

Fred BORSON: Implications of Multiple Foreign Aid Procurement Rules in Developing African Countries: a Case Study of Ghana.

Many states including developing African countries have laid down rules and procedures that regulate the process of acquiring the goods and services needed for government activities, referred to as public procurement. However, foreign aid donors usually require beneficiary countries to apply separate rules and procedures provided by the donor in acquiring the goods and services needed for implementing projects funded by the donor, an approach motivated largely by unreliable systems in beneficiary countries.

These donor rules, regarded as external to the aid recipient country, are applied in addition to existing domestic rules on procurement, creating multiplicity and perhaps parallel application of different procurement rules within the recipient country.

This research poster uses Ghana as a case study in examining the possible policy implications for applying multiple procurement rules. The research argues that, with the inherent lack of capacity in developing countries, aid beneficiary countries are subjected to complex and unnecessarily burdensome obligations from donors which leave aid beneficiary states with limited policy space to pursue well-meaning domestic objectives. In analysing procurement procedures of some donors including the EU external aid and the World Bank, the research questions justifications for the current aid arrangements.