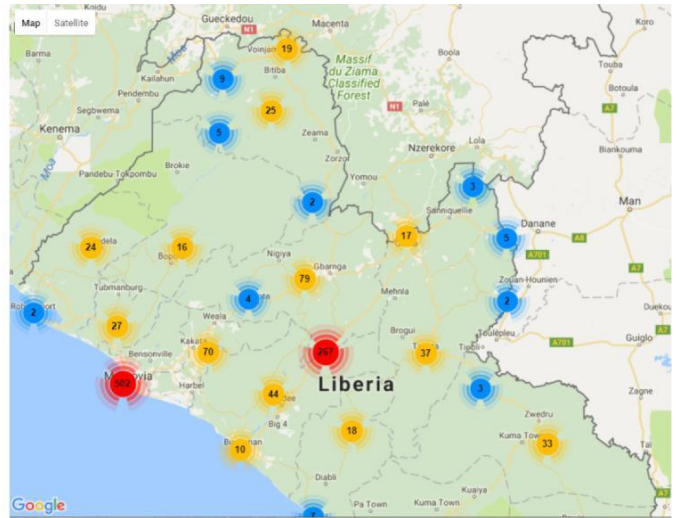# Spotlight on IATI Data Use: Liberia

IATI presents a series of partner country profiles developed by UNDP on behalf of the IATI Secretariat. It should be read in conjunction with the summary and all findings will be used to inform the initiative's work on data use.

Key findings

- There is a need to increase the understanding of the AIMS and IATI data capability and potential by the government entities of the Public Financial Management (PFM) system, as well as by non-governmental development partners.

- Further refinement of the import module and its protocol would improve the compatibility and the exchange process between IATI fields, the local AIMS and the Liberia PFM system.

- There is a need to advocate with IATI publishers for continuous improvement of the completeness, accuracy and timeliness of data from the IATI Registry, taking into account the need to harmonize this data with that which is provided by donor representations at country level.

- Including information from non-governmental partners and from non-traditional providers (China, Arab States and development institutions), would be important for Liberia, whether for development or humanitarian purposes.

- Liberia has a module to import IATI data into its AIMS, and most of its partners are IATI publishers. However, because of data quality issues, only data from small providers with no representations in-country is considered for import.

- The AIMS does not record much data from non-governmental partners.

Heat map of activities with precise location data in Liberia from IATI's *d-portal.org*

Liberia involvement in IATI

The first comprehensive (grants and loans) set of data for external financed projects for Liberia was compiled from IATI data after the Aid Management Unit was established. More recently in 2014, the Ministry of Finance also used IATI data on the Ebola crisis in the country to support policy decision-making by the Government. Liberia joined the Open Government partnership in 2011, and between 2015-17 developed an OGP action plan that strengthens its transparency actions through IATI.

Year	Event
2017	Planned Cooperation Policy
2016	Mutual Accountability Survey (United Nations)
2016	Monitoring Survey of the Global Partnership
2012	Joined IATI
2011	Member of the Open Government Partnership
2009	Installed Aid Information Management System

What IATI data is available?

Active Projects

1031

Total Projects

3689

% of activities with locations

16%

Main providers not yet publishing in IATI

**IMF
Islamic Development Bank
UN WHO
Kuwait
Turkey**

Number of IATI Publishers

94

Aid Information Management System

Provider: **Development Gateway**
System installed in: **2009**
Web-link: **http://41.86.8.147/portal/**

Top 10 providers of development cooperation (IATI publishers are shown in green)

These top ten providers contributed **853 million** US$ of the country ODA in 2015. This represents 90% of the total amount reported to OECD (the top twenty providers account for 97%). As for non-IATI publishers these represent **only 9.5%** of that total, and first among these is the IMF concessional trust fund. In addition, IATI displays amounts reported by NGOs, foundations, and a growing number of private cooperation partners (the mains ones for Liberia are the Disasters Emergency Committee, Zoa, the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation, Oxfam Novib, and the British Red Cross).

1	United States	6	Norway
2	World Bank	7	Sweden
3	European Union	8	Germany
4	IMF	9	Japan
5	African Development Bank	10	Global Fund

How does Liberia manage aid data?

- In 2015, it is estimated that more than 75% of the data on external aid contained in the budget is accessed through the AIMS and from there, manually transferred to the budget system. The AIMS contains useful information on the ODA received from most governments, with the exception of information from China and Arab States or development institutions. In relation to non-governmental funds, a number of international and local NGOs receive funds locally and the AIMS does not track that type of support.

- Besides traditional government partners, availability of information on NGOs, foundations and South-South and Triangular Cooperation remains difficult to access. This is also true for cooperation provided by countries such as Russia, China and India which do not report to IATI.

- The Government of Liberia requires updated foreign assistance information every three months. Ministry officials managing the AIMS have noted issues of missing IATI data fields such as high level expenditure and forward-looking data, differences in fiscal years, and some system bugs. The Ministry therefore finds it can automatically import and use some 25% of the data available in IATI; a further 25% of IATI data on Liberia can be used with some manual modification, and the remaining data needs are met through traditional data capture methods and validation with local representative offices or regional offices if donors are not present in country.

- Since Liberia installed its AIMS, significant progress has been made by many IATI publishers to improve the quality of their data. Import modules have been further tested and now have much better performance. As the Ebola crisis is over, there should be more time now to optimize performance, and automate data exchange among the variety of stakeholders working with data on international cooperation.

- Liberia is a country that can benefit significantly by using IATI data given the strong concentration of external assistance by providers that are already publishing to IATI.