

11-1-2014

ILS Position Statement on Development Aid Effectiveness

International Life Saving Federation

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Recommended Citation

International Life Saving Federation (2014) "ILS Position Statement on Development Aid Effectiveness," *International Journal of Aquatic Research and Education*: Vol. 8 : No. 4 , Article 10.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25035/ijare.08.04.10>

Available at: <https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/ijare/vol8/iss4/10>

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World Water Safety

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LIFESAVING POSITION STATEMENT - LPS 11

DEVELOPMENT AID EFFECTIVENESS

INTRODUCTION

The International Life Saving Federation (ILS) is the world authority for drowning prevention, lifesaving and lifesaving sport. The ILS leads, supports and collaborates with national and international organisations engaged in drowning prevention, water safety, water rescue, lifesaving, lifeguarding and lifesaving sport.

In pursuit of this mission, the humanitarian traditions of ILS and its members seek to build national and member capacity to reduce drowning and provide lifesaving services. These activities intersect with the principles of development aid effectiveness. These principles are governed and monitored by the United Nations, and are implemented by Governments, multi-lateral and bilateral organisations, non-government organisations (NGOs) and donors.

This position statement seeks to provide guidance to ILS members and collaborating partners on what constitutes effective development aid, and how stakeholders can work within frameworks of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005), the Accra Agenda for Action (2008) and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (2011) to contribute to the achievement of ILS objectives across drowning prevention, lifesaving and lifesaving sport.

WHAT IS DEVELOPMENT AID?

- Governments, multilaterals, NGOs and donors use a variety of terminology to describe financial and technical assistance exchanged between partners for the purpose of supporting economic, social, health or political development in low and middle income countries (LMICs).
- Commonly used terms include; development aid, development cooperation, development assistance, technical assistance, international aid, overseas aid, official development assistance (ODA), and foreign aid are also used.
- Often this transfer of development aid flows to countries considered to be low or low middle income countries (LMICs). It may be transferred direct to Governments or in partnership with multilaterals, national and international NGOs, and the private sector.

PREFERRED TERMINOLOGY

- *Development aid* is the preferred terminology of ILS and is used throughout this position statement to mean financial and technical assistance exchanged between partners for the purpose of supporting economic, social, health or political development in low and middle income countries (LMICs).
- *Development Aid Partnership* is a term used to describe parties working under cooperative agreement to advance common development aid goals. Parties may include donors and recipients, but partnership is used to reinforce the principles of mutual benefit.
- In this position statement *Development Aid Partnerships* is a term used to describe partnerships focused on financial and technical assistance exchanged for the purposes of reducing drowning in LMICs. Participants may include members and partners, Governments, multilateral and bilateral organisations and donors.

PARIS DECLARATION ON AID EFFECTIVENESS¹

- In response to the challenges of achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, Governments and multilateral and bilateral development institutions resolved to look beyond aid volume and focus on aid effectiveness.
- The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005) builds upon previous agreements to harmonise and align aid delivery, to be more adaptive to differing situations, to set indicators, timetables and targets, and to monitor and evaluate implementation.
- Signatories to this declaration are defined as partner countries or donors and commit to the principles outlined in Table 1.
- Governments, multilateral and bilateral organisations, and NGOs commonly express and monitor their commitment to these principles via various mechanisms including through public charters, annual reports and independent evaluations.

Table 1: Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness

COMMITMENT	DESCRIPTION
OWNERSHIP	Partner countries (recipients) exercise effective leadership over their development policies, and strategies and co-ordinate development actions.
ALIGNMENT	Donors base their overall support on partner countries' national development strategies, institutions and procedures.
HARMONISATION	Donors' actions are more harmonised, transparent and collectively effective.
MANAGING FOR RESULTS	Managing resources and improving decision-making for results.
MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY	Donors and partners are accountable for development results

ACCRA AGENDA FOR ACTION²

In an effort to strengthen implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness Governments and multilateral and bilateral development institutions endorsed the Accra Agenda for Action (2008).

This sets out an emphasis on:

- Strengthening country ownership over development where LMICs determine and implement their development policies to achieve their own economic, social and environmental goals.
- Building more effective and inclusive partnerships for development that fully harness the energy, skills and experience of all participants.
- Delivering and accounting for development results through greater transparency and accountability for the use of development resources.

BUSAN PARTNERSHIP FOR EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION³

- The Busan Forum recognised that effective international development is founded on shared principles, common goals and differential commitments.
- The participants committed to modernise, deepen and broaden their co-operation, involving state and non-state actors and in forging a new global development partnership that embraces diversity and recognises the distinct roles that all stakeholders in co-operation can play to support development.
- The Forum agreed on shared common principles consistent with their international commitments on human rights, decent work, gender equality, environmental sustainability and disability.
 - Ownership of development priorities by developing countries.
 - Focus on results.
 - Inclusive development partnerships.
 - Transparency and accountability to each other.

DEVELOPMENT AID PARTNERSHIPS IN THE ILS CONTEXT

- In the ILS context, development aid has been used to describe assistance provided at global, regional or membership levels to partners in LMICs. This is commonly directed towards existing or emerging NGOs or other partners in nations with high rates of drowning but without existing membership.
- Common activities include technical support, training and development, organisational capacity building, limited funds, membership subsidies and equipment donations.
- Lifesaving agencies in LMICs often express concern at development aid and commercial activities initiated in their nation without their consultation or in direct competition to their activities. This position statement is intended to alleviate these concerns.
- More recently and in response to research⁴ that shows that over 95% of drowning occurs in LMICs, ILS development aid focus has extended to support provided specifically to development aid projects focused on drowning prevention interventions and research, often in partnership with Government, multilateral and bilateral organisations, NGOs and donors.
- It is expected that as ILS works to achieve its goals, an increased focus on development aid will necessitate the adoption of the principles of development aid effectiveness.
- ILS has a role in leading implementation of these principles and in monitoring and evaluating progress.

Table 2 provides an ILS perspective on the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

Table 2: An ILS perspective on the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness

COMMITMENT	DESCRIPTION
OWNERSHIP	Ownership of Development Aid Partnerships policies and actions must be determined by recipient countries, members and communities and tailored to country-specific situations and needs.
ALIGNMENT	Development Aid Partnerships must ensure that support is directed or aligned to the actual and prioritised need of the recipient countries, members and communities.
HARMONISATION	Development Aid Partnerships must ensure that actions are coordinated and complementary across donors to improve effectiveness and maximise use of resources. Where actions intersect with those conducted by donors in other sectors, all efforts must be taken to align these activities.
MANAGING FOR RESULTS	Steps must be taken to ensure that Development Aid Partnership actions are evaluated for impact and effectiveness, and that such knowledge is shared for the benefit of the all countries, members and communities, and those seeking to initiate other such partnerships
MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY	All participants in Development Aid Partnerships are encouraged to publish development plans and results in a manner that encourages mutual accountability.

ILS AND THE UNITED NATIONS

- Given the role of the UN in coordinating development aid efforts, it is important to note ILS partnerships with related international bodies.
- In 1996 ILS received recognition by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). ILS is uniquely positioned in that it governs a sport that is deeply tied to humanitarian endeavours. In this respect ILS works with the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP)
- World Health Organisation (WHO) is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. In January 2010, WHO recognised ILS for its role and expertise in global drowning prevention via WHO Official Relations status.
- ILS continues to pursue formal recognition and partnership with other UN agencies which have coordinating roles in development areas such as UNICEF.

STATEMENTS

1. ILS and its members have a long tradition of humanitarian action in terms of a commitment to reducing drowning and building the capacity of its members and partners in developing countries.
2. ILS recognises and stands committed to strengthening its capacity and performance in respect to development aid effectiveness.
3. ILS is committed to the principles of aid effectiveness as expressed through the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.
4. ILS expresses this commitment by ensuring that Development Aid Partnerships, their policies and actions are aligned to the principles of:
 - a. Ownership
 - b. Alignment
 - c. Harmonisation
 - d. Managing for results
 - e. Mutual accountability
5. ILS Development Aid Partnerships are directed towards:

- a. Reducing or preventing global drowning with an emphasis on high drowning regions, countries and communities.
 - b. Building recipient country or lifesaving member capacity to reduce drowning and provide lifesaving services.
 - c. Partnering with multilateral and bilateral organisations, NGOs, donors, members and partners to contribute resources and expertise within our areas of interest and expertise.
6. ILS recognises the importance of the rights of development aid recipients to ownership and determination of the development aid priorities, policies and strategies used within Development Aid Partnerships. ILS members and partners are encouraged to ensure that all Development Aid Partnerships support of the principles of ownership and determination at recipient country, member and community levels.
 7. ILS recognises that it must ensure that Development Aid Partnerships are coordinated, aligned to the needs of the recipient and harmonised when two or more members are engaged in activity in a single country or region.
 - a. This is reflected in the development aid plans and strategies, and coordinating mechanisms utilised by ILS and its members.
 - b. ILS recognises that such coordinating mechanisms may operate at global or regional level, or directly between partners.
 8. ILS reinforces the need to ensure that Development Aid Partnerships and/or commercial and no-commercial activities are not conducted by HIC members in LMICs without steps being taken to consult existing members and/or partners. ILS recognises that members in LMICs are particularly vulnerable to such activities and that consultation must be initiated in line with this position statement.
 9. ILS embraces the principles of improving decision making and accountability by providing timely, transparent and comprehensive information with respect to the Development Aid Partnerships it initiates, implements or funds.
 - a. Development Aid Partnerships reports will be published on the ILS website.
 - b. ILS encourages all Development Aid Partnerships to share such information in a similar way.
 10. ILS reinforces and embraces the opportunities for shared learning and mutual benefit for both the donor and recipient inherent in Development Aid Partnerships.
 11. ILS strongly encourages all members and partners to adopt similar principles in relation to development aid effectiveness, and to consult the development aid effectiveness policies of their Governments, and of those who operate in their country, region or community.
 12. ILS commits to and encourages all members to ensure that Development Aid Partnerships are evaluated for impact and effectiveness, and that those results are shared openly to encourage and facilitate improved lifesaving and drowning prevention development aid effectiveness.

DEFINITIONS

TERM	DEFINITION
Multilateral agencies	An agency that represents groups of governments but with an independent legal and operational status. They include those under the UN system i.e. WHO, UNICEF, and those regionally focused i.e. Association of South East Asian Nations, European Union.
Bilateral agencies	An agency that represents a single Government to coordinate and allocate development priorities in a recipient country i.e. United States Agency for International Development.

Non-government organisations	A term used to describe a diverse range of international and national organisations which operate in the development aid sector. Well known examples include OXFAM and World Vision. NGOs are sometimes referred to as Civil Society.
Donors	A term used to describe all those contributing financial and technical resources to development aid activities.

ACRONYM	MEANING
ILS	International Life Saving Federation
IOC	International Olympic Committee
LMIC	Low and Middle Income Country
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NGO	Non-government organisation (sometimes referred to as civil society organisations)
ODA	Overseas development Assistance
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOSDP	United Nations Office for Sport Development and Peace
WHO	World Health Organisations

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- ³ Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, (2011) 4th High Level Forum (HLF) on Aid Effectiveness, Paris, France: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.
- ⁴ International Life Saving Federation, International Life Saving Federation World Drowning Report. International Journal of Aquatic Research and Education, 2007. 1(4): p. 381-401.

Approved by the ILS Drowning Prevention Commission and ratified by the ILS Board of Directors on 21 April 2012.