



# Health Research Brief

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## UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE SERIES

### Effects of Donor Proliferation in Development Aid for Health

(Effects of Donor Proliferation in Development Aid for Health on Health Program

Performance: A Conceptual Framework by Pallas, S. W. and Ruger, J. P.)



## RECOMMENDATIONS



Limit areas for Official Development Assistance

(ODA) support. Select few themes and types for maximum impact.



Set up donor accountability mechanisms.

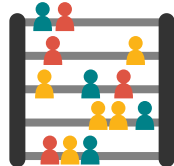


Use identified primary and secondary

outcomes as key result areas and monitor regularly.

## KEY FINDINGS

Donor volume, if managed at a right level and supplemented by proper monitoring, can induce system-wide positive effects/outcomes.



Choice (of policy/program/ intervention to focus on) is strongly rooted on recipient country capacity.

## METHODOLOGY

Systematic literature review was used to understand effects of donor proliferation on development outcomes and program performance.

Literature were obtained from the following databases:



Gray literature were also searched from international health and development organizations<sup>1</sup>.

### What is Donor Proliferation?

Donor proliferation is the increase in the number of organizations providing development aid from bilateral, multilateral, private sector donors.

## RESULTS

### Likely to happen:

Positive or negative results observed more in literature, but evidence still not solid:

#### Primary Outcomes



**Proliferation affects recipient control over aid.** It allows recipient country to align aid with preferences or use it for purposes other than originally intended.

**Proliferation leads to poaching of government staff.** Government personnel may transition to working for donor agency, or may be incentivized to prioritize donor priorities.

**Proliferation reduces donor accountability on overall impact of aid.** Donors tend to focus on the performance specific to the aid they have provided, and less effort in ensuring system-wide effectiveness.



#### Secondary Outcomes



**Proliferation decreases motivation in monitoring efforts** as aid impact is dispersed across multiple donors.

**Proliferation reduces disbursement volatility.** Fragmentation of aid can help mitigate unpredictable timing of aid disbursement as recipient countries do not rely on just single donor.



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TOWARDS  
**HEALTH FOR ALL**

# Mixed results:

Positive or negative results without strong possibility of happening:

Primary Outcomes	Secondary Outcomes
<p><b>Proliferation increases inter-donor competition.</b> Donors compete for recipient country's preference, credit for the success of development programs, and in-country resources. Others avoid competition by forging mutual agreements with recipient countries.</p>	<p><b>Proliferation increases total health spending,</b> while different literature say it displaces government spending on health.</p>
<p><b>Proliferation increases aid volume.</b> Some literature show that proliferation results to increase in volume of aid, while some show otherwise.</p>	<p><b>Proliferation leads to decrease in the amount of aid,</b> but likelihood for innovative and diverse donor activities, and information hoarding also increase.</p>
<p><b>Proliferation increases transaction cost.</b> Parallel administrative systems of aid management result to higher cost.</p>	<p><b>Proliferation affects recipient country government capacity.</b> Donor arrangements allow for skill enhancement (e.g. donor reporting requirements), but also increases donor poaching.</p>

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1 Literature were searched through the websites of the following international organizations: Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development, World Bank, World Health Organization, Center for Global Development, Overseas Development Institute, Kaiser Family Foundation, and Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation.