

Jaarverslag O*platform: werkjaar 2

Gelieve bondig op volgende vragen te antwoorden. Als richtsnoer willen we vragen het verslag te beperken tot 8 à 12 pagina's. Gelieve waar relevant te verwijzen naar het origineel ingediende logisch kader en hierbij aan te halen welke doelstellingen en outputs reeds behaald werden, welke nog in proces zijn en welke (nog) niet behaald werden. Het verslag dient zowel elektronisch als in hard copy (2 ondertekende exemplaren) verstuurd te worden voor 31 maart 2011 naar VLIR-UOS, t.a.v. Sam Geerts, Bolwerksquare 1a, 1050 Brussel. Voor meer informatie kan u steeds terecht bij sam.geerts@vliruos.be of op 02-289 05 70.

1 Administratie

Naam O*platform	Improved Aid Architecture and Aid Effectiveness
Promotor	Robrecht Renard
Praktische leiding	Karel Verbeke
Focal point DGOS	Julia Zhyzko
Vervangend focal point DGOS	Maarten Lievens
Rapporteringsperiode (start-einde dag/maand/jaar)	15/03/2010 tot 14/03/2011

2 Wetenschappelijk onderzoek (80%)

Omschrijf kort de activiteiten/mijlpalen van de onderzoeksgroep in het algemeen gedurende het afgelopen werkjaar en geef aan waar de *core funding* (80 % van de financiën) van het O*platform een fundamentele bijdrage heeft geleverd.

During the second year of the O*Platform, the members of the platform were, besides their other teaching responsibilities at IOB, involved in a Short Course on Health and Aid Policies that was set up together with the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp. Prof. Dr. Danny Cassimon has become responsible for the Debating Development course, an interfaculty course for students at the University of Antwerp, and largely financed by VLIR.

As nearly all of these education activities have been focused on the new aid approach, its application by donor agencies and the impact on developing countries, the O*Platform has been an important instrument to obtain insights in the reality of aid, both on the ground in developing countries, in donor headquarters and field offices and within the international institutions like DAC or EC.

The closer collaboration between the O*Platform and other members of the thematic group Aid Policies at the IOB has made it possible for non-O*Platform TG-members to participate in O*Platform studies, as a result of which O*Platform members had more time to focus on other publications and extra consultancies.

Bent u als onderzoeksgroep kunnen groeien binnen uw universiteit, volgens de evaluatienormen en – sjablonen gehanteerd door uw universiteit (criteria dienstverlening/onderwijs/onderzoek, met bijhorende weging)?

The VLIR core funding has been used by the research team to employ three researchers. The results for the thematic group have been threefold:

1. Service Delivery The permanent employment of three researchers has functioned as a catalyst for attracting other externally financed advisory work.
2. Education The insights in the new aid architecture, that were partially gathered through the O*Platform, have been integrated in the education activities provided by the thematic group.
3. Research Collaboration of the researchers with more senior staff of the O*Platform and thematic group resulted in a number of publications.

Welke fysieke outputs werden geleverd in het kader van het O*platform gedurende het afgelopen werkjaar (publicaties, seminaries, website, conferenties, beleidsrapporten, ...)?

The LogFrame lists the following outputs:

1.1. to do research and translate results into publications:

- Articles:
 - Cassimon, D., Prowse, M. and Essers, D. (2011) *“The pitfalls and potential of debt-for-nature swaps: a US-Indonesian case study”*, Global Environmental Change 21 (1): 93-102.
 - Holvoet, N. (2010) *“Gender equality and new aid modalities: is love really in the air?”*, European Journal of development research, 22: 97-117.
- Chapters in books:
 - Cassimon, D., Demetriades, P. and Van Campenhout, B. (2010) *“Finance, Globalisation and Economic Development: the Role of Institutions”*, in: Underhill G.R.D. (ed.) *Global Financial Integration Thirty Years on: from Reform to Crisis*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
 - Claessens, S., Cassimon, D. and Van Campenhout, B. (2010) *“Empirical Evidence on the New International Aid Architecture”*, in: Underhill G.R.D. (ed.) *Global Financial Integration Thirty Years on: from Reform to Crisis*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
 - Holvoet, N. and Renard, R.(2010) *“Monitoring and Evaluation Reform under Changing Aid Modalities”*, in: Mavratos G. (ed.) *Foreign Aid for Development Issues. Challenges and the New Agenda*, Oxford, Oxford University Press.
 - Holvoet N. (2010) *“Gendergevoeligheid van de Belgische ontwikkelingsamenwerking: bevindingen, analyse en aanbevelingen”*, in: Wiercx, J. en De Metsenaere M. (ed.). *Grenzen, geweld en gender: internationale betrekkingen feministisch bekeken*, Brussel, VUB Press.
- Discussion and working papers:
 - Verbeke, K. And Waeterloos, E. (2010) *“Sub national donors and the international quest for aid effectiveness: case-study Flanders”*, EADI Policy Paper Series, November 201
 - De Koster, K. en Holvoet, N. (2010) *“Managing Multilaterals’ Effectiveness: Which Way forward?”*, Discussion Paper 2010:03, Antwerp, Institute of Development Policy and Management.
 - Holvoet N., Inberg L. (2010) *“Sector monitoring and evaluation systems in the context of changing aid modalities: the case of Rwanda’s health sector”*, Working Paper 2010:11, Antwerp, Institute of Development Policy and Management.
 - Pinyol G., Molenaers N. (2010) *“Nicaraguan civil society caught in the pendulum’s swing? Shifting roles from service delivery to lobbying and back”*, Working Paper

2010:10, Antwerp, Institute of Development Policy and Management.

- D'Exelle, B. and Holvoet, N. (2011) "Network Formation through a Gender Lens: Insights from rural Nicaragua", *Working Paper 2011-01*, Antwerp: Institute of Development Policy and Management.
- Rothmann I., Canavan A., Cassimon D., Coolen A., Verbeke K. (2011) "*Moving towards a sector-wide approach (SWAp) for health in fragile states: lessons learned on the state of readiness in Timor Leste, Sierra Leone and Democratic Republic of Congo*", Amsterdam: KIT (KIT working papers series ; H5).
- Newspaper/magazine articles:
 - Inberg L., Holvoet N. (2010) "*What happened to the Dutch ambition for gender equality?*" The Broker.

1.2. to present research results at international conferences:

- Cassimon. D., 24-26 November 2010, Stellenbosch, Global Development Finance Conference organized by Africa Growth Institute, presentation of paper "A chameleon called Debt relief".
- Holvoet, N. and Inberg, L., 8 October 2010, Prague, EES Conference, presentation of paper "Sector Monitoring and Evaluation Systems in the context of changing aid modalities: The case of Rwanda's Health Sector".
- Gildemyn, M. (work together with N. Holvoet), 8 October 2010, Prague, EES Conference, presentation: "Monitoring and Evaluation under the New Aid Approach: Role and Influence of CSOs in the South"

2.1. to supervise master theses and PhDs on the topics of the O*platform:

- Master theses
 - Gender Sensitivity of Poverty Reduction Strategy papers (PRSPs) in Ethiopia: Current status how to improve?
 - Evaluation of the donors working in the area of HIV/AIDS in view of the New Aid Approaches - a comparative study of Zambia and Botswana
 - Aid effectiveness the case for the Fast Track Initiative (FTI)
 - The Impact of Food Aid on Household Expenditure Patterns of Internally Displaced People (IDP) in Northern Uganda
 - Post-earthquake reconstruction in Haiti: traditional aid or debt relief, what is the optimal solution?
 - Evaluating the effectiveness of the Belgian Development Cooperation. A Meta-Evaluation of the 2008-2010 evaluation reports
 - Are UNDP Programs aligned to national priorities and systems?: A review of UNDP interventions in Africa
 - Bilateral engagement in fragile states: a comparative case study about aid instruments applied by donors in fragile environments
 - The role of Parliaments under the NAA
- PHD students
 - What lessons can Chinese aid draw from traditional donor's experiences
 - M&E and civil society in the context of changing aid modalities
 - Supporting policy reform in the new aid paradigm
 - An assessment of the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system used in the implementation of the Social-Economic Development Plan (SEDP) in Vietnam: the case of Cam Lo district, Quang Tri province

2.2 to teach ITPs and master courses where research and results are valorized and transmitted to students from the South:

- All senior team members are involved in the modules 'Managing aid' and 'Evaluating Development Effectiveness' that are part of the Master in Development Evaluation and Management that is taught at the IOB, University of Antwerp (25-30 students)
- All senior members of the O*Platform, together with the Institute of Tropical Medicine, organized the 'Antwerp Short Course on Health and Aid Policy 2010' (ASC-HAP), a two-week workshop for senior health and development aid professionals working either as high level government officials, professionals from donor agencies or civil society leaders in Mali, Rwanda or Uganda. The workshop was organized from the 15th to the 26th March 2010 in Antwerp, Belgium.
- Prof. Dr. Danny Cassimon is academic responsible for 'Debating Development', a series of debates organized as a interfaculty course that can be taken as an elective course for credit by a lot of students at the University of Antwerp, and largely financed by VLIR. In the academic year 2010-11, this series had as an umbrella theme 'Revisiting the MDGs. Counting down to 2015'. The thematic Group also organized two sessions in this program.

3.1 Translate academic research into policy relevant conclusions and recommendations

- *Extra consultancies that could be taken up due to the collaboration of the researchers:*
 - Cassimon, D. and Verbeke, K. "Joint Evaluation of Debt relief to DR Congo" Evaluation for the Special Evaluation Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belgium and IOB-Netherlands, together with S. Marysse, T; De Herdt and the University of Kinshasa and Ecorys Netherlands.
 - Cassimon, D. and Verbeke, K. "Evaluation of Belgian Debt Relief Policy 2000-2009". Evaluation for the Special Evaluator of the Belgian Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belgium.
 - Molenaers, N., Renard, R. and Holvoet, N. "Workshop on the Paris Declaration", Workshop for EADI.
 - Holvoet, N. and Inberg, L. "Gender equality and changing aid modalities, case study Tanzania", research commissioned by DPRN and CIDIN.
- *Reports:*
 - Kalala François K., Cassimon D. (2010) "Democratic Republic of Congo phase 2". London, Overseas Development Institute (Global financial crisis discussion series ; 15).
- *Other presentations made by the team:*
 - Cassimon, D. 10 times per year, infocycle BTC Development Cooperation, "IMF en Wereldbank en de huidige werking van de financiële hulp- en ontwikkelingsarchitectuur"
 - Holvoet, N. (2011) "Gender Mainstreaming in General Budget Support: What to do to enhance a gender-sensitive dialogue?", DEVCO, Brussels, March 21-22, 2011
 - Holvoet, N. (2011) "Aid Effectiveness and Gender Equality", Practitioners' Network for European Development Cooperation Workshop on Strengthening Implementation of the EU Gender Equality Action Plan, Brussels, March 23, 2011
 - Holvoet, N. and Inberg, L. (2010) "Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action through a gender lens. Case-study Tanzania.", Closing event On track with Gender, Den Haag, 21 February 2010
 - Molenaers, N., 14 February 2011, Mechelen, Opleiding Intercultureel Management, Centrum voor Intercultureel Management en Internationale Communicatie, "De rol van de civiele maatschappij in hulp en ontwikkeling: de 'nieuwe' hulp benadering toegelicht".
 - Holvoet, N., 24 January 2011, Mechelen, Opleiding Intercultureel Management, Centrum voor Intercultureel Management en Internationale Communicatie, "Gender en ontwikkeling: concepten, beleidsbenadering en analyse-instrumenten".
 - Cassimon, D., 15 January 2011, Mechelen, Opleiding Intercultureel Management,

Centrum voor Intercultureel Management en Internationale Communicatie, "De internationale instellingen (IMF en Wereldbank) en de huidige werking van de financiële hulp- en ontwikkelingsarchitectuur."

- Molenaers, N., 13-14 January 2011, Bonn, GTZ Professional Forum 'the political economy of reform processes in partner countries', presentation "Coping with clashes: the political economy (PE) of policy dialogue (PD)".
- Molenaers, N and Renard, R. (2010) "The evolution in aid thinking and practice", BTC Staff Straining Seminar, Brussels, September 1, 2010.
- Renard, R. (2010) "Belgian TA and the Paris Declaration", BTC TA 2010 Summer Seminar, August 24, 2010
- Holvoet, N. and Inberg, L. (2010) "Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action through a gender lens. Case-study Tanzania.", Den Haag, 6 July 2010
- Huyse, H. (HIVA), Molenaers, N. and Bossuyt, J. (ECDPM) (2010) "Evaluatie van de NGO-partnerschappen op het vlak van capaciteitsversterking", "Evaluation des partenariats ONG orientés vers le renforcement de capacités", Seminar, June 16, 2010.
- Holvoet, N. and Inberg, L., 4 June 2010, DPRN Gender on Track, presentation of paper "Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action through a gender lens. Case-study Tanzania. Preliminary Findings". Dar es Salaam.
- Molenaers, N. (2010) "The New Aid Approach. The place and role of civil society", KUL, CADES, April 22, 2010.
- Holvoet, N. "Monitoring and Evaluation in the context of changing aid modalities: importance, challenges and moving forward", EADI-IOB Seminar, 15-16 April 2010.
- Renard, R. (2010) "The Implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness: Where do we stand and how to move forward", Brussels, EADI-IOB Seminar, 15-16 April 2010.
- Molenaers, N. (2010) "The Implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness: Where do we stand and how to move forward", Brussels, EADI-IOB Seminar, 15-16 April 2010.
- Holvoet, N. (2010) "Impactevaluatie. Mogelijkheden en aandachtspunten", DGD, April 1, 2010.

Website:

The O*Platform website is used to disseminate presentations and documents made by the team: www.ua.ac.be/dev/aid_effectiveness. For the researchers of the Platform, an internal network is set up, through which documentation related to the Platform's research interests is made accessible.

Welke wijzigingen waren er in de bezetting van de onderzoeksgroep? (bijv. aflopende en nieuwe doctoraten, contracten,...)

During the second year of the O*Platform, the staff of the Platform has remained the same. Within the broader thematic group, Jos Vaessen and Sara De Wachter finished their PhDs.

3 Wetenschappelijke dienstverlening (20%)

Hoe verloopt de samenwerking met DGOS? Werden voldoende beleidsrelevante vragen gesteld door DGOS, ter invulling van de zogenaamde trekkingsdagen? Werden deze tijdig gesteld?

To streamline demands towards the Platform, a coordination meeting was organized in September 2010 in which different DGD-proposals were discussed with the O*Platform team.

As the O*platform has over time become better known within DGD, demands are often also directly directed towards the Platform members. These demands are consequently negotiated bilaterally and communicated to the focal point and VLIR.

Werd de 20%-80% werklastverdeling tussen respectievelijk dienstverlening aan DGOS en eigen onderzoek in grote lijnen gerespecteerd?

As the demands from DGD, certainly the most important ones, have been closely aligned with the team members' research agendas, academic research and policy advisory work have been well balanced.

Geef in onderstaande tabel de ingevulde trekkingsdagen van het tweede jaar weer, met het saldo aan eventueel niet ingevulde dagen.

Vraag naar wetenschappelijke dienstverlening	Geleverde output	Besteed aantal trekkingsdagen
3.1 Translate academic research into policy relevant conclusions and recommendations		
Assessment tool on sector M&E systems of partner countries	Elaboration of an assessment tool	2 days
	Application of the assessment tool: preparatory desk study for field missions. 2 countries (Rwanda and Niger)	10 days
Gathering evidence to inform HLF-4	Progress since Paris and the way forward after Busan: selection of BOS-O*Platform output. 6 Policy Briefs	6 days
3.2 Formulate case-studies and studies on best practices with recommendations for DGDC		
Study on Budget Support and Policy Dialogue	Synthesis study: Molenaers N., Cepinskas, L. and Jacobs, B. (2010) "Budget Support and Policy/Political Dialogue. Donor Practices in Handling (Political) Crises", Study Commissioned by the Belgian Directorate for Development Cooperation.	20 Days
	Participation on the EC Consultation on Budget Support	1 day
Input in a Belgian strategy for development cooperation in middle income countries	Desk study of different donors	6 days
3.3 Create training materials to be used by DGDC in internal trainings		
4.1 Organise training sessions for DGDC/BTC staff, for local attachés		
Seminar on impact evaluation.	Seminar "Impactevaluaite. Mogelijkheden en aandachtspunten", DGD, 1 April 2010.	1 day
Workshop on Policy Dialogue for new ISPs	Molenaers, N. and Renard, R. (2011) "Policy Dialogue: from discourse to practice", Workshop in preparation of Indicative Co-operation Programmes (ISP/PIC) 2011 and 2012. Brussels,	2 days

	February 9, 2011	
5.1 Participate in seminars, meetings in Brussels or in the field		
5.2 Participate in short missions or as experts in multi-donor missions		
Support on Debt Management	Participation to the conference and Steering Committee meeting on Debt Management Facility, organized by the World Bank, Tunis, 28 March-April 1, 2010	3 Days
Support on innovative financing	Participation workshop "Innovative financing for Development, OECD, March 13-14	1,5 Day
5.3 Punctual advisory work via mail or meetings		
Inputs in dossiers Innovative Financing	Support in the preparation of an issue paper on Innovative Financing for the informal council on OS, European Presidency, October 22, 2010	1 day
5.4 Follow-up specific files		
Som van alle trekkingdagen		53,5/53
Saldo t.o.v. het voorziene aantal trekkingdagen		

4 Netwerk

Waren er wijzingen in het netwerk in de loop van werkjaar 2 (nieuwe leden, leden die niet langer tot het netwerk behoren)?

During the second working year, the contacts with most members of the network has been maintained while a number of new members might be added:

- UNESCO: Jos Vaessen, Evaluation Specialist, Evaluation Section, Internal Oversight Service
- German Development Institute: Stefan Leiderer, Coordinator Budget Support Research Programme.
- Sebastian Dellepiane, external lecturer at IOB

Simultaneously, members of the Platform have been asked to participated in national and international panels, working groups and platforms, what further broadens their network.

Geef eventuele nieuwe links van het O*-platform met ander programma's van VLIR-UOS. Waren er links mogelijk met de sinds kort goedgekeurde GRAPs, de Waalse varianten van de O*-platformen? In hoeverre zijn deze links reeds geoperationaliseerd?

Nathalie Holvoet is member of the North-team of the Institutional University Cooperation with MOI University, Kenya, project Gender Equity (Gender Equity, Research and Development). Through the MICs-study, the O*Platform has made contact with GRAPPAX. They are working on the DGD policy note Fragile States and fragile situations.

Hoe wordt concreet samengewerkt binnen uw netwerk? Ontving u markante, inhoudelijke of vormelijke opmerkingen vanuit het netwerk op de werking van het O*-platform?

With the members of the network, no specific form of collaboration has been established. Regular contacts take place and the results of our work are disseminated to them through the different communication channels used (mail, website...).

Comments and suggestions were received from members of the network on events where the output was presented, through personal contacts or through the different communication channels used.

Wat is volgens u de visibiliteit van uw O*platform op nationaal en internationaal niveau en waarom? Wat hebt u gedaan om de nationale en internationale visibiliteit te verhogen?

The Budget Support study that was done by the O*Platform as part of the Belgian EU Presidency, has been posted as a background document on the EU website during the public consultation on the EU Green paper on Budget Support. Following the study, Nadia has also been asked to participate in expert panels and international conferences organized by donors on budget support.

Other O*Platform members also participate in international networks:

- Danny Cassimon became member of the UNESCO expert panel on debt swaps and innovative financing for education
- Nathalie Holvoet is a member of the coordination committee of the Vlaams Evaluatie Platform (VEP) and of IDEAS, the International Development Evaluation Association.
- Nadia Molenaers and Robrecht Renard participated in the OECD Working Group Aid Effectiveness
- Nathalie Holvoet is a member of the Gender and Development Working Group of the European Association of Development Research Institutes (EADI)
- N. Molenaers is member of the Budget Support Expert Consortium hosted by ODI.

Increasingly people find their ways to O*Platform members to request information, either documents produced by O*Platform members or specific input that is not found in the documents, e.g. M&E related documents were requested by BTC Budget Support experts in Uganda and an attaché in training came to ask specific input on gender issues.

Geef de data van stuurgroepoverleg en van (breed) netwerkoverleg.

Steering Committee: 21 September 2010.

No formal network meeting took place.

5 Noord versus Zuid?

Welke links met het zuiden werden reeds gelegd? Was dit verwacht/gepland of eerder via onverwachte weg? Verloopt de connectie met het zuiden volgens plan, om binnen de voorziene termijn de beoogde zuid-finaliteit (zoals beschreven in het 4-jarenplan) te bereiken?

The O*Platform's main focus group are the Belgian actors and drivers of change within DGD and BTC. Therefore, direct links towards stakeholders in the South are not the first outcome of the Platform. They establish however during the numerous missions the Platform undertakes to the South (see for example contacts with the University of Kinshasa in the past).

As during this second year, the 20% work was mostly focused on DGD Brussels and field missions were limited, no new links with the South have been established, although links with other donors have.

In the third year, the work on M&E and its related field missions will establish new links.

Besides the indirect links through the O*Platform, direct links are established parallel to the Platform (e.g. currently links are established with evaluation societies of the South)

6 Toekomst

Lijken de objectieven en verwachte resultaten zoals vermeld in het origineel logisch kader nog haalbaar? Zo niet, wat zijn de redenen?

The specific objectives formulated in the logical framework are:

- key actors of Belgian DC have an increased knowledge of & critical reflection on aid effectiveness and new aid architecture
- Belgian academic world has an increased capacity to support Belgian DC actors on aid effectiveness and new aid architecture
- (former) students from the South have an increased capacity to apply insights on new aid architecture and aid effectiveness upon return to their home countries

For the first indicator, the demands from DGD illustrate that the surge for aid effectiveness is an important objective of the daily aid management of DGD. On the second indicator we see that junior staff is progressively participating in the output of the team and O*Platform staff is asked by Flemish Universities and High Schools to present their work and ideas on the NAA. Finally, the staff's experience with the implementation of the new aid approach has resulted in better support of students on these topics and a higher numbers of students choosing such topics for their end-of-module-papers and master thesis.

The overall objectives of the project are:

- increased incorporation of insights on aid architecture and aid effectiveness in Belgian DC policy formulation and implementation
- increased incorporation of insights on new aid architecture and aid effectiveness in development management in the South

Although these objectives will need more time to be realized, we see some important progress. For the moment, for example, certain decisions of DGD illustrate that aid effectiveness is becoming more important. The signing up of Belgium to the IHP+ compact, an organization that tries to put the Paris and Accra principles into practice in the health sector, is a good illustration of the Belgian willingness to implement the Aid Effectiveness principles in practice. This evolution has also been recognized by the DAC in its 2010 DAC Peer Review of Belgian aid. It concluded that Belgium has made significant steps forward in the improvement of its aid effectiveness.

7 Financieel

Rekening houdend met de 4-jaren budgettering van het O*platform, verliep de budgetbesteding zoals gepland, of waren er tekorten of openstaande saldi.

As the number of persons employed remained at the level that was planned, the budget could be executed as planned.

8 Algemene opmerkingen/verzuchtingen.

Geef het meest positieve punt aan de werking binnen een O*platform tot nog toe.

The exchange between research and policy has made it possible to make scientific research relevant for policymakers, while insights from policy practice could be incorporated in scientific research.

Geef het meest beperkende punt aan de werking binnen een O*platform tot nog toe.

Working strategically with the Belgian federal government has its inherent difficulties. Technocratic drivers of change within DGD and BTC are often confronted with the strategic decisions being

politicized and a parliament being unaware/uninterested/uninformed about the new reality of aid and the new aid architecture.

Hebt u nog andere suggesties over de werking van de O*platformen of de wijze van verslaggeving?

Handtekening van de promotor	Datum en plaats
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