Using IATI Data as an Input to the GPEDC Action Dialogue Process

The International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) is proud to be partnering with the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC) on the partner country-led Action Dialogues process. Led by partner country governments, an Action Dialogue aims to bring stakeholders together at country level to build a shared understanding on how to scale up effective partnerships to maximise development impact for COVID-19 recovery and Sustainable Development Goals implementation. IATI data can act as a crucial complement to data sourced through national systems, or through the GPEDC monitoring process, to assess progress made in implementing the development effectiveness principles by all stakeholders, specifically around transparency and accountability.

What is the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)?

Increased transparency is not an end in itself, but an essential step towards improving the coordination, accountability and effectiveness of development resources to maximise their impact and support achievement of national (and international) development goals. To this end, for more than a decade, IATI has encouraged all organisations that distribute or spend resources on development or humanitarian activities to publish information about their funding using IATI’s open data standard, a set of rules and guidance to ensure data on development cooperation is freely available and easy to access, understand and use.

IATI data helps meet the needs of a wide range of stakeholders in international development. For example:

- **Partner country governments**, who use IATI data as a complement to data included in national systems, providing a more complete and forward-looking picture of external resource flows to support more effective budgeting, planning and monitoring.

- **Development partners**, including bilateral and multilateral agencies, who want to understand where and how to target their development cooperation for the greatest impact.

- **Civil society organisations delivering services**, who need to see what’s happening where, to improve coordination and avoid duplication of effort.

- **Citizens and journalists**, around the world who need funding information to hold their governments to account on the use of resources.

Who publishes data to IATI?

Over 1,300 organisations have published data on their spending and activities to IATI. IATI publishers share information on a wide range of resources from aid to private finance and in some cases, using IATI data, it is possible to see the totality of the delivery chain, from funder to implementing organisation. In many cases, IATI can provide information to national governments and other country-level stakeholders on funders with which they may not have a formal reporting relationship, providing a crucial complement to the data captured in national systems. IATI publishers include:
**What data is available in IATI?**

IATI can provide a vast array of information to data users, including what activities are taking place (and where); which organisations are funding and implementing these activities; and how much money is budgeted, committed and spent. Additionally, by the middle of 2021, IATI data was available on nearly 14,000 development and humanitarian COVID-19-related activities. Find more information on how to access IATI COVID-19 data [here](#).

**Linking to other data**

- Related activity

**Basic information (examples)**

- Title
- Description
- Activity status
- Activity date

**Participating Organisations**

- Who is...
  - Funding the activity?
  - Implementing the activity?
  - Accountable for the activity?

**Geography**

- Partner country or partner region
- Specific location (e.g. map coordinates)

**Classifications (examples)**

- Sector
- Aid Type
- Finance Type
- Humanitarian

**Results**

- What has been achieved?

**Financial data**

- Forward looking: Budgets and planned disbursement
- Transactions: e.g. Commitments, Disbursements, Expenditures

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How are partner countries using IATI data to improve the effectiveness of their development cooperation?

Many partner country governments are interested in using data published to IATI to supplement data available in Aid Information Management Systems (AIMS) or other national systems to help assess the projected and actual external inflows of development resources to their countries. For example, in 2020, IATI data was used to inform several governments’ national budget planning processes, to include the preparation of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. IATI data was also used to prepare the first two development cooperation reports based almost exclusively on IATI data, Nigeria’s Development Cooperation and Chad’s Rapport sur l’aide internationale au Tchad et perspectives, which was included as an annex to the 2021 Finance Law. Other governments are using IATI data to assess inflows of non-resident organisations or conduct real-time monitoring of development spending.

The 2021 Action Dialogues will seek to spark policy, system and behavioural change toward better partnerships for development, drawing upon the evidence and data from the GPEDC’s monitoring of effective development cooperation (where available) and the four internationally-agreed effectiveness principles, developed by the international community in Busan in 2011 — country ownership, inclusive partnerships, focus on results and transparency and mutual accountability. IATI can provide a crucial complement to these data sources, helping stakeholders to assess the transparency of development cooperation resources in-country, as well as who is undertaking which development and humanitarian activities, and where.

How is IATI different from other development cooperation reporting systems?

IATI was developed because traditional donor reporting systems (such as the OECD’s Creditor Reporting System or “CRS”) weren’t serving the full needs of partner country governments, citizens and other users of development cooperation data for transparent, timely, comprehensive, accessible and comparable data. When publishers report data to IATI, they are asked to provide a full picture of each project or activity, which can include transactions between donors and stakeholders along the delivery chain; and information on these resource flows, such as location, sector, results and supporting documents. Crucially, the IATI Standard also requests timely data – published at least quarterly – to create a current picture of development cooperation activities and ensure the data is useful for stakeholders at the country level. As such, there is typically more timely and comprehensive data in IATI when compared with the OECD CRS, though IATI data is not centrally validated. In addition, IATI offers data from a much larger number of organisations than the OECD CRS.

How could IATI data be useful to the GPEDC Action Dialogue process?

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How can I access IATI data relevant to my country or region?

IATI’s recently launched Country Development Finance Data (CDFD) tool was designed in close consultation with partner country government stakeholders and allows users to download simple, Excel-formatted IATI data on commitments, disbursements and expenditures, as well as forward-looking budgets, presented simply by country and region. Designed to enable easy analysis, data can be pulled from CDFD into two simple spreadsheets, one for Transactions and another for Budgets. In one recent use case, the government of Nigeria has been using this tool to monitor spending and in calculating the quarterly balance of payments.

The following guidance materials outline how to understand and analyse the data available from the Country Development Finance Data tool, including the Excel Analysis Dashboard, which can be used to generate quick analysis in Excel using the outputs from this tool (see image).

**Excel Analysis Dashboard of country-specific CDFD data**
- Populated example (for Zimbabwe)
- Dashboard 1 (for use with the January – December fiscal year)
- Dashboard 2 (for use with July – June fiscal year)

**Guidance: How to use the CDFD Dashboard**
- IATI Country Development Finance Data Guidance (EN)
- Lignes directrices de l’IITA concernant les données nationales relatives au financement du développement (FR)
- Orientación de la IATI relativa a los Datos sobre Financiación para el Desarrollo de los Países (ES)

**What additional support is available to use the data?**

The IATI Secretariat is available to provide customised support to partner country governments wishing to access, understand or analyse IATI data. As such, please feel free to reach out directly to support@iatistandard.org with any questions or to request support.

You may also wish to join the monthly IATI Data Use Drop-In, held on the fourth Monday of each month. This is an opportunity to bring your data use questions and get on-the-spot support from the IATI Secretariat or from other data users who join the session.

**Where can I learn more about IATI?**

- Review the IATI membership pack, which contains a multitude of information about IATI as an organisation.
- View the IATI data use guidance page on www.iatistandard.org.
- Explore other tools and resources for accessing IATI data, managed by the IATI Secretariat.
- Find out how other stakeholders are using IATI data – access our crowd-sourced list of tools that utilise IATI data.
- Engage with the Data Use Community of Practice on IATI Connect, IATI’s digital community platform. Find more information on how to use IATI Connect on the platform’s About page.