

**PROJECT INFORMATION DOCUMENT (PID)
IDENTIFICATION/CONCEPT STAGE**

Report No.: PIDC28685

Project Name	Ethiopia: Supporting Open Data Initiative
Region	AFRICA
Country	Ethiopia
Sector(s)	Public administration- Information and communications (50%), General public administration sector (50%)
Theme(s)	Other public sector governance (50%), e-Government (50%)
Lending Instrument	Lending Instrument
Project ID	P156400
Borrower Name	Federal Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
Implementing Agency	Ministry of Communication & Information Technology
Environment Category	C - Not Required
Date PID Prepared	14-Jul-2015
Estimated Date of Approval	30-Jul-2015
Initiation Note Review Decision	The review did authorize the preparation to continue

I. Introduction and Context

Country Context

An Enabling Policy Environment with Implementation Challenges: Ethiopia has enacted the Right to Information Act (4 December 2008) which is an important legal foundation for an open data initiative. However, the implementation of this law at the agency level varies across agencies in terms of the process for individuals to obtain information and data, the license to obtain data, and fees charged for the service. There are no directives or guidelines to inform the standard for licensing / reuse policy for releasing data to the public. Therefore there is a need to have implementation directive or guidelines aimed at streamlining the implementation of the Information Act across agencies. The Government of Ethiopia has expressed interest in for support to the implementation of the Information Act, with an aim of harmonizing the implementation of this law across agencies.

The Government of Ethiopia has demonstrated commitment to the open data initiative and have put in place the basic institutional framework to support it. As the first step, the Ethiopian Ministry of Communication and Information Technology in collaboration with the World Bank and other development partners, concluded an Open Data Readiness Assessment (ODRA) in 2014. The assessment confirmed that the Government of Ethiopia has a substantive technology and policy mandate and readiness for integrating the principles of open data into government systems & processes through an open data initiative. An action plan summarizing the next steps have also been prepared to guide implementation. The readiness assessment highlighted a number of issues, including:

Sectoral and Institutional Context

The Challenge of Coordinating Stakeholders of Open Data Initiative: There are multiple agencies involved in the implementation of the Information Act. The Ministry of Communication and Information Technology is coordinating ICT related policies and implementation across government. The Office of the Ombudsman is designated as the main oversight institution for the implementation of the Act while the Ministry of Government Communication Affairs (MGCA) coordinates all agencies' Public Relation (PR) officials. These PR representatives are in charge of the implementation of the Information Act, and work closely with the Office of Ombudsman (OO). The Ministry of Civil Service (MCS) is in charge of the implementation of the Good Governance and Reform Cluster across the government. Finally, Central Statistical Agency serves as the main information center for the country. As described above, there are already structures in Government that are running different aspects of an open data initiative. However, there seems to lack a body that includes all the relevant stakeholders to guide policy decisions, implementation and monitoring of the results. There is also the need to put in place coordinating mechanisms for implementation. These five entities can serve as pillars around which the Open Data Initiative Steering Committee (ODI-SC) could be formed.

Existing infrastructure needs re-orientation: The government of Ethiopia has invested a lot in strengthening its infrastructure. It has 1 national, 11 regional and over 550 district level data centers. Each of these centers and individual agencies have their own set of technical capacities which can make the setup, deployment and upkeep of the data portals easy. However, these infrastructure were mostly used for government to government communication and the quality of the national infrastructure for government to citizen is very poor. There is therefore need to re-orient the existing arrangements to serve the information needs of citizens and the private sector.

The Government of Ethiopia has already initiated implementation of some of Open Data Readiness Assessment recommendations with its own limited financial resources and institutional capacity. Currently the Ministry has commissioned a local consulting firm to develop the National Open Data Portal, and a study to identify and define national data set. The Ministry of Communication and Information Technology is requesting the World Bank's support to ensure the quality of the Open Data Portal under development and implement selected components of the Open Data Readiness Assessment recommendations to address the identified high priority limitations.

Relationship to CAS/CPS/CPF

The World Bank, through its own Open Data Initiative launched in 2010, is at the forefront of international development agencies in providing direct, machine-readable access to quality data on development and Bank operations. As a result of the success of this initiative, the Bank is receiving numerous requests to support countries wishing to adopt national open data policies, including the release of statistical information. The World Bank has a strong interest in supporting open and evidence-based policy making because this leads to better development outcomes.

The Country Partnership Strategy for Ethiopia (2012-2015) reveals that Government recognizes the need to further strengthen governmental transparency and accountability. The Growth and Transformation Plan (p. 97) is seeking "... to institutionalize systems ensuring transparency and accountability throughout the public service so that the attitudes and actions of civil servants are directed towards serving public interests". As a result a number of initiatives relating to access to

information, complaint handling, standard setting and the like have been integrated into the broader programs of public administration reform.

The Government of Ethiopia would strongly benefit from World Bank support to ensure transparency and accountability in public service through the open data initiative which is built on the Open Data Readiness Assessment conducted last year along with its action plan and recommendations.

II. Project Development Objective(s)

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The development objective of this Recipient Executed trust fund is to enhance transparency through the implementation of actions and recommendations emanating from the country's Open Data Readiness Assessment (ODRA) and the action plan. This will:

- (i) improve the legal and policy framework around open data;
- (ii) create the necessary governance structure to manage the open data initiative;
- (iii) enhance the national open data portal and link it with innovative information and communication technology and data-based mobile services delivery in the education, health and transport sectors which are directly related to the day-to-day activities of the citizens;
- (iv) train technical staff of the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MCIT) and participating agencies on various aspects of open data, including maintenance, management and use.

Key Results

Key results of the project are:

- A comprehensive national open data guidelines will be finalized
- National Open Data Portal become operational
- Selected high priority mobile services developed and become operational

III. Preliminary Description

Concept Description

The project will have 3 component, detailed below:

COMPONENT 1: National Open Data Guidelines Formulation (US\$ 96,000.00)

Despite the enactment of the Information Act, implementation of open data has so far been inconsistent across agencies. Lack of implementation guidelines is recognized by the Government of Ethiopia as one of the barriers to consistent and full implementation of the Act. In acknowledgment of this shortfall, the Government has been trying to initiate the development of the directive but so far there has been little progress. This component will support the drafting and finalization of the National Open Data Guidelines in participatory manner involving all relevant stakeholders and its dissemination following its approval. The National Open Data Guidelines is expected to i) be built on the main proclamation; ii) clarify the roles and functions of the different actors along with the rules of the game; and iii) incorporate open data principles. It will involve recruitment of consultants, conducting study tour and workshops to help draft, validate and disseminate the Guidelines. It will also support the establishment of the Open Data Initiative Steering Committee.

COMPONENT 2. Ensuring the Quality of Open Data Portal Development and its Utilization (US\$ 179,000.00)

2.1. Ensuring Quality of Open Data Portal: The Government of Ethiopia has already commissioned a local consulting firm to develop the national data portal and select national data sets. This component will support the recruitment of international consultants to ensure the quality of the national open data portal. The international consultants will supervise the national data portal development project by reviewing the requirement study, the design document and the final open data portal to ensure international standards are appropriately reflected. In addition, training will be provided to ICT staff at MCIT and other sector ministries. Furthermore, necessary goods including servers and computers will be procured to operationalize the open data portal.

2.2: Strengthen the Demand Side for Open Data Initiative: The Open Data Readiness Assessment shows that the capacity of the demand side for open government is weak. There seems to be no active demand for data from civil society organizations, the private sector or the media; as things stand these parties usually report on the data that is provided by various ministries and agencies without further analysis. This can be attributed mainly to lack of awareness and capacity. This component will conduct a number of awareness raising exercises and trainings such as boot camps. It will among others conduct technology innovation boot camps to develop applications and services by accessing the open data portal.

COMPONENT 3: Implementation Support to the Project (US\$ 25,000.00): This component will support the recruitment of a local consultant to coordinate daily operation of activities and carry out monitoring and evaluation. It will also support an external audit of the project at the end of the grant period.

IV. Safeguard Policies that Might Apply

Safeguard Policies Triggered by the Project	Yes	No	TBD
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01		x	
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04		x	
Forests OP/BP 4.36		x	
Pest Management OP 4.09		x	
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11		x	
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10		x	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12		x	
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37		x	
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50		x	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60		x	

V. Financing (in USD Million)

Total Project Cost:	0.3	Total Bank Financing:	0
Financing Gap:	0		
Financing Source			Amount

VI. Contact point**World Bank**

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