingrid.hagen@cordaid.nl)

### Piet Vroeg

Director Child & Education  
[piet.vroeg@cordaid.nl](mailto:piet.vroeg@cordaid.nl)

## CONTACT

### Cordaid the Netherlands

P.O. Box 16440  
2500 BK The Hague

Lutherse Burgwal 10  
2512 CB The Hague  
+31 (0)70-3136300

[cordaid@cordaid.nl](mailto:cordaid@cordaid.nl)  
[www.cordaid.org](http://www.cordaid.org)

**CARE.  
ACT.  
SHARE.  
LIKE CORDAID.**