AID INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The Somali Aid Information Management System (AIMS)

What is the Somali AIMS?

The Somali Aid Information Management System (AIMS) is a website that enables partners to share data on development and humanitarian aid flows for Somalia. Its aim is to help make aid more effective by increasing transparency, accountability and coordination. The accuracy of the data relies on the quality of data entered by reporting partners. As a publicly accessible online platform, it enables anybody to easily view information.

What type of information is provided by the Somali AIMS?

The Somali Aid Information Management System provides a platform for Somalia's partners to share information about past, current and future **Official Development Assistance (ODA)** for the country. ODA is understood as the flows of official financing administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries (in this case Somalia) as the main objective. It includes both development and humanitarian support. Neither military aid nor the enforcement aspects of peacekeeping qualify as ODA.

Which are the main type of functions provided by the Somali AIMS?

There are two types of complementary functions offered by the Aid Information Management System: data visualization and data entry. All data uploaded in the system can be visualized in a variety of formats by any person who accesses the AIMS by clicking on http://aims.mop.gov.so. Any user can then see and download graphics and tables as well as pre-determined reports, which can be customized. For the data entry function, the AIMS requires focal points of agencies and institutions that provide official development assistance (ODA) or implement ODA-financed activities to regularly use the data entry function by updating data of the projects their respective organizations fund or implement.

What is the usefulness of AIMS data?

The AIMS provides a tool for increased transparency of aid flows for Somalia. Any updates to the data are available to the public in real time. It becomes more useful when data is entered frequently and accurately. The more often the data is used by government, partners, civil society and others, the more partners will be incentivized to maintain updated data in the system. AIMS data can also help improve accountability, coordination, evidence-based planning, monitoring and evaluation, and aid effectiveness.

What kind of data is available in the Somali AIMS?

Project level data:
The AIMS allows partners to report on the following fields when reporting projects: project name, brief description of the project, funders, implementing organizations, start and end dates for implementation, total project amount, disbursements per calendar year (actual or planned) during the life of the project, the sector(s) the project contributes to, geographical area in which the project operates, a means of contacting of project focal points, and links to other relevant online resources. Any forward projections are recognized to be indicative and subject to change; they do not represent formal commitments.
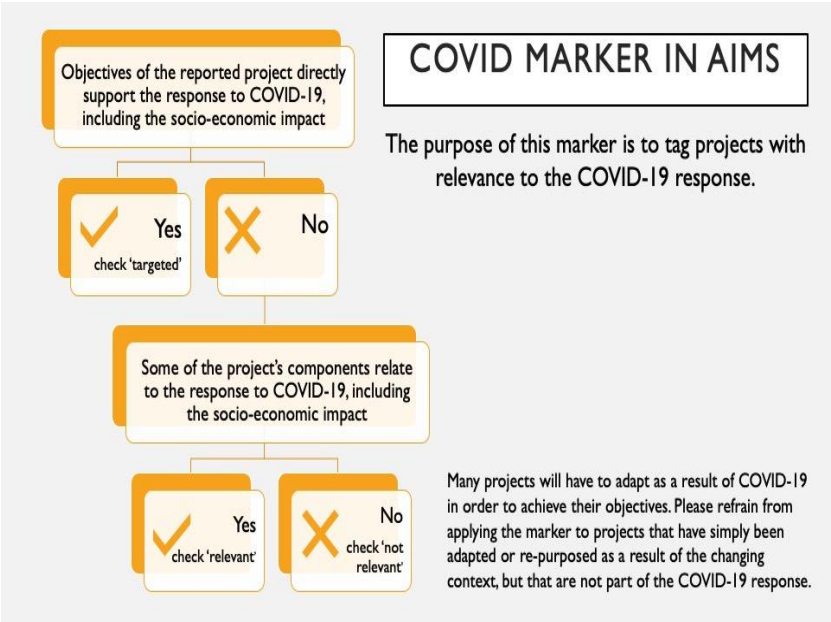
In addition, the AIMS includes markers that provide information on the extent into which a project contributes to cross-cutting issues such as gender equality, capacity development, youth empowerment, resilience, and durable solutions. Reporting options for each marker are: a) targeted, b) relevant, and c) not relevant. More detailed information about what each marker measures can be found in the AIMS.

Envelope data:
Donors can report their overall contributions (or envelope) for Somalia per calendar year. This data is reported separately from the project level data

How can the Covid-19 marker be used?

The Somali AIMS incorporates a marker to tag those projects that contribute to responding to the Covid-19 crisis. Reporting options for each project are: a) relevant; b) targeted; and c) not relevant. The following decision tree serves as a guidance for reporters (focal points of organizations that fund and/or implement Official Development Assistance projects):

Registration

Who should register in the system?

Users wishing to access the data in the system *do not* need to register, as all of the data in the AIMS is publicly available. Registered and unregistered users have access to the same data for visualizing and downloading reports.

Registration is only necessary for users planning to *enter* data on behalf of their organization. The organizations which are requested to enter data in the system are those which provide Official Development Assistance (ODA) or implement ODA-financed projects in Somalia. Funders and implementers are encouraged to coordinate amongst themselves to decide who will report projects to avoid duplicate reporting.

What is requested to register in the system?

Only focal points of organizations/institutions that fund and/or implement ODA projects in Somalia are requested to register in the Somali AIMS. A person who requests to register in the system will be asked to provide his/her name and the name of the organization he/she represents. To register, users need to demonstrate affiliation with the reported organization (e.g. using an official e-mail address from that organization). If he/she does not have an official e-mail address, a follow up request will be sent by an AIMS manager for the user to provide proof of his/her affiliation with the organization via e-mail. Focal Points who request to register in the system may be required to demonstrate that their organizations are effectively engaged in funding or implementing ODA projects.

How many persons can register per reporting organization?

In principle, each reporting organization should appoint 1-2 AIMS focal points who will be responsible for updating data on behalf of the organization. However, if these organizations consider it appropriate, other persons besides the appointed focal points can register and help the focal point enter/update data in the system. In that case, their request for registration is to be validated by the AIMS focal point of their own organization and/or the AIMS management team from the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development of the Federal Government of Somalia.

Collaborative reporting

How can it be ensured that data reported from an organization is accurate and updated?

AIMS focal points of organizations that fund and/or implement ODA projects are responsible of entering new data and updating existing data in the system on behalf of their organizations. The more frequently data is updated, the closer to ''real time'' the information will be shown to users who access the system. AIMS Focal Points of reporting organizations are requested to update project data every 3 months. Government and partners with ad hoc data needs, e.g. sector-specific mapping requests, are encouraged to use the AIMS as the central platform for data collection efforts. Focal Points are also requested to ensure data entered in the system is accurate to the best of their knowledge and does not duplicate projects already reported in the system.

How can data duplication be avoided and corrected in the AIMS?

Several organizations are often involved in a single project, as funders and/or implementors. All of them have the possibility to report on that same project. If there is no communication amongst them, the same project can be reported in the AIMS by different entities. The system allows to easily observe the data uploaded of reported projects; however, it cannot prevent a project from being entered more than one time.

In order to avoid duplication of project reporting, it is recommended that entities involved in the funding and implementation of a single project agree on who will lead in the reporting process to avoid duplication. The system allows for collaborative reporting of a single project, so multiple partners can provide data on a single project once it has been created in the system.

If users detect projects that appear to have errors or may be duplicates, they can suggest a change to the focal points who entered the data. This provides a means of validating the data through crowdsourcing.