



College of William and Mary *AidData Center for Development Policy*

Connecting to Accelerate Global Development

The Higher Education Solutions Network (HESN) is a partnership between USAID and seven world-class universities to create a constellation of Development Labs. This network harnesses the ingenuity and passion of university students, researchers, faculty, and their innovative partners to incubate, catalyze and scale science and tech-based solutions to the world's most challenging development problems.

Through support to the university-led Development Labs, HESN taps into a global pool of expertise to accelerate innovation through the discovery, creation, testing and scaling of efficient, cost-effective, accessible and sustainable solutions to global development challenges.

With \$137 million over 5 years from USAID, and leveraging nearly equal investments from the institutions, the universities form a collaborative and vibrant network that extends beyond 100 partner institutions in academia, civil society and government across 38 countries.



The Challenge

How do we connect the dots between development dollars to accelerate development impact through transparency?

The Innovative Approach

AidData makes information about international development assistance more accessible, so that anyone can see how much is being spent, where, and on what. To date, AidData has collected and published information on over \$5.5 trillion in foreign aid projects available in a searchable online data portal, www.aiddata.org.

Using detailed information on project activities, AidData pinpoints their specific locations so that users can analyze gaps in service and identify duplication of efforts with interactive maps. That helps donors such as USAID better plan projects, allocate resources, coordinate with other donors, and evaluate impact. Easy access allows citizens and civil society organizations to obtain up-to-date information and hold governments and donors accountable.

