GOOD GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT AID

Risks and Challenges of E-Government in Jordan

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Abstract: Reforms and innovations in the governmental and bureaucratic apparatus of the nation-state are an important pre-requisite for development. This paper provides suggestive evidence that e-government and the related view of the neo-liberal state implicit in the good governance discourse put forward by the International Development Agencies might not be conducive to rapid late development. The New Institutional Economics as a background theory and Jordan as a case study show that a number of risks arising from external aid interventions are likely to exacerbate, and not resolve the problem of late development. The study is based on the analysis and design of e-government global solutions aimed at the creation of a neo-liberal state. It shows that implementing standardised ICT portfolio to support good governance may prove to be a very difficult task when contextual and other locally relevant variables are taken into account.

Keywords: E-government, good governance, LDCs, institutions, development, risk, Jordan.

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