

## Systematic Review Protocol

<b>Main title</b>	What is the track record of Multi Donor Trust Funds in improving aid effectiveness?
<b>Sub title</b>	An assessment of the available evidence
<b>Review group</b>	
<b>Section</b>	PROCOTOL
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<b>EPPI-Centre reference number</b>	
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<b>Review Group</b> (with institutions)	
<b>Advisory group</b> (with institutions)	
<b>Conflicts of interest (if any)</b>	Neither Sultan Barakat nor Kathryn Rzeszut has any personal, financial or professional interests which would influence the conduct or outcomes of this systematic review. However, Sultan Barakat has previously published on the topic of multi-donor trust funds (see 'The Failed Promise of Multi-Donor Trust Funds', <i>Policy Studies</i> , 2009) and thus may be perceived as having a bias towards confirming previous findings.
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The authors would like to acknowledge the support of the UK Department for International Development in initiating this systematic review process and in commissioning this particular review.

# 1. Background

This protocol will guide a systematic review, commissioned by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), which addresses the following question: **What is the track record of Multi Donor Trust Funds in improving aid effectiveness?** This protocol outlines the conceptual framework and methodology which will guide this review; it provides a background to multi-donor trust funds, a series of objectives for the study and working definitions for key terms before turning to the review itself, the methods to be employed (including inclusion/exclusion criteria, search strategy and analytical approach) and the timeline for the review.

## 1.1 Aims and rationale for review

Multi-donor trust funds (MDTFs) are an aid modality which was developed in order to provide an alternative means through which to consolidate overseas development assistance (ODA) from multiple actors for a specific context (e.g. Afghanistan, Iraq, etc.) or challenge (e.g. HIV/AIDS, combatant demobilisation, etc.) (Leader & Colenso, 2005). Their emergence reflected a perception that alternative aid financing instruments, including projects, programmes, and various pooled funding mechanisms (e.g. joint programmes, social funds, etc.) were overly time-limited and fragmented and driven largely by donor interest, thus resulting in diminished aid effectiveness (and, hence, a diminished impact of aid which was disbursed) (Ibid.). MDTFs were seen as a tool of promoting aid effectiveness by strengthening performance vis-à-vis key tenets of the Paris Declaration (PD) which are: ownership (including use of country systems), alignment, harmonisation, results, and mutual accountability (Barakat, 2009).

MDTFs were conceptualised as an intermediate modality, in many respects, between the donors and the recipient for administrative purposes. Funds would be transferred out from the donor - thus allowing them to disburse funds which had been committed through their legislative and budgetary processes - without necessarily being fully handed over to the recipient (with the associated fiduciary responsibility) (Schiavo-Campo, 2003). Rather, they would be held in trust - and overseen by an administrative agent such as the World Bank or United Nations Development Group (UNDG) - until they could be spent in a way which was most effective and which, in most cases, reflected the needs and priorities of national-recipient governments, which were given broad though varied responsibility for allocating funds held in MDTFs (Ball, 2007).

Beyond this general characterisation, MDTFs have varied widely with regard to their usage (proportion of resources provided via trust funds versus other modalities), structure, governance (steering board composition), allocation procedures and degree of governmental versus donor involvement (Scanteam, 2005, 2007). These differences, and others to be identified during the iterative review process, will be addressed by the reviewers.

## 1.2 Definitional and conceptual issues

Three key terms require clarification in order to ensure internal consistency within this review. These are: multi-donor trust fund, aid effectiveness, and aid impact.

- *Multi-Donor Trust Fund* - At its most basic, an MDTF is an aid financing mechanism which pools donor resources, to be held in trust by a third-party (administrative agent), for allocation across an extended or unspecified time period in fulfillment

of priorities of the recipient nation (Schiavo-Campo, 2003; Barakat, 2009). It differs from other pooled funding mechanisms in that the funds are independently managed and accounted for, rather than being consolidated by a single donor, and are ultimately intended to be disbursed in line with the requests of the beneficiary government (or, where multiple states are involved, institution) (Foster & Leavy, 2001). For the purposes of this review, only institutions/mechanisms which are labeled “trust funds” - either in their title or in their founding documents - will be considered to be trust funds. This criteria is not anticipated to exclude any trust funds but is anticipated to prevent the inclusion of studies focused upon alternative forms of aid financing, including multi-donor programmes or social funds, within the review.

- *Aid Effectiveness* - Definitions for aid effectiveness are rare, and the fact that they are dealt with implicitly may render them more contested. One of the few available definitions, drawn from the OECD (2007) is: the process of ‘strengthening development partners’ harmonisation and alignment with the policies of partner countries, with the aim of enhancing partner country ownership, reducing aid delivery transaction costs, avoiding overlapping and contradictory interventions, and increasing the accountability of both sets of partners to their sources of finance’. Still others have moved away from the sort of “process-orientated” understanding of aid effectiveness to a more “outcome-orientated” view which sees aid as effective when it brings about reduction in poverty levels (see, for instance, Hansen & Tarp, 2000). Given the sheer diversity of aid effectiveness outcome measures imaginable, for the purposes of this review, a process-orientated definition will be employed, while taking into account, to the degree feasible, the outcome-orientated perspective. The following elements of aid effectiveness, which are derived from the definition of the term found in the Paris Declaration, will be considered: (i) national-recipient ownership (including alignment and use of country systems); (ii) harmonisation/coordination; (iii) results, and (iv) mutual accountability.
- *Aid Impact* - Closely linked to the concept of aid effectiveness, there are numerous discussions within the development community surrounding the definition of aid impact and its measurement. The OECD (2010) defines the concept as “positive and negative, primary and secondary long-term effects produced by a development intervention, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended”. Assessment of aid impact in general has been weak, in part, because of a lack of consensus on its definition, as well as issues surrounding causality and a paucity of basic data; however, the impact of aid is one of the key factors in assessing its effectiveness and will be considered in this review. It is possible that much of the literature on multi-donor trust funds is comprised of case studies, which may lack a strong evaluation of a fund’s impact on aid effectiveness due to the challenge that developing a rigorous assessment of this subject matter poses. Nevertheless, reliable studies into the impact of multi-donor trust funds are still possible and would be based on a strong research strategy employing multiple research techniques, ranging from scientifically based quantitative approaches to more participatory qualitative methods such as surveys, interviews, and case studies (Roche, 1999). While impact indicators would vary by intervention, the evidence of impact which this review will accept as credible include, but are not limited to, those frequently used in aid impact assessments: (i) the length of the

implementation period; (ii) the number of project beneficiaries; (iii) a change in poverty or other relevant indicators in areas where projects funded by the MDTF are implemented; (iv) a change in government capacity for service delivery; and (iv) a change in international aid transaction costs.

### 1.3 Research background

Accepting the working definitions above, one may begin to develop a conceptual framework which clarifies the intended linkages between MDTFs and aid effectiveness (see Figure 1). It should be noted, however, that the predicated relationships outlined herein are preliminary and will in many respects be assessed, critiqued and elaborated through the review.

**Figure 1.**  
*Intended Results/Causal Chain for MDTFs and Aid Effectiveness*

Theme	Role of MDTFs	Impact
<i>Recipient Ownership</i>	→ Provides platform for recipient state to articulate priorities and to coordinate policy and funding decisions with donors	→ Recipient government gains capacity by managing trust fund resources; state gains credibility by having control over trust fund resources
<i>Alignment</i>	→ The objectives of the MDTF ensure that aid funds do not undermine or diverge sharply from the recipient state's development priorities	→ State ensures donor funding supports (or complements) its own priorities
<i>Harmonisation/Coordination</i>	→ The MDTF, by consolidating funds, provides a key venue for donor-donor and donor-recipient coordination (usually via its steering board)	→ Programmes are coordinated; overlap is avoided while linkages between interventions are maximized
<i>Results</i>	→ Facilitates reporting regarding results (and measurement of results) by consolidating funds and reporting systems	→ Learning from MDTF-funded interventions is facilitated; types of interventions and approaches improve, better serving the beneficiaries
<i>Mutual Accountability</i>	→ Recipient state able to track donor activities; donors able to track state usage of trust fund resources	→ Coordination is improved, and financial accountability (including prevention of waste and corruption) is strengthened

The processes noted in Figure 1 (above), which is based upon the authors' research and the existing literature on MDTFs (see Barakat, 2009; Schiavo-Campo, 2003; Scanteam, 2005, 2007), will be tested and, most importantly, elaborated in the course of this study. While attention has broadly been paid in the literature to the intended benefits of MDTFs as an aid financing vehicle, the conceptual underpinning for these benefits (and the causal chain

through which they are produced) remains under-addressed. This review will attempt to fill this gap by deepening the conceptual or theoretical basis for MDTFs.

The review will also test the assumptions which underlie the current conceptual basis for MDTFs (Barakat, 2009), namely that: (a) they are the channel for a significant percentage of resources for a particular context or challenge; (b) they are oriented around recipient government's priorities; (c) recipient governments take up their envisioned role in guiding MDTFs; (d) donors establish coordination and accountability structures around and within (rather than external to) MDTFs; and (e) MDTFs otherwise embody structures and procedures congruous with their theoretical benefits (e.g. limited or long-term allocation targets).

## 1.4 Objectives

This study will address the following question: **What is the track record of Multi Donor Trust Funds in improving aid effectiveness?** In doing so, it will attempt to fulfill the following two specific objectives:

- To consolidate available information on multi-donor trust funds' effects upon aid effectiveness; and
- To elucidate what data is and is not available concerning multi-donor trust funds' impact upon aid effectiveness and to evaluate the credibility of existing data.

The report will also provide an assessment of the quality as well as methodological rigour and appropriateness of the available research concerning MDTFs. Doing so will allow this systematic review to discuss, if applicable, the need for expanded research into MDTFs and the need for new methods to be introduced into such research.

## 2. Methods used in the review

This section outlines the sources which will be searched, the search terms to be included, and exclusion criteria to be applied. It also addresses the methods through which search results, citations, inclusion/exclusion decisions and other information will be maintained and the analytical approach to be adopted by the reviewers.

### 2.1 User involvement

Users will primarily be identified by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) as part of this systematic review. Such users will be involved in providing feedback upon this protocol, in recommending studies for consideration as part of the review and for providing feedback and guidance in relation to future review-derived outputs. During the review process and dissemination phase, the reviewers from the University of York may engage their own academic and professional networks in order to seek input from, for instance, fellow scholars and from applicable representations of international organisations (e.g., UNDP, the World Bank, etc.).

### 2.2 Identifying and describing studies

#### *2.2.1 Defining relevant studies: inclusion and exclusion criteria*

All studies which are thematically focused upon MDTFs or which include a significant focus upon MDTFs within the scope of aid financing or aid effectiveness/impact will be included.

Within the scope of these studies, all will be included aside from those which fall within the scope of the exclusion criteria noted below.

- *Relevance* - While numerous documents and studies refer to MDTFs, few include a primary focus upon trust funds. As such, only studies which either (a) include a primary focus upon trust funds or (b) examine trust funds as part of a review of aid financing options will be included. Documents with a minor focus upon MDTFs will be excluded.
- *Document Type* - Documents to be included must be articles, reports, books, chapters or other professional publications, including from the "grey" literature (e.g. assessments or evaluations). Book reviews, news articles and routine (non-analytical) compliance reports from MDTFs and their administrative agents will be excluded, though evaluation and assessment reports conducted for donor or practitioner organisations (including MDTFs/MDTF steering boards) will be included and are anticipated to comprise a significant proportion of included studies.
- *Methodology* - Relevant documents will be assessed according to the relevance, appropriateness and robustness of their methodological approach. All included studies must require a significant level of original research or highly structured review methods (e.g., previous systematic reviews related to aid financing, if encountered). General commentaries or perception-based assessments of MDTFs will not be included. Any studies which (a) lack a stated methodology and/or (b) fail to present sources of data upon which findings are based will automatically be excluded. However, the credibility of the various methodologies included in the study will be noted and will influence the analytical process.
- *Language* - Only those studies which are available in English will be included.

Additional exclusion criteria may be identified during the process and will be noted within an updated edition of the systematic review protocol and will be applied to each and every study located.

### 2.2.2 Sources

The review will adopt a comprehensive and inclusive approach to selecting relevant documents, particularly the grey literature (Dobbins & Robeson, 2006). It will draw upon the following sources: (i) bibliographic databases; (ii) citation searchers of key authors/papers; (iii) reference lists of key papers; (iv) references on key websites (including those of MDTFs themselves); (v) networks of professional contacts; and (vi) direct requests from key informants.

Databases used for searches include PAIS International (including working papers), ELDIS, the Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts (ASSIA) covering 650 social science journals and the Social Sciences Citation Index, the International Bibliography of the Social Sciences (IBSS), RepEC, and EconLit, amongst others. Specific organisations' publications and evaluations databases will also be included, including those of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the World Bank/IMF (via the JOLIS database) and United Nations, will be included, as will DFID's Research4Development site, the websites of the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), ALNAP, the Institute of Development Studies (via BLDS) and the Centre for Global Development (CGD), and the online document library hosted by the Governance and Social Development Resource Centre (GSDRC) at the University of Birmingham. The team also will employ searches on general databases such as Google and Google Scholar.

A range of highly relevant journals will also be hand-searched for studies relevant to this review. These journals include the following: *World Development*, *Development Policy Review*, *Development in Practice*, *Disasters*, *Third World Quarterly*, *Public Administration and Development* and *Policy Studies*.

### 2.2.3 Search terms

The search terms will attempt to offer a balance between sensitivity and specificity in order to uncover a number of relevant studies (Rothstein *et al*, 2005). The terms have been divided into three key concepts that mirror the terms identified in Section 1.2. Searches will be conducted on the key concepts and then combined. The search is structured thus:

1. Trust Fund Concept:

multi-donor trust fund, MDTF OR MDTFs, trust fund, aid modality or modalities, development assistance fund, multi-donor, aid pools, pooled funding, donor, development funding, multinational aid, cross-national aid, bilateral donor, development strategies, donor fractionalization, international assistance fund\*, international aid fund, intervention

2. Aid Effectiveness Terms:

aid effectiveness, development effectiveness, effective aid, ownership, alignment, harmonisation, accountability, coordination, collaboration, results, increased effectiveness, international development OR aid OR assistance, Paris Declaration, Accra Agenda OR Accord

3. Aid Impact Terms:

aid impact OR impact of aid, evaluation, comparison study, controlled, randomize, randomly, impact, benefit, disadvantage, impact, outcome, effect, effects, performance, assessment, review, study, progress, improvement

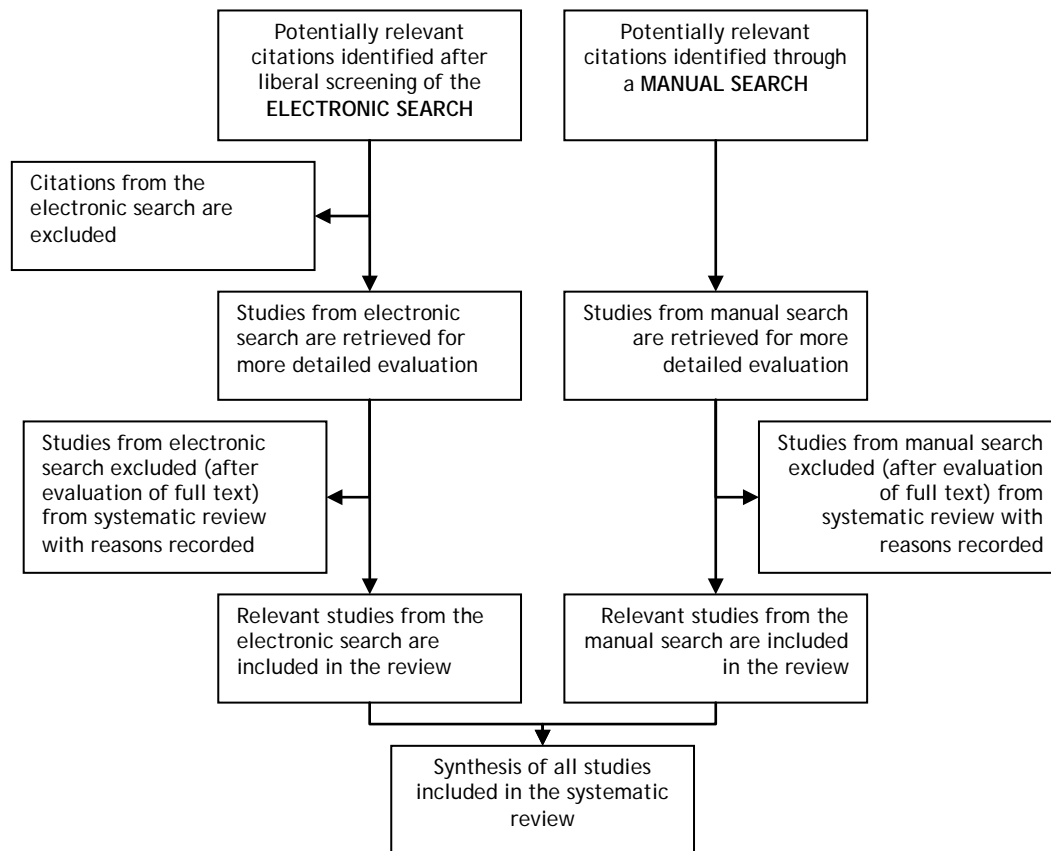
Wild card searches may also be undertaken as needed but will be recorded within a search log/diary; this log/diary will detail the names of the databases searched and the keywords used. Titles and abstracts of studies to be considered for retrieval will be recorded on EPPI Reviewer, along with details of where the reference has been found. Inclusion/exclusion decisions will also be recorded in the database.

Furthermore, building upon the electronic search, a manual/hand search of studies will be conducted in order to locate additional studies for inclusion within the systematic review. These studies will also be included in the search log/diary.

### 2.2.3 Screening studies: applying inclusion and exclusion criteria

Inclusion and exclusion criteria will be applied successively to (i) titles and abstracts/keywords and (ii) full reports. Full reports will be obtained for those studies that appear to meet the criteria or where we have insufficient information to be sure. These reports will be entered into a second database. The inclusion and exclusion criteria will be re-applied to the full reports and those that do/did not meet these initial criteria will be excluded. This process, which will combine electronic and hand/manual searchers will be guided by the process reflected in Figure 2.

Figure 2.  
Study Selection Process: Electronic and Manual Search



Source: Adapted from Egan, et al. (2001).

#### 2.2.4 Characterising included studies

Each included study will be summarised by one review team member employing the Study Characterisation and Quality Appraisal Tool found in Appendix 6. It should be noted that “summary”, for the purpose of this review, does not necessarily refer to the compilation of an abstract (which will already exist in most cases) but involves a checklist approach which will assess the relation of the study to the criteria of aid effectiveness (or other measures of aid effectiveness or impact) being considered as part of the review. This summary will be arrived upon consensually, and will be validated and modified through discussion with the second team member if discrepancies or disagreements exist. Studies will be categorised according to the guidelines set forth in Appendix 6 as well as any additional appropriate taxonomy determined in the course of the electronic search and summarisation process.

The team member leading the summarising process will also independently assess the methodological rigour of the study. The nature of the methodology, sample size, data sources, and the analytical approach will, among other factors, be considered in assessing the methodologies of included studies. During this process, attention will be paid to potential biases in the studies, specifically study origins, possible data weaknesses, and



difficulty in impact attribution. Based on this assessment, studies will be categorised according to their type and rigour. The assessment outcomes will be included within the review database ("EPPI-Reviewer"), as will all data emerging from the systematic review. Additionally, since individual characteristics of interventions vary widely, as part of the summary process, the multi-donor trust funds reviewed in the summarised studies will also be classified utilizing the Intervention Classification Checklist found in Appendix 5.

#### *2.2.5 Identifying and describing studies: quality assurance process*

While one team member will lead the process of summarising the studies and assessing their methodology, studies which do not appear, to that individual, to fall clearly within the scope of the inclusion and exclusion criteria will be brought to the attention of the second team member. The final exclusion/inclusion decision will be made consensually following a period of discussion; the content of these deliberations as well as the eventual inclusion/exclusion decision will be included in the review database. Furthermore, the lead reviewer shall randomly sample at least 10 percent of the studies in order to assess his or her level of agreement with the decision of the other reviewer. Again, where discrepancies exist between the lead reviewer's quality assurance and the initial decision made by the other reviewer, a decision shall be reached consensually through a process of discussion and in-depth review of the study/ies in question; where numerous such discrepancies are found to exist, the lead reviewer may, at his own discretion, undertake a broader review of the included and excluded studies. In the event that the reviewers are unable to agree upon an outcome, the decision of the lead reviewer shall prevail.

### **2.3 Methods for synthesis**

#### *2.3.1 Assessing quality of studies*

The quality of studies will be assessed by considering the appropriateness of the methodological approach, the sample size and sampling method, the objectivity of the researchers and the analytical approach. Given the methodological diversity of studies likely to be included within the review, a further articulation of methodological quality is not feasible. These criteria will be developed through an iterative process based upon the review of available studies. While this process will be iterative, as noted, a consistent set of criteria to assess methodological appropriateness and quality will be applied to all studies.

However, at least the following issues (among others) will feature within the quality assessment process: the purpose/origins of each study, the credibility and robustness of the data and the ability to attribute impact (e.g., to MDTFs or other aid modalities). Furthermore, the study will attempt to assess the degree to which the definition of aid effectiveness being employed - and hence the definition widely accepted by international development actors - genuinely reflects all elements of aid effectiveness.

#### *2.3.2 Overall approach to and process of synthesis*

Based on the reviewers' existing awareness of the literature, rigorous quantitative or structured qualitative data is likely to be rare within the studies. Narrative examples and case studies are likely to prevail and will provide the core data for comparison across the studies; however, as one of the aims of this review is to assess the empirical knowledge base for the impact of MDTFs, a mixed-methods synthesis process is required. Thus, the review will employ a causal chain framework analysis in which major themes, concepts, and categories are ascertained and subdivided into related subtopics as appropriate. These

themes are identified in order to explore and test the causal chain. Due to the type of evidence and data expected in the studies, the synthesis will also include narrative analysis which will complement the causal chain framework analysis. This mixed-method approach seeks to refine the conceptual background noted above (whereby MDTFs include specific elements which create or facilitate the emergence of certain tenets of aid effectiveness).

Throughout the analysis, the results will be discussed with appropriate emphasis given to the studies that are more methodologically robust. The results will also be tabulated in a way that demonstrates the methodological robustness of each study. The review will be written jointly by the two reviewers. Any disagreements over the content of the review will be resolved through a consensual process to the degree feasible; in the event of any irresolvable disagreements, the lead reviewer's preference will prevail (and will be justified in the review).

#### *2.3.2.1 Selection of studies for synthesis*

All studies which are relevant and which meet minimum methodological requirements (described above) will be included.

#### *2.3.2.2 Selection of outcome data for synthesis*

While a set of outcome categories or criteria have preliminarily been identified (see "Themes" in Figure 1), all applicable outcome data will be included, though data emerging from the methodologically most rigorous studies - such as those which consider multiple MDTFs from a comparative perspective or which utilise highly appropriate methods - will be given a greater emphasis during the analysis.

#### *2.3.2.3 Process used to combine/synthesise data*

Data will be synthesised according to the criteria of aid effectiveness noted above and will reflect the structured consideration of all data included within the review database. The reviewers will attempt to make judgements regarding the appropriateness of the current conceptual framework underlying/guiding MDTFs and will seek, based on the studies included, to refine, validate, modify or expand upon that model.

The method to be employed will combine a rudimentary process of elucidating the underlying theory of change/causality surrounding MDTFs before turning to a process of theory-testing and building. The elements of aid effectiveness shown in *Figure 1* offer the basis for the framework that will be applied throughout the first stages of the review. In addition to these themes, factors relating to study context. Such factors may require considering whether (a) the MDTF addressed by the study was created to address post-conflict reconstruction needs, to respond to a specific catastrophic natural disaster, or to react to a more long-term and far-reaching crisis that impacts both stable and fragile environments; and whether (b) the MDTF targets a particular geographic area or is topical in its scope. Given the iterative nature of reviews orientated around theory-testing and building, the current pathways can be augmented to include additional components as they are identified. All such themes/pathways will be applied consistently to the full range of studies.

## **2.4 Deriving conclusions and implications**

As a systematic review, the authors will derive conclusions strictly based upon the included studies. A discussion section will be included at the end of the review which will consider the implications of the review for policy and practice. A direct line of analysis will be drawn from the synthesis to the recommendations/implications section.

Major sub-sections within this discussion will likely include the following: (i) MDTF Design, (ii) MDTF Implementation/Delivery, (iii) MDTFs vs. Alternative Aid Modalities, (iv) Implications of MDTFs for Varied Contexts (e.g. those affected by conflict, fragility, disasters, chronic crises, etc.) and (v) Directions for Future Research. These sections will consider how the design of implementation of MDTFs can be improved while also assessing them in the context of other aid financing mechanisms. Finally, this section will consider what future research - with regard to both topics/content and methodology - will be needed in order to improve the existing evidence base for MDTFs.

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## Appendix 1: About the review team and breakdown of responsibilities

The review will be co-led by Professor Sultan Barakat and Ms Kathryn Rzeszut, both of the Post-war Reconstruction and Development Unit (PRDU), Department of Politics, University of York. Nick Martin, a research assistant at the PRDU, will provide additional assistance on this project.

- *Sultan Barakat* - A Professor of Politics and Director of the PRDU at the University of York, Sultan Barakat specialises in the design of recovery strategies and programmes for crisis-affected contexts. His research has particularly focused upon aid financing and the relationship between international actors, including bi and multilateral donors, and state institutions in so-called fragile environments. He is author of 'The Failed Promise of Multi-Donor Trust Funds: Aid Financing as an Impediment to Effective State Building in Post-Conflict Environments' (*Policy Studies*, 30:2, 2009).
- *Kathryn Rzeszut* - As a Research Fellow at the PRDU at the University of York, Ms. Rzeszut focuses on development project monitoring and evaluation, conflict analysis and management, and the practical application of development theory, specifically in the field of economic livelihoods. Her work includes evaluations of programmes relating to youth empowerment and women's economic development within the post-conflict environment context. Prior to joining the PRDU, she served for several years in the U.S. Army Civil Affairs Command, where she gained practical experience in the development and security sectors during and after conflict. After completing her military service, she worked as a senior paralegal concentrating on asylum-related immigration cases at a large Washington, D.C. law firm.
- *Nick Martin* - In his position as a Research Assistant, Mr. Martin has provided invaluable support to a variety of academic and field research projects in sectors ranging from post-war reconstruction, the development of fragile states, and security-sector reform. He has participated in the development and implementation of several research projects and has conducted an independent evaluation of community policing projects in East Timor for the United Nations' Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

The authors will share responsibility for the conduct of the systematic review. Sultan Barakat will maintain ultimate oversight the content while Ms. Rzeszut will undertake information retrieval and a significant proportion of data extraction and management with the aid of Nick Martin, the research assistant.

- Content: Sultan Barakat
- Systematic review methods: Sultan Barakat and Kathryn Rzeszut
- Statistical analysis (if relevant): Kathryn Rzeszut and Nick Martin
- Information retrieval: Kathryn Rzeszut and Nick Martin
- Report Drafting: Sultan Barakat and Kathryn Rzeszut

This division of responsibilities shall not preclude one author from contributing to, backstopping and/or controlling for bias in those elements assigned to the other.

## Appendix 2: Timeline

The following schedule will guide the preparation of the systematic review. This timeline may be adjusted pending any delays in the initial steps, particularly related to protocol preparation, review and finalisation which are beyond the control of the review team.

Step/Phase	Start date	End date
<i>Registration of title with DFID</i>	28/05/2010	28/05/2010
<i>Preparation of protocol</i>	31/05/2010	01/07/2010
<i>DFID and External Review of protocol</i>	01/07/2010	27/07/2010
<i>Study search</i>	27/09/2010	01/10/2010
<i>Assessment of study relevance</i>	01/10/2010	07/10/2010
<i>Extraction of data</i>	07/10/2010	25/10/2010
<i>Synthesis and/or statistical analysis</i>	25/10/2010	10/11/2010
<i>Preparation of draft report</i>	10/11/2010	22/11/2010
<i>DFID review of draft report (please allow 2 weeks)</i>	22/11/2010	06/12/2010
<i>Dissemination of draft report</i>	06/12/2010	10/12/2010
<i>Revision of draft report</i>	10/12/2010	17/12/2010
<i>External review of draft report</i>	17/12/2010	14/01/2011
<i>Revision</i>	14/01/2011	21/01/2011

### Appendix 3: Example Studies/Publications for Consideration/Possible Inclusion\*

*\*Excludes those referenced above*

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#### Appendix 4: Additional Resources

The need for a research assistant was identified during the protocol review process. The research assistant, identified as Mr. Nick Martin in Appendix 1, will support the project from the study search period to the preparation of the draft report and will also assist the reviewers during the report revision process, for a total of 60 days.

Name	Position	How many days will the investigator work on the project?	Daily Rate
Nick Martin	Research Assistant, Post-war Reconstruction and Development Unit, Department of Politics, University of York	60	£80.00



## Appendix 5: Intervention Classification Checklist

Title of MDTF	
MDTF Managing Organization	
MDTF Donors	
MDTF Recipient(s)	
Country/Region in which the MDTF is implemented	
Date MDTF was established	
MDTF Stated Objectives	
MDTF Scope (Geographic or Topical)	
Types of interventions implemented through MDTF.	

## Appendix 6: Study Characterisation and Quality Appraisal Tool

This study quality appraisal tool was adapted from one employed in an earlier systematic review (Rees, et al., 2009).

<i>Study Characterisation</i>					
<i>Study Title</i>					
<i>Study Author(s)</i>					
<i>Study Source</i>					
<i>Website (If Applicable)</i>					
<i>Year of Study</i>					
<i>Type of Study</i>					
<i>Quality of Study: Low/Medium/High (Based on Quality Appraisal Tool Questions 6-8)</i>					
<i>Study Context</i>					
<i>Study Outcomes</i>					
<i>Study Conclusions</i>					
<i>Study Quality Appraisal</i>					
	<i>Yes, a thorough attempt was made</i>	<i>Yes, several steps were taken</i>	<i>Yes, a few steps were taken</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No, not at all (NO) Not stated (NS) Cannot tell (CT)</i>
<i>1. Were steps taken to improve the rigour of the study sample?</i>					

	<i>Yes, a thorough attempt was made</i>	<i>Yes, several steps were taken</i>	<i>Yes, a few steps were taken</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No, not at all (NO) Not stated (NS) Cannot tell (CT)</i>
<i>1.1. Was the study's sampling size appropriate, well-reasoned, and justified given the study's topic and research question?</i>					
<i>1.2. Were attempts made to obtain a diverse sample?</i>					
<i>1.3. Were the characteristics of the sample important to the understanding of the study context and research findings?</i>					
<i>2. Were steps taken to improve the rigour in the collected data?</i>					
<i>2.1. Were the data collection tools piloted and/or validated?</i>					
<i>2.2. If the data was qualitative, was the data collection comprehensive, flexible, and sensitive enough to provide a thorough and complete description of the research topic?</i>					
<i>2.3. If the primary basis of the study was field research, was an appropriate amount of time allotted for a thorough data collection period?</i>					

	<i>Yes, a thorough attempt was made</i>	<i>Yes, several steps were taken</i>	<i>Yes, a few steps were taken</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No, not at all (NO) Not stated (NS) Cannot tell (CT)</i>
<i>2.4 Did the study employ more than one method of data collection?</i>					
<i>2.5 Were steps taken to mitigate potential barriers such as language and cross-cultural differences?</i>					
<i>3. Were steps taken to increase the rigour of the data analysis?</i>					
<i>3.1 Was a methodology described or can one be discerned?</i>					
<i>3.2 Was the data analysis methodology systematic?</i>					
<i>3.3 Was a methodology described or can one be discerned?</i>					
<i>3.4 Did the analysis explore diverse perspectives?</i>					
<i>3.5 Did the analysis seek to rule out alternative explanations for the research findings?</i>  <i>(In the case of mostly qualitative research, this can be accomplished through the search for negative cases or exceptions, providing preliminary results to research participants, independent data review, or reflexivity.)</i>					

	<i>Yes, good grounding</i>	<i>Yes, fair grounding</i>	<i>Yes, but limited grounding</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<b>4. Were the study's findings ground in and supported by the data?</b>					
<b>4.1 Was enough data presented to demonstrate how the authors arrived at their findings?</b>					
<b>4.2 Did the presented data fit the interpretation and support claims about the data patterns?</b>					
<b>4.3 Did the presented data illustrate the findings?</b>					
<b>4.4 If the data is qualitative, were the quotes identified in such a way that it was clear that they originated from more than one or two people?</b>					
<b>Note: The breadth of a study is considered the extent of description and its depth is considered the extent to which the data has been analysed.</b>	<b><i>Yes, there is good breadth and depth</i></b>	<b><i>Yes, there is good breadth, but very little depth</i></b>	<b><i>Yes, there is good depth, but very little breadth</i></b>	<b><i>Yes, but there is little breadth or depth</i></b>	
<b>5. Rate the findings of the study in terms of their breadth and depth.</b>					
<b>5.1 Does the study cover a range of issues?</b>					

	<i>Yes, there is good breadth and depth</i>	<i>Yes, there is good breadth, but very little depth</i>	<i>Yes, there is good depth, but very little breadth</i>	<i>Yes, but there is little breadth or depth</i>
5.2 <i>Are the perspectives of the research participants fully explored in breadth (the contrast of two or more perspectives) and depth (insight into a single perspective)?</i>				
5.3 <i>Does the study develop theoretically and/or conceptually?</i>				
		<i>Low</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>High</i>
6. <i>What weight would you assign this study in terms of its reliability and the trustworthiness of its findings?</i>				
7. <i>What weight would you assign this study in terms of the usefulness of its findings in terms of this review?</i>				
7.1 <i>What weight would you assign the match between the study aims and findings and the aims and purpose of its synthesis?</i>				
7.2 <i>What weight would you assign the study's conceptual depth and explanatory power?</i>				