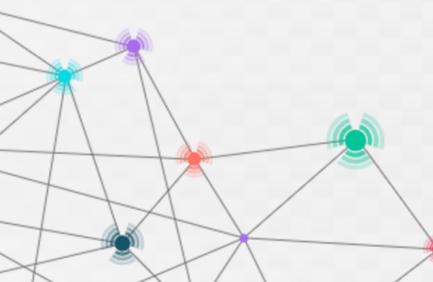


# Recommendations on IATI Feedback Processes

## *Catalpa Report*

13 October 2020



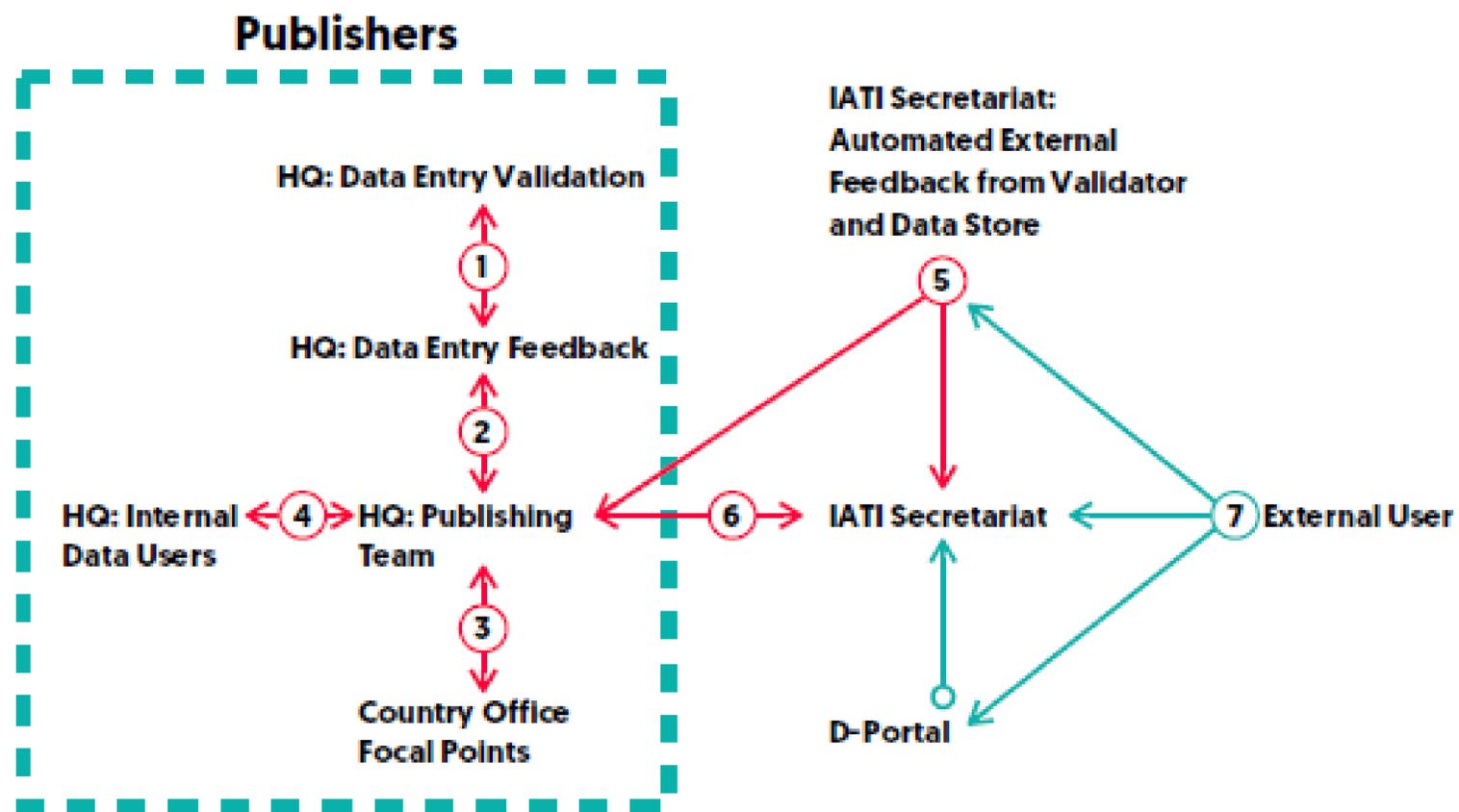
**iati**

# Recommendations

- “Discussion on feedback should not be limited to feedback by external users to publishers. Casual users of IATI data should not be the ones left to discover and have to point out major data quality issues; these issues should be addressed much earlier in the pipeline.” (p.30)
- Seven different feedback loops should be considered to improve the quality of IATI data; **Recommendation 7** is the one that focuses on inputs from data users



Figure 1: Feedback loops to improve IATI data quality

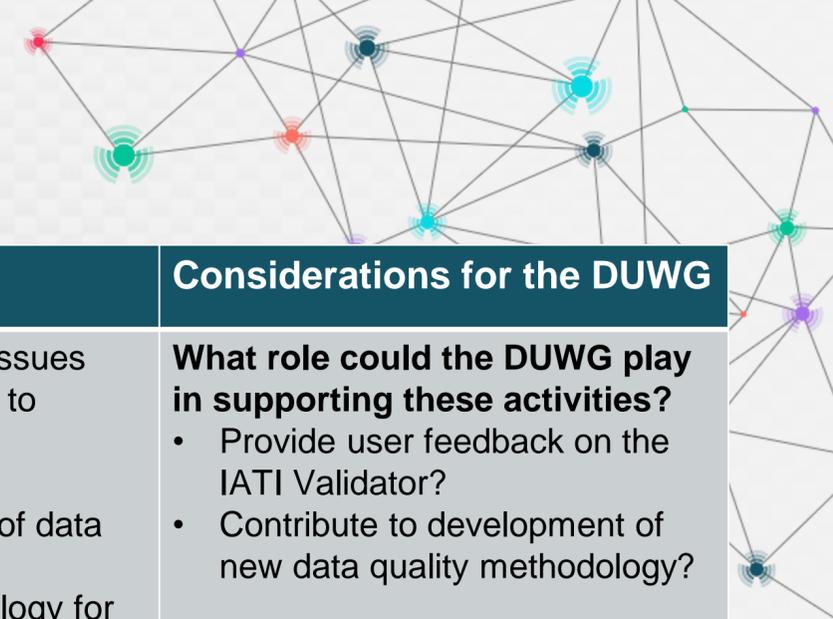


# Recommendations to IATI Publishers



Recommendations	Planned Actions – IATI Secretariat	Considerations for the DUWG
<p><b>Recommendation 1:</b> Enhance feedback at the point of data entry Individual agencies should include validation in data entry forms so that data quality issues are avoided or detected at the data entry stage. Those entering data should be encouraged to preview their data through simple data visualisations. Those who know the projects best are often best placed to identify issues.</p> <p><b>Recommendation 2:</b> Enhance feedback from the publishing team to those entering data Publishing teams should regularly communicate indicators on data quality to all colleagues to raise awareness of IATI and the relevance of good data quality, helping those responsible for entering data to track progress on the quality of data for projects under their responsibility.</p> <p><b>Recommendation 4:</b> Continue to invite feedback from internal users Publishers should continue to engage with colleagues within their agencies to promote the use of IATI data - both their own data and that of others - and invite feedback on data quality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For recommendations 1 and 2, engage with publishers to understand how future improvements to the IATI Validator could help to enable these internal feedback loops. Will be discussed with publishers during systematic engagement to encourage and support IATI Validator use that started at the beginning of October.</li> <li>• For recommendations 1, 2, and 3: Facilitate/initiate discussions on best practices in implementing internal feedback mechanisms in the upcoming Publishing CoP.</li> </ul>	<p><b>What role could the DUWG play in supporting publishers to implement and / or improve these internal feedback mechanisms?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support information sharing among publishers? Through webinar led by champion publishers who are implementing one or more of these mechanisms?</li> <li>• Author blog advocating for the importance of implementing these feedback mechanisms for improving data quality, with the goal of increasing and enabling data use?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recommendation 3:</b> Establish feedback loop between publishing teams and focal points in local 5 offices in partner countries Publishers should ensure that feedback loops exist between headquarters and officers in selected partner countries. The publishing team should ask focal points for a copy of the data they share with the partner country government, analyse and investigate data discrepancies. After addressing major issues, this process could be expanded to include counterparts in partner country governments, with improved IATI data shared in familiar spreadsheet formats. This process would gradually strengthen understanding of how a publisher’s IATI data could be used to populate recipient country aid management systems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secretariat to support and help coordinate implementation of activity proposed under DUWG</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed activity added to DUWG work plan – <i>Data engagement feedback loops: headquarters IATI teams and country office focal points</i></li> </ul>

# Recommendations to IATI Secretariat



Recommendations	Planned Actions – IATI Secretariat	Considerations for the DUWG
<p><b>Recommendation 5: Enhance automated feedback to all publishers</b> Existing tools for automated feedback to publishers should be used and improved. Publishers and the Secretariat should be automatically informed of any major errors (e.g. where the data cannot be downloaded). Data quality statistics should be extended to cover more aspects of data quality. The overall data quality assessment should be better communicated to publishers and users in a visually more compelling way, for example by highlighting a simple summary of major outstanding issues.</p>	<p>Provide automated feedback to publishers on major data quality issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To consider developing the functionality to automate feedback to publishers using the IATI Validator (in 2021).</li> </ul> <p>Data quality statistics should be extended to cover more aspects of data quality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will be addressed through the development of a new methodology for measuring data quality to be undertaken in 2021</li> </ul> <p>Increase visibility and usability of data quality assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To consider possible improvements to the IATI Validator in how validation reports/messages are presented (2021)</li> <li>To consider in determining how the new data quality measures are presented (2021)</li> </ul>	<p><b>What role could the DUWG play in supporting these activities?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide user feedback on the IATI Validator?</li> <li>Contribute to development of new data quality methodology?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recommendation 6: Establish targeted feedback to priority publishers</b> The IATI Secretariat should establish criteria for which publishers should be engaged with as a strategic priority. This should identify a short list of 30 priority publishers, and establish a routine, systematic process for addressing major data quality issues with these publishers. This process could involve selected partner country governments for whom the data for a given publisher is a high priority.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long-term activity but work has begun</li> <li>Initially conducting systematic engagement with priority publishers to address data quality issues as identified in the IATI Validator</li> <li>Longer term, after learning from the first rounds of engagement on data quality, will establish systematic regular monitoring and engagement with publishers on data quality</li> </ul>	<p><b>What role could the DUWG play in supporting these activities?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide inputs to the Secretariat on the issues identified in the Validator that are most problematic for data users</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recommendation 7: Request and coordinate feedback from external data users</b> There are currently limited feedback channels for external users. There should be a feedback pop-up dialogue on D-Portal and the IATI Datastore, with data feeding into a central feedback tool. The feedback would be sent to a specific publisher and copied to the Secretariat to ensure it has an overview of user feedback. Users should have the option of keeping feedback private if necessary. However, the default should be for issues to be public. This central feedback tool could be integrated with the IATI Dashboard, depending on the outcome of the IATI Technical Stocktake. All issues that have not been marked as private would be visible, and other users would be able to post comments or questions to publishers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Building a central feedback tool be revisited in line with technical stocktake implementation - deferred to 2021</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Building feedback tool included in 2020 DUWG Work Plan, but should be revisited in 2021 pending assessment of if/how this will be incorporated into future IATI tools per the recommendations of the technical stocktake</li> </ul>