CORE CONCEPT

Development Aid Management Course: Donor Strategy, Project Appraisal and Aid Effectiveness

4 – 8 October 2027
Paris - Right Bank business hotel

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Ref: 1965_29166 **Date:** 4 – 8 October 2027 **Location:** Paris - Right Bank business hotel **Fees:** 23500 SAR

Introduction:

Development aid management, covering donor strategy, project appraisal and aid effectiveness, is a 1-week course for staff of development funds, aid agencies and international cooperation units that ends with a Country Assistance Strategy and Appraisal Memo for a case donor agency. Donor organisations often fund fragmented projects, choose loans or grants by habit and report ODA figures that say little about results. Nominees already prepare or review funding proposals, and the course is taught as a case study on partner-country, appraisal and portfolio data. CoreConcept Training Center delivers this development aid management course.

Course Objectives:

- Map the organisation's aid flows against the ODA definition, concessionality rules and the bilateral and multilateral channels it uses
- Draft a country assistance strategy aligned with partner government plans and the aid effectiveness principles of ownership, alignment and harmonisation
- Appraise projects and concessional loans with economic, financial and technical tests and recommend a grant, loan or budget support modality
- Assess implementing partners, co-financiers and partner-country public financial management systems before committing funds
- Code and report commitments and disbursements to the DAC Creditor Reporting System and evaluate completed operations against the DAC criteria
- Produce a Country Assistance Strategy and Appraisal Memo for a case donor agency

Target Audience:

- Country desk staff responsible for partner-country strategies and annual allocation proposals
- Appraisal and investment staff responsible for assessing projects and concessional loans submitted for funding
- Partnership staff responsible for agreements with multilateral agencies, co-financiers and implementing partners
- Statistics and reporting staff responsible for ODA data, purpose coding and transparency publishing
- Evaluation and results staff responsible for portfolio performance reviews and completed-operation evaluations
- Policy staff in international cooperation units responsible for aid policy and allocation criteria

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Course Outline:

Day 1: Official Development Assistance Landscape, Donor Mandates and Portfolio Baseline

- ODA Definition, Concessionality and Grant-Equivalent Measurement Rules
- Bilateral, Multilateral and Earmarked Multi-Bi Aid Channels Compared
- Tied and Untied Aid Implications for Value Delivered
- Donor Agency Mandate, Governance Structure and Allocation Policy Review
- Current Aid Portfolio Baseline by Sector, Partner and Instrument

Day 2: Aid Effectiveness Principles and Country Assistance Strategy Frameworks

- Ownership, Alignment and Harmonisation Principles Applied to Allocation Choices
- Global Partnership Commitments for Effective Development Co-operation
- Country Assistance Strategy Structure, Diagnostics and Priority Sectors
- Partner Government Development Plan Alignment and Donor Division of Labour
- TOSSD and Wider Official Support Measures for Strategy Framing

Day 3: Project Appraisal, Aid Modality Choice and Partner Selection

- Appraisal Memo Structure With Economic, Financial and Technical Tests
- Cost-Benefit Analysis and Economic Internal Rate of Return Screening
- Modality Selection Matrix for Grants, Concessional Loans and Budget Support
- Pooled Basket Funds and Co-Financing With Multilateral Development Banks
- Implementing Partner Capacity Assessment and Delegated Cooperation Agreements

Day 4: Fiduciary Safeguards, ODA Statistical Reporting and Evaluation Risks

- PEFA Public Financial Management Diagnostics for Fiduciary Risk Rating
- Budget Support Conditionality, Variable Tranches and Disbursement Triggers
- DAC Creditor Reporting System Purpose Codes and Policy Markers
- IATI Publishing for Activity-Level Aid Transparency
- DAC Evaluation Criteria Applied to Completed Aid Operations

Day 5: Case Study of a Donor Agency Strategy and Appraisal Memo

- Case Partner-Country Data Pack With Macro, Sector and Debt Indicators
- Case Country Assistance Strategy Drafting With Results Framework Indicators
- Case Concessional Loan Appraisal and Modality Choice Defence
- Case Fiduciary Risk Rating and CRS Coding Exercise
- Country Assistance Strategy and Appraisal Memo Completion and Peer Review

Skills You Will Gain:

- Aid Portfolio Analysis
- Country Strategy Design
- Project and Loan Appraisal
- Aid Modality Selection
- Fiduciary Risk Rating
- ODA Statistical Reporting
- Development Evaluation Design
- Co-Financing Negotiation

Why Attend This Course:

- Deliver a Country Assistance Strategy and Appraisal Memo for a case donor agency to the head of operations and the allocation committee
- Decide whether a funding request is better served by a grant, a concessional loan, budget support or a pooled fund, using documented criteria
- Avoid fragmented allocations, fiduciary losses and ODA returns that statistical reviewers reject or reclassify
- Share appraisal templates, coding guides and evaluation checklists with desk, partnership and reporting colleagues

Conclusion:

Once back at work, the participant presents the Country Assistance Strategy and Appraisal Memo to the head of operations, the allocation committee and the partner-country desk. They use it to set sector priorities for a partner country, to decide which pipeline projects proceed to financing and with which modality, and to agree fiduciary safeguards before disbursement. After the first allocation round under the strategy, the unit should compare approvals, disbursement pace and reported results with the strategy targets and revise appraisal criteria and risk ratings where they misjudged performance.

Frequently Asked Questions FAQ:

What should participants prepare before a development aid management course?

Participants should already prepare, review or report on funding decisions in a development fund, aid agency or international cooperation unit. Bringing an anonymised project proposal, allocation paper or portfolio extract helps the case work reflect their own organisation's instruments.

How does a development aid management course differ from an NGO project management course?

It is taught from the funder's side. NGO project management courses cover designing and delivering one funded project, while this course covers choosing partner countries, appraising requests, selecting modalities, safeguarding funds and reporting and evaluating a whole aid portfolio.

Why does development aid management rely on the aid effectiveness principles?

Ownership, alignment, harmonisation, managing for results and mutual accountability give donors a shared test for allocation choices. Applying them reduces duplicated projects, parallel systems and reporting burdens on partner governments, and makes results easier to attribute and compare.

What do participants take back from the development aid management course?

Participants take back a Country Assistance Strategy and Appraisal Memo for a case donor agency, with a partner-country diagnostic, priority sectors, a modality choice, a fiduciary risk rating, CRS coding and a results framework ready for adaptation.