

Commit

Plan

Publish

Use

Improve

International Aid
Transparency Initiative

Executive Summary

2014

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Abbreviations

AfDB	African Development Bank
AIMS	Aid Information Management System
AMP	Aid Management Platform
BMGF	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
BMZ	German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
BRIC	Brazil, Russia, India and China
CRS	Creditor Reporting System
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
EIB	European Investment Bank
FFI	Framework for Implementation
FSS	Forward Spending Survey
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIS	Geographic Information System
IATI	International Aid Transparency Initiative
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PWYF	Publish What You Fund
SSC	South-South Cooperation
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN WFP	United Nations World Food Programme

A reminder of IATI's aims and objectives

Developing countries still face critical challenges in accessing accurate, up-to-date and comprehensive aid data; widespread provision of better quality data would enable governments receiving development cooperation to make more informed decisions on budgeting and resource allocation, thus increasing the impact of their own resources as well as those received from donors. Greater transparency and accountability in the aid system could help combat many inefficiencies and problems, including corruption in the supply chain between donors and intended beneficiaries, coordination of efforts amongst all aid actors, planning, ownership and feedback from recipients.

The International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) is a key element of the agreed, common, open standard for the electronic publication and reporting of timely, comprehensive and forward-looking development cooperation information. The common standard was called for in the **Busan Partnership agreement** and further defined by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and IATI and reflected in the agreement endorsed by the final meeting of the **Working Party on Aid Effectiveness** in June 2012. The common standard consists of three complementary systems and processes: the OECD-DAC **Creditor Reporting System (CRS)**, which contains comprehensive historical statistical information; its **Forward Spending Survey (FSS)**; and IATI. Since the original **IATI Accra Statement in 2008**, IATI has already gained significant momentum. This accelerated before and following the **Fourth**

High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, which produced the Busan Partnership agreement.

Outside of the **DAC membership**, IATI is also increasingly used by foundations, NGOs, private companies and other development actors to report data on their activities. In becoming IATI members, organisations and governments commit publicly to a **Framework for Implementation (FFI)**, which calls for monitoring through donor self-reporting, partner country monitoring and independent monitoring. The self-reporting monitoring in this report uses a standard table format supplemented by descriptive text for each member highlighting their progress in implementing IATI. There are two main forms of independent monitoring. The first is the **Aid Transparency Index**, released annually by **Publish What You Fund** that covers both transparency policies and publication. The second is the monitoring by the **Global Partnership on Effective Development Co-operation** which includes a transparency indicator that scores donors' performance in reporting to the common standard across three dimensions: timeliness, comprehensiveness, and forward-looking information.

In September 2013, a new hosting arrangement came into effect for IATI. It comprises a **UNDP**-led consortium, working alongside the **United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)**, the Governments of **Ghana** and **Sweden**, and **Development Initiatives** (a UK-based not-for-profit organisation). The composition of this consortium reflects the multi-stakeholder nature of IATI.

Growth

IATI membership has undergone substantial diversification in the last three years. A wide range of organisations make up the Steering Committee membership that includes not only bilateral donors, partner country governments, civil society organisations and multilateral organisations, but also philanthropic foundations, development finance institutions, and climate investment funds.

New Members

In 2013, IATI welcomed five new members: [The Adaptation Fund](#), the [Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation \(BMGF\)](#), [Bond](#), the [European Investment Bank \(EIB\)](#) and the [Global Environment Facility \(GEF\)](#). These five newcomers brought the total number of IATI members to 59. The complete list of members can be found on pages 5 and 6.

Twelve members successfully published for the first time in 2013. They include multilateral organisations such as the [United Nations Population Fund \(UNFPA\)](#), the [United Nations World Food Programme \(UN WFP\)](#), and the [African Development Bank \(AfDB\)](#). Donor governments have made substantial efforts to embrace open government and open data. In 2013, the [German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development \(BMZ\)](#), [New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#), and the [Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation \(SDC\)](#) published to IATI for the first time. This brought the total number of members publishing data to IATI to 29¹.

Political commitments

A key milestone was achieved in 2013 when the remaining G8 members who were not yet publishing to IATI, committed to implementing the [Busan common standard on Aid Transparency](#),

including both the Creditor Reporting System (CRS) of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and IATI. Following the G8 summit held [in Lough Erne on 17-18 June 2013 where these commitments were made](#), IATI took steps to engage these donors, undertaking a technical visit to Italy, and inviting France, Russia, Italy and Japan to attend the [October 2013 IATI Steering Committee](#) as observers. France has already made progress by publishing aid data on certain projects in Mali through its new country open data and [open source portal for Mali](#).

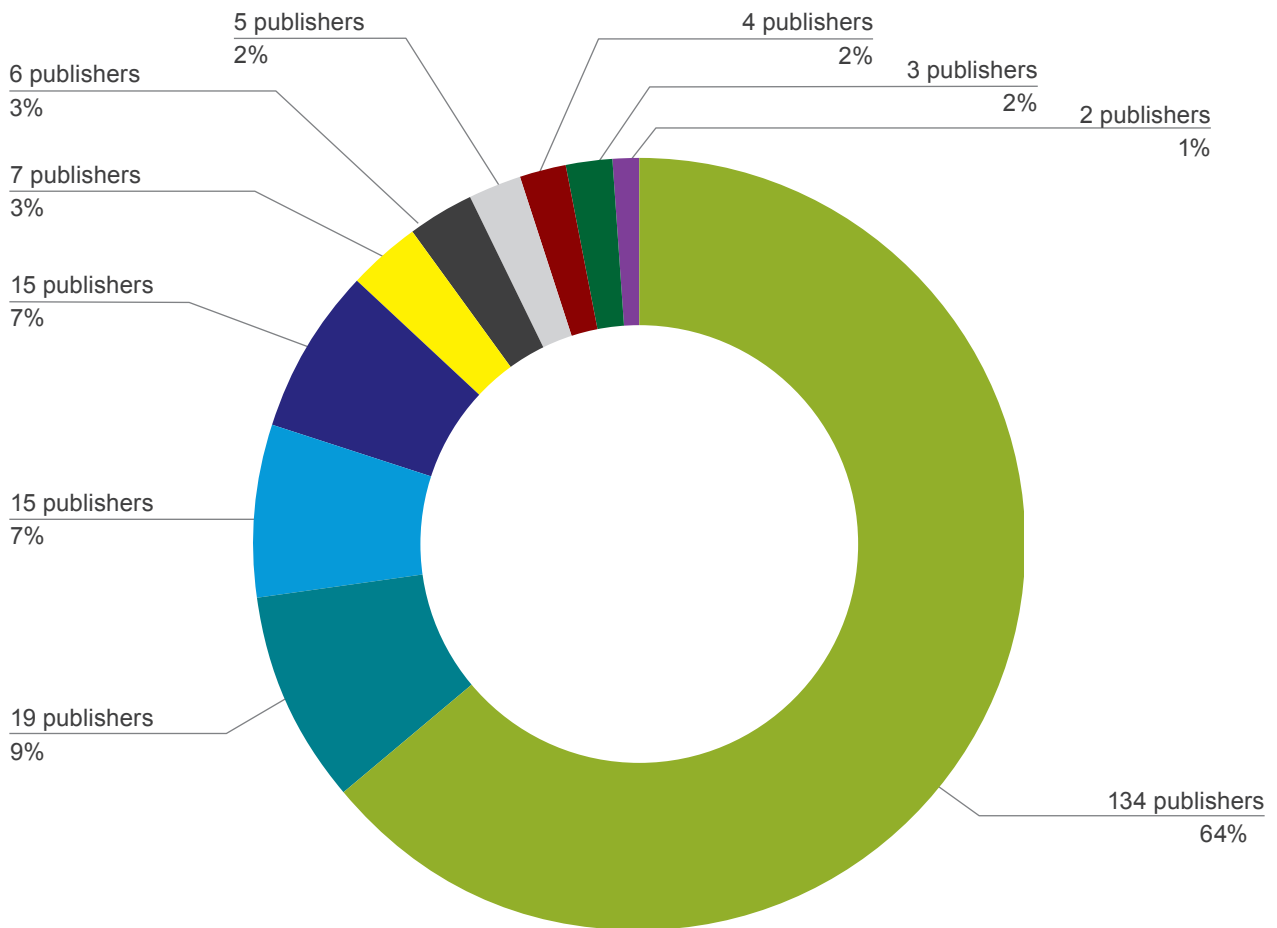
In addition, the release of a [High Level Panel report on the post-2015](#) development agenda called for “a data revolution for sustainable development, with a new international initiative to improve the quality of statistics and information available to people and governments... Implementing an agenda of this breadth and scope, holding people accountable for progress and keeping the agenda high on the political radar of world leaders cannot be taken for granted.”² This report reflects the growing importance and urgency of making accurate aid information readily available and comprehensive for governments and civil society at large to use for development goals.

All Publishers

In addition to the increase in membership, there were 109 new non-member publishers in 2013. International NGOs make up the largest group of publishers, followed by governments, multilateral agencies, national NGOs, private sector, other public sector, foundations and academic institutions. Governments and multilaterals are however publishing the vast majority of activities and transactions (see number of publishers by organisation type and activities by publisher type).

1. This excludes multiple departments within a single member, e.g. the four departments of the European Commission that are publishing are listed as one member.
2. See High Level Panel Report on the Post-2015 Development Agenda “A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development” Chapter 4: Implementation, Accountability and Building Consensus (2013 United Nations Publication, NY), page 21.

Number of publishers by organisation type at 31 Dec 2013



- Public Private Partnership
- Regional NGO
- Academic, Training & Research
- Foundation
- Other Public Sector
- Private Sector
- National NGO
- Multilateral
- Government
- International NGO

Members publishing to the IATI Registry

	Date joined IATI	Publishing since ³	Organisation type
Adaptation Fund	April 2013	Still to publish	Multilateral
African Development Bank (ADB)	April 2011	June 2013	Multilateral
Australia - Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)	September 2008	September 2011	Government
Belgium (DGD)	November 2012	Still to publish	Government
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)	October 2013	Still to publish	Foundation
Bond	November 2013	July 2012	National NGO
Canada - Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development - Affaires étrangères, Commerce et Développement	November 2011	October 2012	Government
Denmark - Danida, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark	September 2008	March 2012	Government
Development Initiatives Poverty Research (DIPR)	November 2008	July 2011	International NGO
European Commission (EC)	September 2008	May 2011	Other Public Sector
European Investment Bank (EIB)	October 2013	Still to publish	Multilateral
Finland - Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFAF)	September 2008	November 2011	Government
Germany - Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	September 2008	March 2013	Government
Global Environment Facility (GEF)	March 2013	Still to publish	Multilateral
Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)	November 2011	March 2013	Multilateral
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	May 2012	Still to publish	Multilateral
Ireland - Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	September 2008	July 2013	Government
Netherlands - Ministry of Foreign Affairs	September 2008	September 2011	Government
New Zealand - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade	September 2008	May 2012	Government

	Date joined IATI	Publishing since	Organisation type
Norway - Norad, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	September 2008	Still to publish	Government
Publish What You Fund	November 2008	November 2011	International NGO
Sweden - Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)	September 2008	October 2011	Government
Switzerland - Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	June 2009	November 2013	Government
The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria	June 2011	November 2011	Multilateral
The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	September 2008	March 2011	Foundation
The World Bank	September 2008	May 2011	Multilateral
Transparency International Secretariat	November 2008	May 2012	International NGO
United Kingdom - Department for International Development (DFID)	September 2008	January 2011	Government
United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)	December 2011	October 2012	Multilateral
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	March 2012	June 2013	Multilateral
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	September 2008	November 2011	Multilateral
United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)	October 2011	October 2011	Multilateral
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	August 2012	Still to publish	Multilateral
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	May 2012	July 2013	Multilateral
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)	May 2012	November 2012	Multilateral
United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)	August 2012	June 2013	Multilateral
United States of America (USA)	November 2011	December 2012	Government

3. The organisation/country listed is the one that is the member of IATI. This excludes multiple departments within a single member, e.g. the four departments of the European Commission that are publishing are listed as one member. They are shown separately in Section 5. Publishing since' shows the month of first publication of either an activity or organisation file up to 31 December 2013.

IATI and partner countries

The Busan Partnership represents a shift from aid effectiveness to development effectiveness, emphasising that the process be led by developing countries according to their specific needs. By the end of 2013, 22 partner countries had endorsed IATI by joining the Steering Committee. All but two of these countries have developed aid

management portals and are now able to take advantage of comprehensive data for budgeting and planning purposes.

The following are three examples of how partner countries are developing their AIMS to boost data literacy, optimise results and improve accountability⁴.

Country survey of IATI data and AIMS

In the October 2013 Steering Committee, the IATI Secretariat was requested to undertake a study of data use at country level with a view to making recommendations to maximise the potential of IATI data for partner countries. A survey was devised in late 2013 and conducted among partner country AIMS users. Whilst detailed results will be reported in next year's annual report, the findings are expected to amplify the demands made in Accra in 2008 and the outcomes of the UNDP-IATI regional workshops on country needs conducted in 2009. Preliminary results have highlighted that timely, accurate and forward-looking data are critical for AIMS to play their proper role within the suite of public financial management systems of partner countries.

Whilst aid information management systems in partner countries have become increasingly sophisticated, none yet includes a module that supports automatic data exchange of IATI data. This has been identified increasingly as a necessity to support the regular reporting by development partners at country level, as evidenced once again through the preliminary data collected through the country survey.

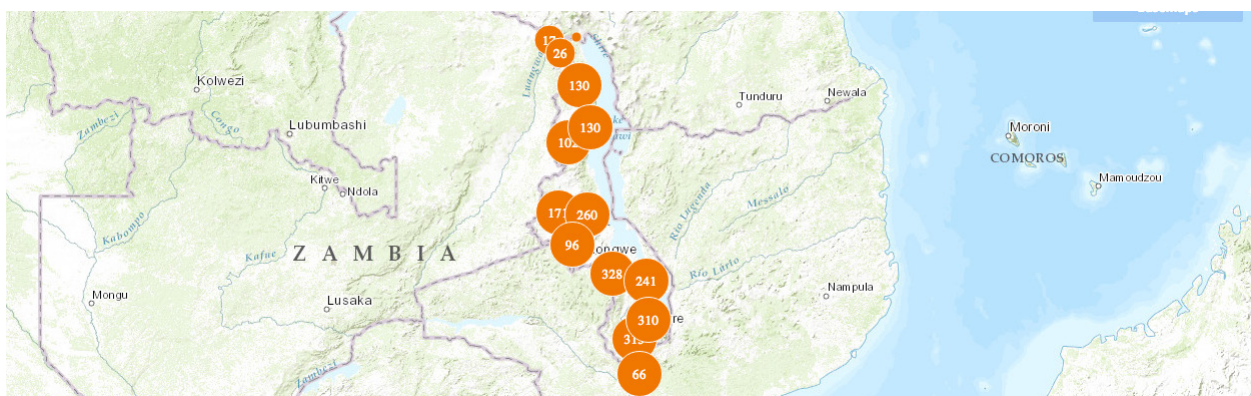
In 2013, the IATI Secretariat continued its work towards finalising the automatic data exchange pilot in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Lessons learned are being recorded to inform the roll-out of IATI data exchange modules in relation to each different kind of aid information management system (AIMS).

4. The full annual report contains other examples, covering implementation of Busan Partnership commitment in Bangladesh, timeliness and quality of data in Rwanda and Colombia's international cooperation map.

Malawi - Geocoding and data literacy

Malawi's Aid Management Platform (AMP) is fully integrated in the Government's decision-making processes, specifically budgeting and planning. The Ministry of Finance gathers information on indicative multi-year commitments and annual projections of aid flows from development partners. The aid information becomes part of the fiscal framework. The AMP also plays a significant role in compiling aid reports and assisting with the aid coordination process. With the latest AMP upgrades, the Geographic Information System

(GIS) module is also fully integrated into the AMP. This allows detailed location information to be entered and projects to be viewed on an interactive map of Malawi that compares project locations to local needs. The mapping of the locations of donor-funded activities provides a promising way in which the Government of Malawi and development partners can improve aid targeting, coordinate their efforts, inform the public of their activities, and deepen country ownership.



Tanzania - Strengthening management for results and partner country ownership of aid data

Since 2008, Tanzania has strengthened aid management capacity nationally, as well as among its development partners (DPs), in particular through the roll-out of an AMP by the Tanzanian Government under the leadership of the Ministry of Finance. A recent **Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) Assessment (2013)** noted that strong improvements from 2010 onwards can clearly be identified in development partners' use of the AMP and frequent entry of data (more than 50% of development partners enter monthly disbursement information).

In terms of lessons learned, the Tanzanian team noted that the success of the AMP was due to the continuous involvement of the Ministry of Finance staff responding to development partner queries providing user training and performing quality control measures. The importance of fully involving development partners in guiding the implementation was considered to be a key driver of success. South-South Cooperation, knowledge sharing and peer support were also considered to be extremely valuable.

Honduras - The quality indicator

The Aid Management Platform in Honduras was officially launched on April 11, 2013 as “**Plataforma de Gestión de la Cooperación (PGC)**”. The portal allows the public to access information collected by the Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation (SEPLAN) of ODA projects financed by cooperation. New information entered in the platform goes through a validation process, and only those projects that have been validated are displayed in the public portal.

Having up-to-date information has made the Honduran government a stronger and more

informed counterpart. It has allowed the government to look at aid effectiveness issues with the support of statistical data, enabling a dialogue on the challenges of moving ahead with global and local commitments. Through the availability of geo-referenced information in the AIMS, the Honduran government can identify geographical regions that have been orphaned in development efforts. The National Monitoring Framework of Honduras also includes a data quality indicator in which donors are given a score that reflects the quality of their data in the Aid Management Platform.



Refining and using the data

In order for IATI data to become useful for planners, researchers and others, there is a need to encourage publishers to make vast improvements in the quality, coverage and timeliness of the data they publish.

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) has a key role to play here. The TAG met in Montreal in January 2014 and a vibrant community discussed a range

of topics under the following three themes:

1. **Getting it right** – improving the quality, coverage and timeliness of the data;
2. **What next?** – developing the standard to cover all development flows; and
3. **Using the data** – developing tools and communities to increase use of the data especially at country level.

Sweden's new public tracker

Sida launched the new **Swedish public aid tracker** in April 2014. The tracker uses only IATI data for all core visualisations. A user can view aid flows between countries, for example from Sweden to Afghanistan, as well as activity information that can be viewed by sector or funding agency. A feature to compare data will also be available, for example aid from Sweden to two aid recipient countries compared over time.

The tool is released as open source and can easily be reused by any organisation that publishes IATI data that meets required level of detail. The tool is based on the popular open source blog tool "Wordpress", making basic deployment extremely fast and easy.



In 2013 the IATI Secretariat carried out two activities which aim to strengthen the quality of data and its use at country level.

1. **Transparency Indicator:** The IATI Secretariat took part in negotiations to define the first **transparency indicator** as part of the **Global Partnership Monitoring Framework**, and subsequently assisted the joint UNDP-OECD support team to pilot the indicator in late 2013. IATI members were involved in the negotiation process through the Ad Hoc Group on the common standard and consultation with Global Partnership members. The indicator examines the information provided to both the IATI and OECD systems that make up the common

standard and uses the better score from the two systems in each of three dimensions—timeliness, comprehensiveness and its forward-looking nature.

2. **Tools to work with IATI data:** The IATI **Data Store** was launched in September 2013. It is an online service that gathers together all data published to the IATI Standard into a single, queryable source and can deliver sections of IATI data in various formats, depending on the users' needs. The Data Store serves as a 'back end' for developers building apps to visualise or search IATI data, in addition to being a useful resource for analysts, data journalists and others who want to interrogate IATI data.

DFID'S Development Tracker

DFID launched a new web tool, **Development Tracker** that has detailed information about UK development projects, including project documents and financial transactions. The Development Tracker uses IATI data, making it easier to compare between countries, incorporate data from other IATI publishers, and trace aid through the delivery chain.



Next Steps

For the next two years, the IATI Secretariat will continue to focus its efforts on supporting its members to improve the quality, timeliness, accessibility and comprehensiveness of the aid information published.

In particular, IATI will focus on the following action items:

1

IATI 2.0:

- Make Version 2 of the IATI Standard more language-neutral and involve CSOs and partner countries more closely in defining what is needed from the new version;
- Hold regional workshops on South-South co-operation to find ways in which the standard can offer better support to providers wishing to publish to IATI.

2

More and better IATI data:

- Form working groups to focus on reporting humanitarian information through IATI;
- Provide clearer guidance on the publication of results.

3

Using IATI data:

- Foster peer learning among partner countries on use of aid information and explore publication by partner countries of data captured locally through AIMS systems;
- Support where possible the roll out of automated data exchange between IATI and national aid management platforms;
- Identify and reduce obstacles to the effective use of IATI data at country level, and increase awareness of IATI among parliamentarians and civil society;
- Develop a registry of IATI specialists who can provide support to data users.

4

Outreach and external relations:

- Address current gaps in coverage (e.g. remaining G8 members) and seek opportunities to engage with BRIC and SSC countries on a voluntary basis;
- Conduct a sustained campaign of communicating outwardly to new and existing publishers and to data users, including the redesign of IATI's websites;
- Expand IATI's membership to cover not only all providers of official development finance, but as many actors as possible within the changing aid architecture and throughout the entire aid delivery chain.





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