

# Open Government Partnership Sweden's 2012 National Action Plan – Self-Assessment Report

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## 1. Introduction and Background

### 1.1. Sweden's Commitment to Aid Transparency and involvement in OGP

By joining the Open Government Partnership, Sweden reaffirmed its commitment to open government efforts both in principle and practice. Sweden, with its long tradition of transparency, citizen engagement and efforts to build an effective and accountable government, embraces the ideas of the initiative. Sweden's Action Plan and engagement focus on the challenge of *More Effectively Managing Public Resources* in development cooperation. Sweden has launched a reform agenda under the heading "Open Aid". An essential part of this agenda is the Aid Transparency Guarantee in Swedish Development Cooperation which was established in 2010, including Sweden's flagship website [www.openaid.se](http://www.openaid.se), launched in April 2011. This step was taken to better adapt development cooperation to today's reality and the opportunities created by globalisation and technological development.

### 1.2. Summary of Achievements

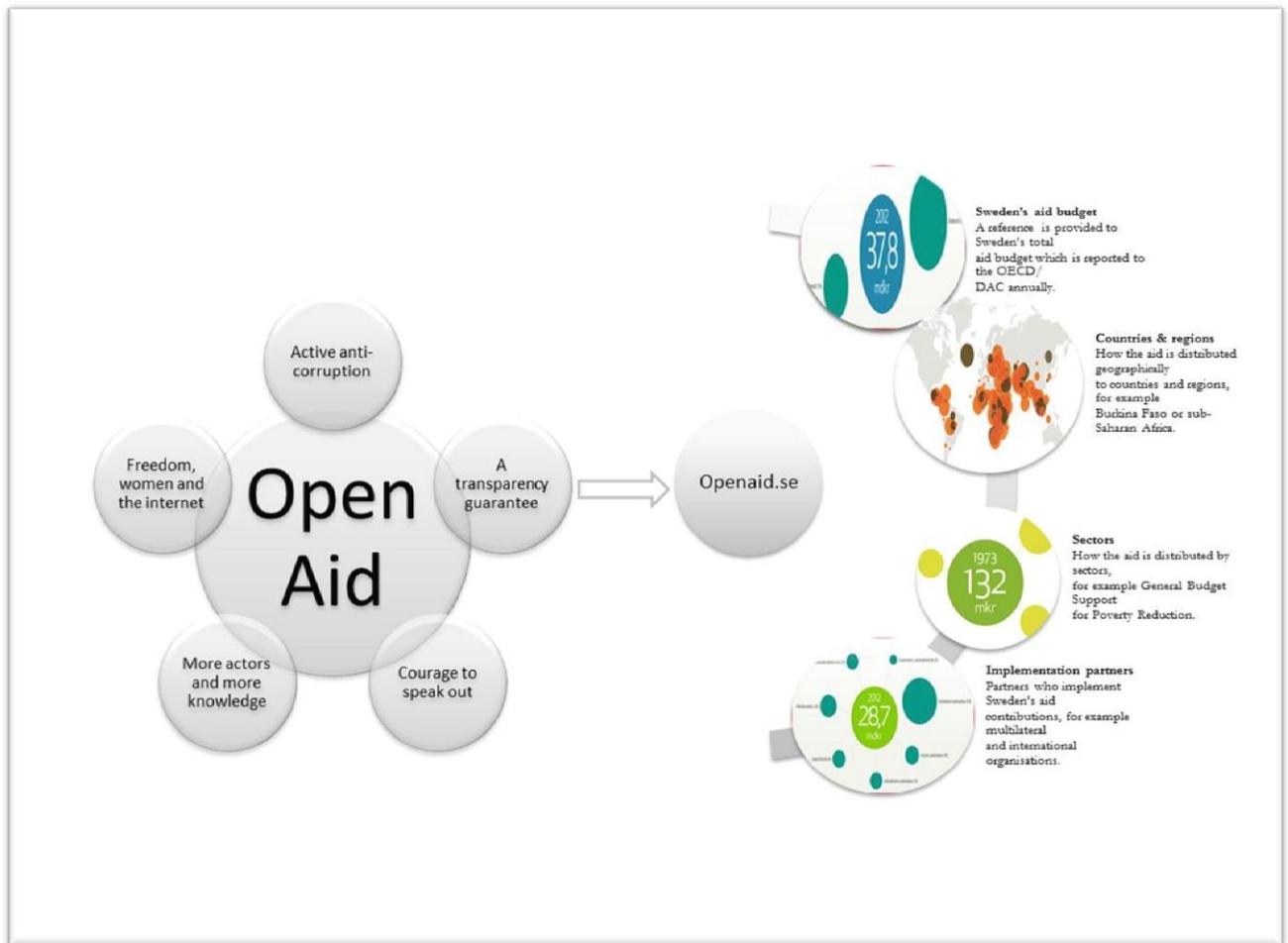
Open Aid builds on the need for greater transparency (i) through active transparency to promote greater knowledge of Swedish development cooperation and create possibilities for accountability, (ii) to promote fresh thinking and harness knowledge from different sectors of society, and (iii) for increased cooperation and greater involvement of more actors in Swedish development policy.

The transparency guarantee means that all public documents and public information will be made available online. The information must explain when, to whom and why money has been made available, and what results have been achieved. The transparency guarantee applies to all public actors who have been allocated funds under the international development cooperation expenditure area. The transparency guarantee in practice includes the following:

- The Swedish aid administration shares information generously.
- Aid information is subject to the principle of public access to official documents and is available online in an open format.
- It is possible to follow the whole chain of aid information, from overall decisions to implementation and monitoring.
- Tax revenue used for development cooperation will be traceable.
- Sweden encourages other development actors and partners, including multilateral and civil society organisations, to increase transparency.
- In the long term, aid information will be made available in each partner country and published, whenever possible, in both Swedish and English.

Since the publication of Sweden's National Action Plan, Sweden has made great progress in both its domestic and international transparency efforts, including the implementation of the transparency

guarantee and its current measures to raise the level of ambition even higher, and the re-launch of Openaid.se and improved Swedish IATI data.



## 2. Process Summary

Taking the Open Aid reform agenda as its starting point, Sweden published its Action Plan in April 2012 after consulting civil society. Sweden continuously receives input to the process through consultation and dialogue with CSOs, and reviews means of publishing more data in response to feedback from CSOs and moving closer to complete fulfilment of the IATI standard. The IATI standard itself was agreed after two years of consultations with developing country stakeholders about their information needs, and discussing with donors the most efficient and effective way of meeting these. Regular meetings are held with civil society organisations prior to international conferences and ahead of EU Foreign Affairs Council (Development) meetings, for example, to ensure engagement in a wider range of areas. Consultations also take place in connection with events such as Stockholm Internet Forum 2013 (a session was held on ICT for development) and the Open Knowledge Festival in Finland.

Sweden has a comprehensive and integrated approach to working with OGP in Swedish Development Cooperation. Parallel structures for OGP have been avoided so as not to duplicate ongoing consultation processes and the focus is to work with OGP in an integrated manner in all subject fields as well as overarching processes.

Openaid.se maintains an open channel for communication with CSOs and the general public in the shape of a Feedback button that is present on all individual pages on Openaid.se. The function is available in both Swedish and English. The visitor is invited to comment under one or more of the following headings: Question, Suggestion, Problem or Praise. Once a user has submitted a comment it is immediately published and can be the starting point of a discussion or just receive an answer from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and/or Sida. The discussion and exchanges are kept and made available to anyone that uses the feedback function. A total of about 120 discussions have been initiated since April 2011. A similar function is found on the Ministry for Foreign Affairs' webpage on development cooperation <http://blogg.ud.se/utvecklingspolitik/> (only available in Swedish).

**We want to learn from you**

Opinions and questions about Openaid.se can be sent to [openaid@sida.se](mailto:openaid@sida.se) or by clicking the "Feedback" function tab on the right edge. Opinions and questions about Swedish aid can be posted on [blogg.ud.se/utvecklingspolitik](http://blogg.ud.se/utvecklingspolitik). Read more about Swedish aid on [www.ud.se](http://www.ud.se) and [www.sida.se](http://www.sida.se).

**Tyck till i vår idébank** SEN

**Hela regeringen har ett ansvar att bidra till en rättvis och hållbar global utveckling. Svensk migrationspolitik, europeisk jordbrukspolitik och globala finansmarknader påverkar fattiga människors liv.**

Har du idéer om hur regeringens samlade politik kan förbättra förutsättningarna för människor som lever i fattigdom? Hur kan biståndet anpassas till dagens verklighet för att göra mest nytta?

**Dela idéer. Diskutera. Tyck till.** DELA IDÉER DISKUTERA & RÖSTA

Ge oss dina idéer på hur den svenska utvecklingspolitiken kan bli ännu bättre på att bidra till en rättvis och hållbar global utveckling. Just nu pågår ett intensivt arbete med att ta fram nya mål för global utveckling efter 2015, i praktiken vad som ska ersätta de nuvarande millenniemålen. Hur bör de se ut tycker du? Välkommen med dina tankar här på bloggen, på Twitter under #post2015 eller i Facebookgruppen Utvecklingsmålen post-2015".

Sweden also takes part in OGP events such as the European Outreach and Support meetings, webinars arranged by the OGP Networking Mechanisms, working groups such as the joint OGP-GIFT Fiscal Openness Working Group (FOWG) and peer learning with the Nordic countries, among others.

Sweden's Action Plan and engagement focus on the challenge of More Effectively Managing Public Resources in development cooperation. More specifically, to ensure increased transparency in Swedish development cooperation, Sweden is committed to:

- Continuing the development of the Openaid.se platform.
- Ensuring full implementation of the IATI standard by 2015.
- Implementing the commitments in the Busan Partnership document.
- Playing a leading role in the Building Block on Transparency and other international forums.
- Contributing to further defining the work towards an EU Transparency Guarantee.
- Engaging in the Open Aid Partnership and promoting ICT4D.
- Broadening open government commitments.

### 3. Implementation of the commitments and next steps

OGP Commitment	Details on commitment	Progress Summary	Timeframe	Way Forward	Status
<p><b>Continuing the development of the Openaid.se platform</b></p>	<p>Continuously developing the Openaid.se platform will increase transparency and openness and facilitate accountability to Swedish taxpayers and people in our partner countries. Continued development will include (i) further quality assurance, (ii) monthly updated information from all public actors allocated funds under the international development cooperation expenditure area, (iii) an expanded range of published documents, (iv) enhanced visibility of the aid chain/activity structure, (v) a spotlight on results and evaluations, (vi) enhanced use of the open format, (vii) data from CSOs, and (viii) a focus on Sida's recently developed whistleblower function.</p>	<p>Openaid.se has evolved, with new ways to view data and documents as well as in quantity. A few examples: more than 100 000 documents are now available at activity level, activities can be sorted by disbursing agency or implementing partner. The site now has an interface for mobile devices with customised interaction design and a mobile app. Sweden has also spread the openaid.se API to third party online API collections. Swedish CSO project data has recently been published online in a machine-readable format. The data can be accessed through "Sida's CSO Database" (<a href="http://cso.sida.se">http://cso.sida.se</a>). Integration between the CSO Database and Openaid.se is on-going. The coming integration will allow Openaid.se to show data and results on a much more detailed level for Swedish CSO activities funded by Sweden.</p>	<p>Continuous</p>	<p>As announced in the Government's Budget Bill for 2014, the level of ambition for Openaid.se is to rise further and new targets for 2013-2015 are being developed. This will lead to a renewal of the webpage and improve Sweden's IATI publications. Changes will be made to tie Openaid.se closer to the IATI standard. This will have great benefits, enabling close collaboration with the IATI community to share open source solutions as well as data.</p>	<p>Partially fulfilled</p>

<p><b>Ensuring full implementation of the IATI standard by 2015</b></p>	<p>To further broaden Sweden's implementation, measures will be taken to extend and improve the data, investigate the efforts needed to report on some of IATI's optional components (including publishing information on results, conditions, activity-level budgets and future flows, and publishing all documents in machine-readable and accessible format) and improve the coverage of planned disbursements.</p>	<p>Sweden publishes IATI files for all countries and regions monthly and is on track with its IATI implementation schedule for 2013 as a whole. Sweden has recently adjusted its IATI document links, added several data types and works continuously on improving quality. Sweden published IATI organisation files during 2013.</p>	<p>2015</p>	<p>As described above, the renewed Openaid.se will improve Sweden's IATI publications. Sweden will continue to make the document structure of Openaid.se more compatible with IATI. New types of data will become available in a form that can be aggregated. One example is results indicators. Sweden will update its implementation schedule in line with the raised level of ambition, which will lead to publication ahead of the current implementation schedule.</p>	<p>Partially fulfilled</p>
<p><b>Implementing the commitments in the Busan Partnership document</b></p>	<p>Implementing the commitments in the Busan Partnership document includes contributing to the agreement on a common, open standard for the electronic publication of aid information by December 2015, making the full range of information publicly available, focusing on transparent public financial management and aid information management systems, and making development cooperation more predictable.</p>	<p>Sweden had an active role in reaching an agreement [DCD/DAC/EFF(2012)9] on the common standard in OECD DAC's Working Party for Aid Effectiveness (WP-EFF) in June 2012 and in the process that followed to develop implementation schedules and an indicator for transparency within the framework of the Global Partnership. It was then agreed that "the combination and progressive convergence of the two standards [CRS/FSS and IATI] can form the 'common, open standard'". Sweden has since published an ambitious implementation schedule for the common standard.</p>	<p>2015</p>	<p>Sweden will revise its implementation schedule to further accelerate its implementation of the common standard.</p>	<p>Partially fulfilled</p>

<p><b>Playing a leading role in the Building Block on Transparency</b></p>	<p>Sweden will continue to act as a driving force to secure implementation of the <i>Building Block on Transparency</i> through its role as co-chair. We will support ongoing multi-stakeholder partnerships on accountability, predictability and transparency, and different actors' work on effectiveness, results and transparency.</p>	<p>Sweden has been a driving force for enhanced transparency in development cooperation, not the least by its engagement in IATI. As a constituent part of the common standard, publishing in accordance with the IATI standard is a prerequisite to deliver on the commitments from Busan. After the establishment of the Global Partnership, fewer activities have been taken place within the framework of the Building Block. A multi-stakeholder consortium assumed its new Secretariat role within IATI in September 2013, marking the 5th anniversary of the Accra Agenda for Action and giving new impetus to the transparency of development spending globally. The new Secretariat consists of Sweden, UNDP, UNOPS, Ghana and Development Initiatives. Sweden will lead IATI's political engagement and outreach to donors, and ensure liaison between the IATI Secretariat and other relevant forums such as the Open Government Partnership, the Open Aid Partnership, the OECD-DAC (WP-STAT), and the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation in the context of the common standard.</p>	<p>Continuing</p>	<p>Hosting of IATI until 2015.</p>	<p>Fulfilled</p>
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<p><b>Contributing to further defining the work towards an EU Transparency Guarantee</b></p>	<p>This will be done by working towards the establishment of an appropriate forum for EU Member State and European Commission transparency specialists to hold technical discussions and share information. Sweden will contribute to the process by sharing its experiences, ensuring leverage from its role as one of the key actors in the ongoing international discussions on how to deliver on the Busan commitments.</p>	<p>Since the agreement on the common standard, the focus has been on implementation of IATI. Workshops have been arranged by the Commission and IATI. Sweden has participated and shared its experience.</p>	<p>Continuing</p>	<p>Sweden's role in the IATI Secretariat will leverage the possibilities to further spur the implementation of the EU Transparency Guarantee.</p>	<p>Fulfilled</p>
<p><b>Engaging in the Open Aid Partnership and promoting ICT4D</b></p>	<p>Innovative technologies, such as geocoding aid activities, offer powerful ways to show what donors are doing and where. They are therefore also helpful in increasing transparency and in the debate on the division of labour. The World Bank Institute and bilateral donor partners, foundations and civil society have formed an Open Aid Partnership (OAP). The Swedish agenda for ICT in development cooperation includes Information and Communication Technology for Development (ICT4D), which aims to contribute to improved prospects for poverty reduction, Business for Development, accountability, increased democratic participation, inclusive economic growth, freedom of expression and knowledge development, ICT for enhanced accountability and eGovernment.</p>	<p>As a part of Sweden's commitment to OAP, Sweden hosted an international seminar on geocoding in Stockholm. The aim was to share knowledge and find a common standard for geocoding and methodology. The seminar was co-hosted by the World Bank Institute. Sweden has increased its capacity to implement projects with a strong ICT4D component through a new unit within the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). This unit focuses on implementing innovative solutions that take advantage of developments in the field of ICT. Sida has focused on bringing in new ideas and expertise through public tenders in two areas: ICT and democracy and ICT and gender. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) has also strengthened its policy capacity within ICT and development. Sida and the MFA have also arranged the Stockholm Internet Forum for Internet Freedom and Development, with a strong focus on issues at the intersection of international politics, development and democracy.</p>	<p>Continuing</p>	<p>Ambitious programmes are being implemented. Sweden will be committing approximately USD 60m to ICT4D-related projects in the coming five years.</p>	<p>Fulfilled</p>

<p><b>Broadening open government commitments</b></p>	<p>Sweden intends to broaden its OGP commitments in the ongoing process of defining the next generation strategy for open and smart government. The upcoming strategy will broaden the initial focus on effectively managing public resources in development cooperation to include the government as a whole.</p>	<p>The Government adopted a new eGovernment strategy (N2012/6402/TTP) in December 2012, with three objectives. <i>Simplicity</i>, in order to develop easy and user-friendly solutions. <i>Transparency and innovativeness</i>, in order to take advantage of digital opportunities to increase transparency, strengthen democracy, and contribute to more growth through open data. <i>Efficiency</i> by using digitisation. The strategy is in line with the principles of the OGP initiative. Under the transparency objective the strategy sets out three targets: greater possibilities to find and re-use open data; not only public agencies but also other actors should be able to provide public digital services; and opportunities for transparency and participation must increase. The strategy states that the Swedish Government intends to broaden its OGP commitments by means of issues regarding the digitisation of government and to increase coordination within the Government Offices. Actions taken: In 2012 the Swedish Government took a decision to develop a technological platform for delivering open data, oppnadata.se. The aim is to provide easy and efficient access to open public data so as to make it easier for third parties to refine the information into products and services, and to help increase transparency in the public sector.</p>	<p>Continuing</p>	<p>The Swedish Government intends to make its referral procedure more open and accessible. Furthermore the Government has appointed an inquiry in 2012 with instructions to present proposals to enable businesses to provide information to the public authorities only once and via one public channel. The Government has also appointed another inquiry in 2013 regarding the changes that need to be made in Swedish law in order to comply with the EU regulations on the re-use of public data. Furthermore the Government has taken action aimed at creating a safe digital e-mail box for communication with the public authorities and will continue this work.</p>	<p>In progress</p>
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## 4. Conclusions

Sweden is a leading aid donor with a long tradition of openness. Democracy and human rights are a priority in Swedish development cooperation and in Swedish foreign policy in general. Sweden therefore has particular reason to meet the requirements for transparency in international development cooperation. Openness and transparency are fundamental prerequisites for democratic accountability. The Swedish Government therefore emphasises the importance of transparency and access to information about the central government administration, which is also laid down in Government Bill 2009/10:175 on Public administration for democracy, participation and growth. Today's digitised world makes it possible to apply the principle of public access to official documents so that information is made available not only upon request. Within Swedish aid administration, all information not subject to secrecy is available online. Within development cooperation, information and communication technology tools are used to enhance openness and transparency in aid administration.

Sweden is pleased at how far the Open Aid reform agenda and the transparency guarantee have been implemented. Over the past few years, Sweden has worked hard to develop Openaid.se and spur the international agenda on transparency in development cooperation, not least through Sweden's engagement in the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI). However, there is still work to be done and the Government has raised the level of ambition for Openaid.se further. New targets for 2013–2015 are being developed. Sweden aims to consolidate its global position as a leader in the transparency agenda in development cooperation. A renewal of the website, improved Swedish IATI publications and international endeavours for enhanced transparency are the main activities Sweden will focus on in the near future.