A NOTE ON SELECTIVITY ON AID MODALITY: DETERMINANTS OF BUDGET SUPPORT FROM MULTILATERAL DONORS

Looking at the do file will make it clear that there are two version of the IDA data, one of which has the suffix old. This is also clear from the paper, as the range of the IDA and EU data differ. Why? I originally conducted the analysis on data downloaded from the CRS database between September 2009 and June 2010 on the amount of GBS and total aid given over the period 1997-2007. I then updated this work in the spring of 2011, but the IDA data was unavailable from 2000 onwards. The data that still existed matched the IDA total aid. I emailed OECD/DAC, and received the below reply, on the 13th July 2011:

“In previous years budget support was identified in IDA and IBRD data through their "lending instruments". In 2009, extensive discussions regarding CRS data were undertaken with the World Bank by the DAC Secretariat and historical data were revised back ten years. The decision was made to drop figures under General Budget Support, because the World Bank felt that it was more important to present in the CRS the sectoral dimension of their operations than the lending instrument. Both dimensions can be captured as from 2011 reporting on 2010 flows (budget support will be identifiable in the statistics through the CRS type of aid classification).”

Thus the data I downloaded and used in the analysis (available from https://sites.google.com/site/paulclist/data), is correct, but was dropped from the OECD/DAC. We don’t really understand why, but want to be transparent, and make the data freely available.

Paul Clist, September 2011