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A Brief Overview of Aid Transparency at USAID: Present and Future

2014 Winter Training Conference
International Consortium on Governmental
Financial Management (ICGFM)
December 2014
Jeremiah Carew, USAID



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Presentation Outline

- I. Introduction to U.S. foreign assistance and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

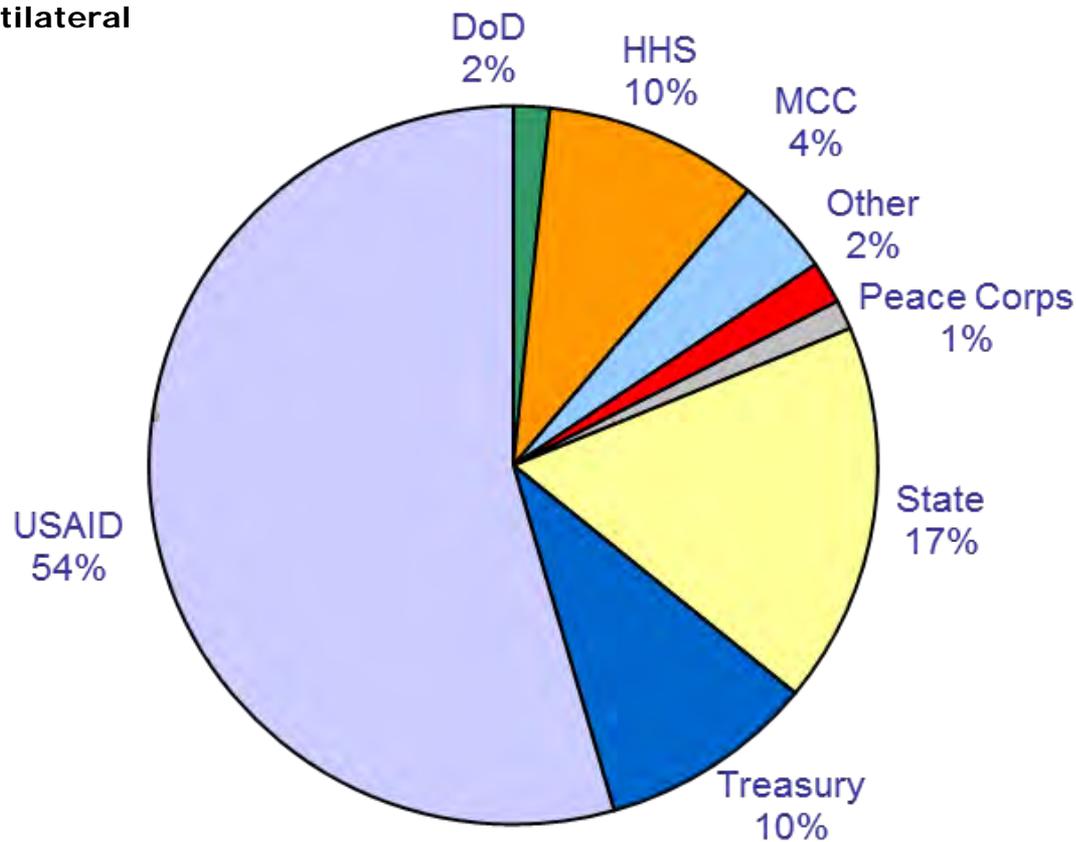
- II. Introduction to aid transparency & current U.S. efforts

- III. Overview of efforts to increase aid transparency through improved information management



Distribution of US ODA by Agency: CY2012 Net Disbursements

Bilateral and Multilateral
\$30,687





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Introduction: U.S. Foreign Assistance

- USAID's mission:
 - *We partner to end extreme poverty and to promote resilient, democratic societies while advancing our security and prosperity.*
- By far, USAID is world's largest bilateral donor; nevertheless, USG spends less than 1% of federal budget on foreign assistance
- USAID is the U.S. Government's primary development agency; began in 1961 with Foreign Assistance Act
- Works across spectrum of humanitarian assistance, development assistance, and countries in transition
- Independent federal government agency that receives overall foreign policy guidance from the Secretary of State



Photography by Morgana Wingard for USAID



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INTRO TO AID TRANSPARENCY & CURRENT U.S. EFFORTS



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Introduction: Aid Transparency & Current U.S. Efforts

- November 2011: U.S. signs International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)
- IATI: voluntary, multi-stakeholder initiative (donors, partner countries, civil society):
 - Make information about foreign aid spending easier to access, use and understand.
- Major U.S. initiatives supporting IATI and aid transparency in general:
 - Foreign Assistance Dashboard: repository and official registry for all USG IATI data
 - “Greenbook”: complete historical record of all foreign assistance provided by U.S.
 - Open Data: based on Federal government policy, fuel entrepreneurship, innovation, and scientific discovery through access to machine-readable raw data accessible to public
 - Reporting to OECD/DAC: same definition used by all for ODA, so comparable data across donors, shows historical trends



Foreign Assistance Dashboard (www.foreignassistance.gov)

Filter Data:

FY

Sector Framework

Country

Implementing Agent

Your Selections:

Show

Showing 1 to 10 entries (Out of 38,237)

Copy Data

	FY	Sector Framework	Country	Title	Implementing Agent	Obligated	Spent
+	2013	Agriculture	Afghanistan	USAID/AFGHANISTAN	Four Points Technology	\$-298	-
+	2013	Agriculture	Afghanistan	CRS AGREEMENT.	Catholic Relief Service	\$-26,460	\$-26,460
+	2013	Agriculture	Afghanistan	USAID/AFGHANISTAN.	CDW Government, Inc	\$-540	-
+	2013	Agriculture	Afghanistan	Administrative Modification to correct the GLAAS entry of the maximum ordering limitation	Chemonics	-	\$1,000,000
+	2013	Agriculture	Afghanistan	Award of FEWS NET IQC	Chemonics	-	\$-131
+	2013	Agriculture	Afghanistan	GLAAS Migrated Contract	Chemonics	-	\$83,350
+	2014	Agriculture	Afghanistan	IGF::OT::IGF RADP-South, CPFF-C	Chemonics	\$15,000,000	\$2,239,933
+	2013	Agriculture	Afghanistan	Incrementally fund the contract by \$21,300,000, Amending amount to correct typographical error.	Chemonics	\$12,526,440	\$12,526,439



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Introduction: Aid Transparency & Current U.S. Efforts

Greenbook (<https://eads.usaid.gov/gbk/>)

U.S. Overseas Loans and Grants

About

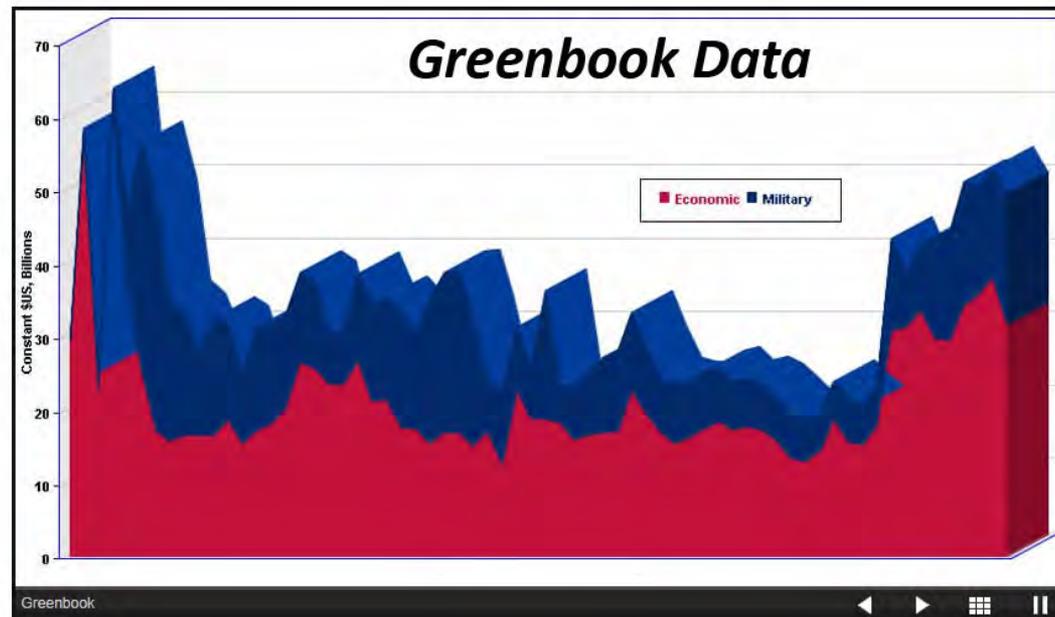
Data

Publication

FAQ

Contact Us

This website provides a complete historical record of all foreign assistance provided by the United States to the rest of the world. It is a companion to the annual report to Congress, *U.S. Overseas Loans and Grants, Obligations and Loan Authorizations* - commonly known as the *Greenbook*.





Open Data (www.usaid.gov/data)

- Executive Order (May 9, 2013): *Making Open and Machine Readable the New Default for Government Information*
- Agency policy to implement the EO issued 10/1/14

The Development Data Library (DDL) is USAID's public repository of Agency-funded, machine readable data. The DDL is part of USAID's commitment to evidence-based programming and rigorous evaluation, while supporting the principles of the President's **Open Government Initiative**.

Please see the [DDL Submissions page](#) for instructions on submitting data to the DDL.

Do you have feedback on any of these datasets or APIs? Please **email USAID staff** or submit your feedback (as a new "issue") on the [USAID Github](#) account.

Please read the brief statement below about the conditions under which USAID's data are released.

To save a file, right click and select save.

Don't know how to read an XML file?

- Save file in XML format
- Open Excel. On the DATA tab, in the Get External Tab section, click on "From Other Sources." Select XML.
- A dialogue box appears with a question about letting EXCEL create the Schema. Click Yes and you wind up with a spreadsheet.

OUR DATA	DATA	METADATA	DOCS
AidData 3.0	WWW	JSON	
Baseline Study of Title II Development Food Assistance Programs in Uganda	WWW	JSON	
Baseline Study of Title II Development Food Assistance Programs in Niger	WWW	JSON	
Baseline Study of Title II Development Food Assistance Programs in Guatemala	WWW	JSON	
Demographic and Health Surveys STATcompiler	WWW	JSON	
Development Credit Authority Guarantee Data: Loan Transactions - Dictionary [pdf 249kb]	CSV	JSON	API
Development Credit Authority (DCA) Data: Guarantee Utilization and Claims - Dictionary [pdf 209kb]	CSV	JSON	API
Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC)	WWW	JSON	API



Reporting to OECD/DAC (<https://eads.usaid.gov/usoda/>)

U.S. Official Development Assistance

About

Data

FAQ

Contact Us

This website provides U.S. Official Development Assistance (ODA) data as defined by the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), Development Assistance Committee (DAC). These data are compiled annually by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) for the U.S. Government and submitted to the OECD/DAC.

Because all donor countries use the same definition of "Official Development Assistance" when reporting to the DAC, these data are useful when comparing assistance across donor countries.



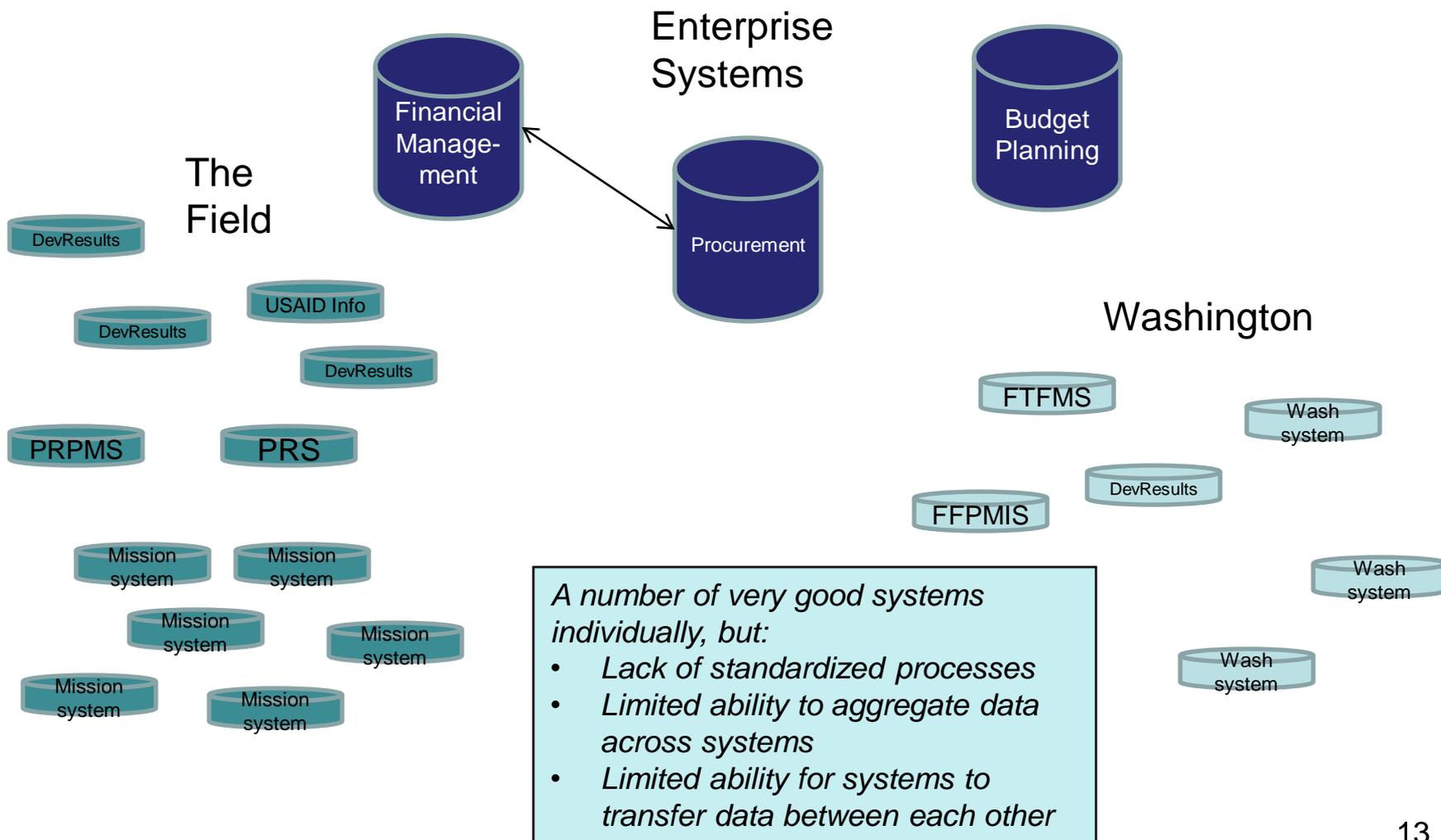


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EFFORTS TO INCREASE AID TRANSPARENCY THROUGH IMPROVED INFORMATION MANAGEMENT



The Status Quo for Portfolio Management Solutions



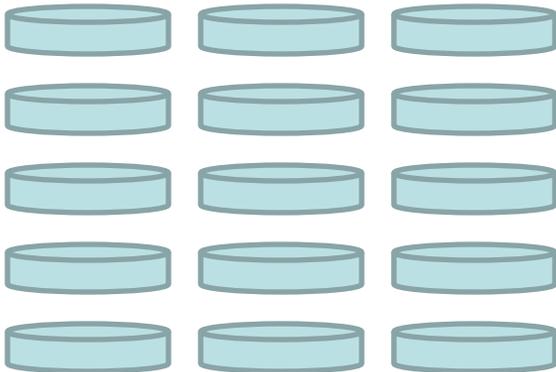


The Development Information Solution (DIS) Proposal

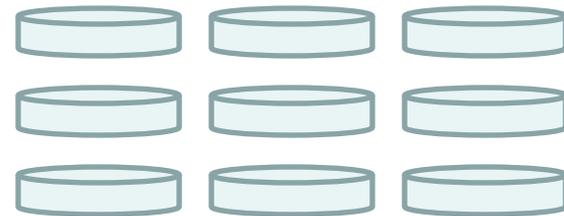
DIS Intended Outcomes:

- *Standardized business processes (increasing data quality and policy compliance)*
- *Cost savings (eliminate uncoordinated IT development)*
- *Improved IT system security (fewer cuff systems)*
- *Better aid transparency data*

Common Mission Portfolio Management Platforms



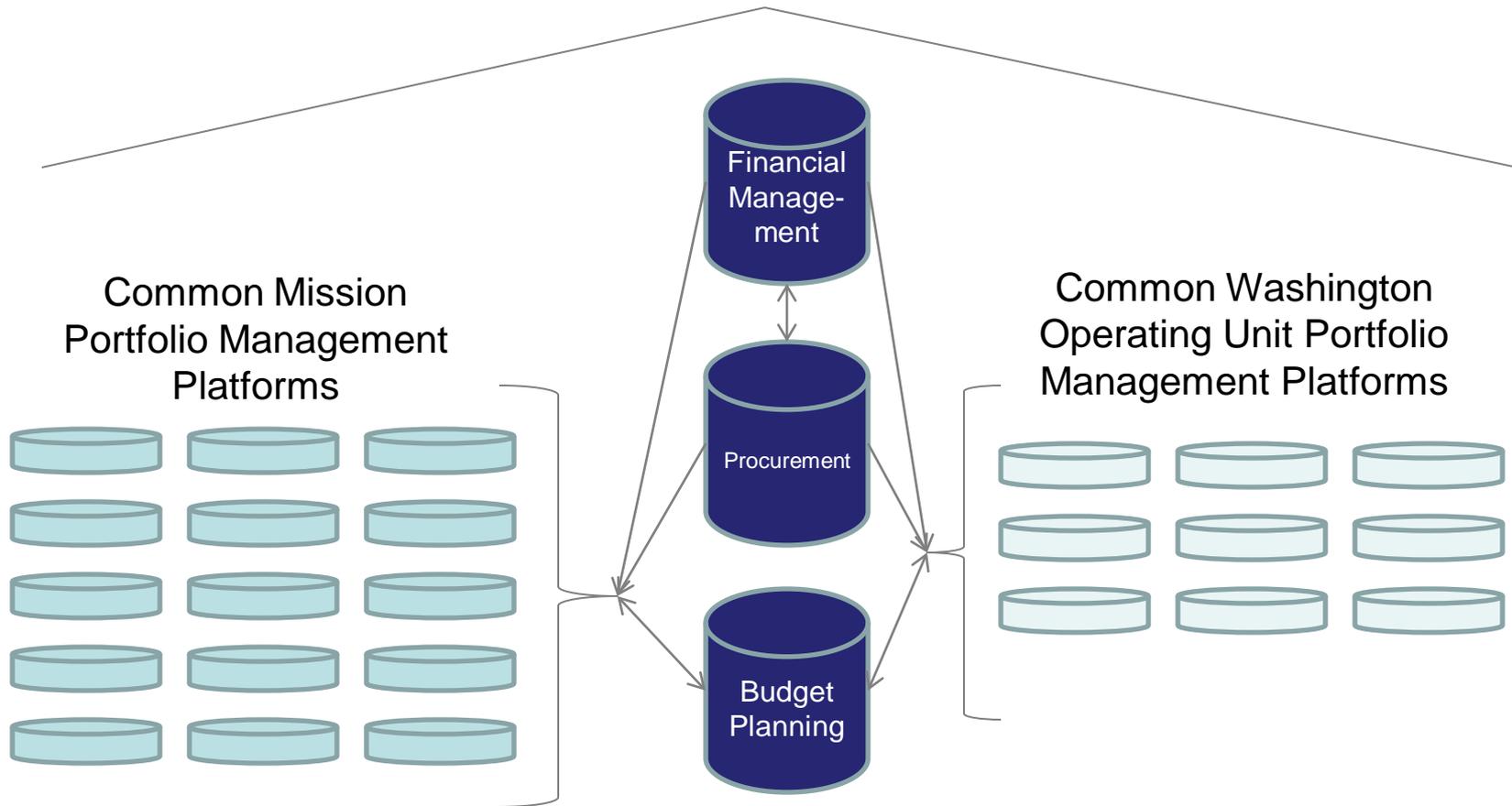
Common Washington Operating Unit Portfolio Management Platforms





The Development Information Solution (DIS) Proposal

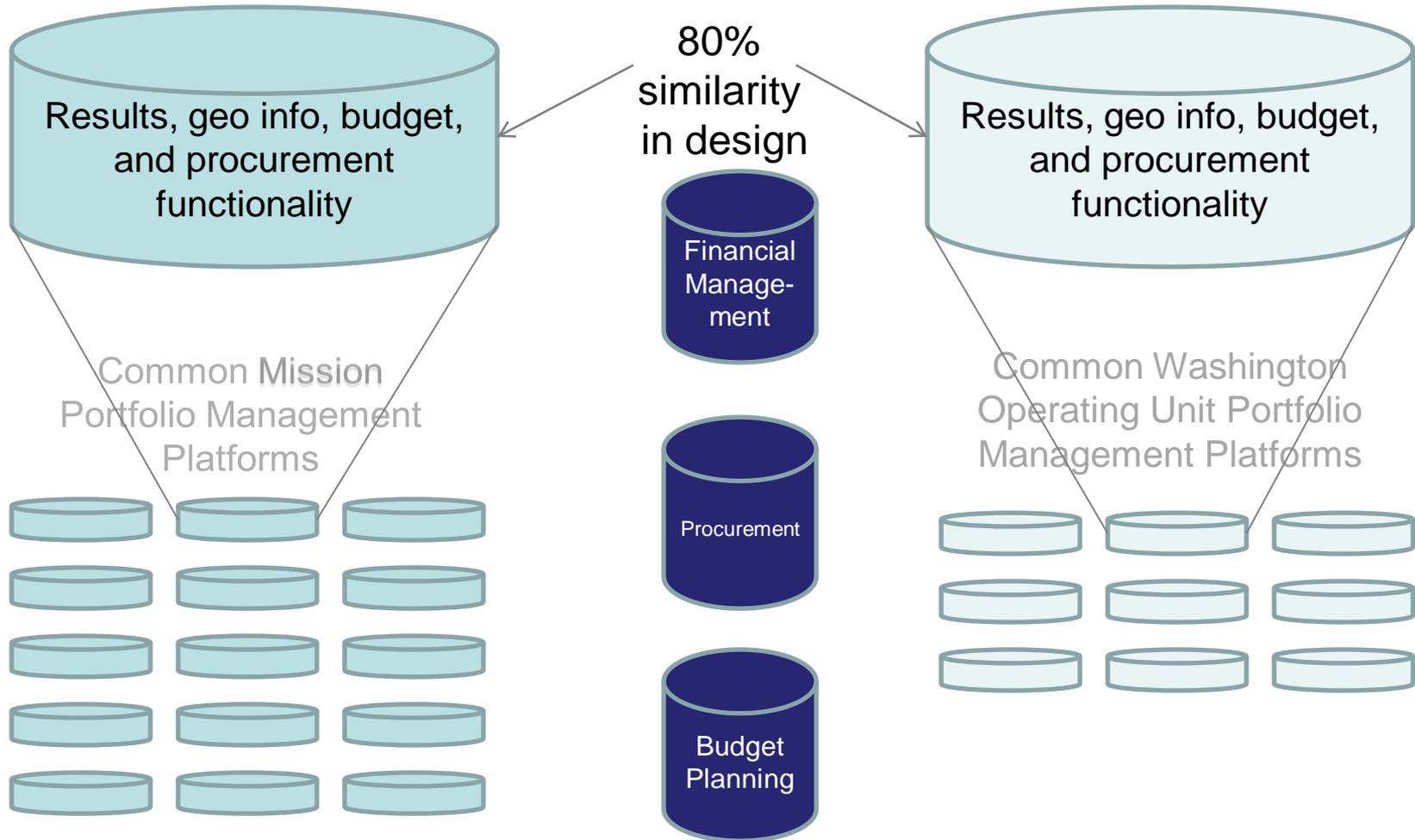
Agency Portfolio Viewer to aggregate across OUs' platforms





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The Development Information Solution (DIS) Proposal





The Development Information Solution (DIS) Proposal

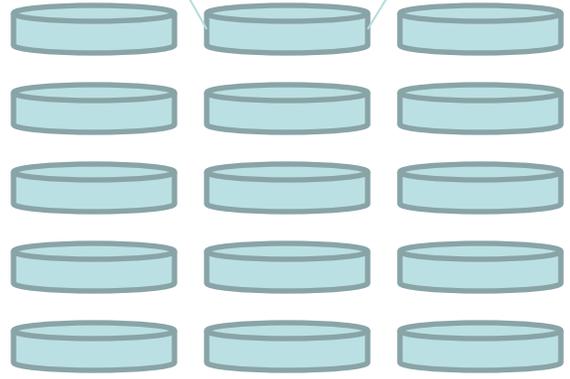
Field Standardization Project:

- 6 standardized MOs
- Business requirements developed
- 75% adoption rate of MOs

80% similarity in design

Functionality of:
AidTracker Plus,
OPSmaster, A&A Plan

Common Mission Portfolio Management Platforms

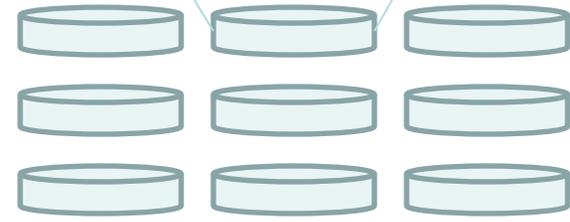


Financial Management

Procurement

Budget Planning

Common Washington Operating Unit Portfolio Management Platforms



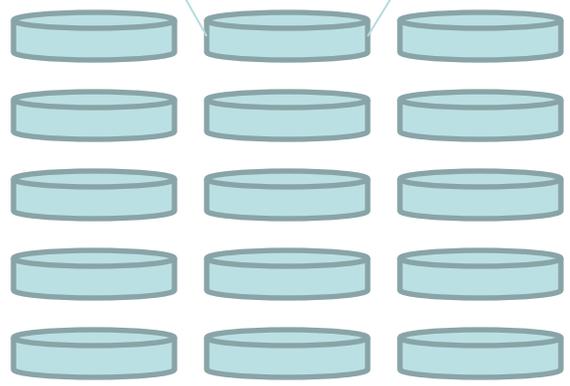


The Development Information Solution (DIS) Proposal

Field Standardization Project:

- 6 standardized Mission Orders
- Business requirements developed
- 75% adoption rate of Mission Orders

Common Mission Portfolio Management Platforms



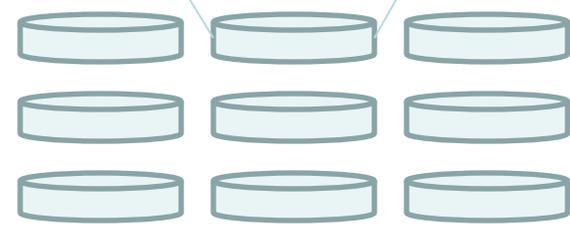
80% similarity in design



Washington Standardization Project:

- Focus on E3 and GH
- 3 standardized Bureau Orders
- Business requirements developed

Common Washington Operating Unit Portfolio Management Platforms





- Limitations of current aid transparency data:
 - Accurate and detailed financial data, but...
 - Limited links to results (but “Dollars to Results” website growing)
 - Geographic location data limited (i.e. subnational data); (maps.usaid.gov repository for current data)
 - No project docs, detailed description of project purpose, context (but dec.usaid.gov has 500k+ docs and mobile app)
- Our “To Be” vision will organize vast amounts of detailed data in similar formats to allow aggregation and sharing with the broader world.
- Until we arrive at the “To Be” vision, efforts to increase our aid transparency data will be ad hoc and rely on manual collection and aggregation processes
- The “To Be” vision is a multi-year effort, but substantial corporate interest and alignment to support aid transparency as well as other corporate objectives (use of evidence, intra-Agency coordination/transparency, etc.)