

Workshop: How can we improve data quality to enable more and better use of IATI data?





01 Introduction and Opening

02 Part 1: Information Sharing

- a) *IATI Secretariat*
- b) *Data users*
- c) *Data publishers*

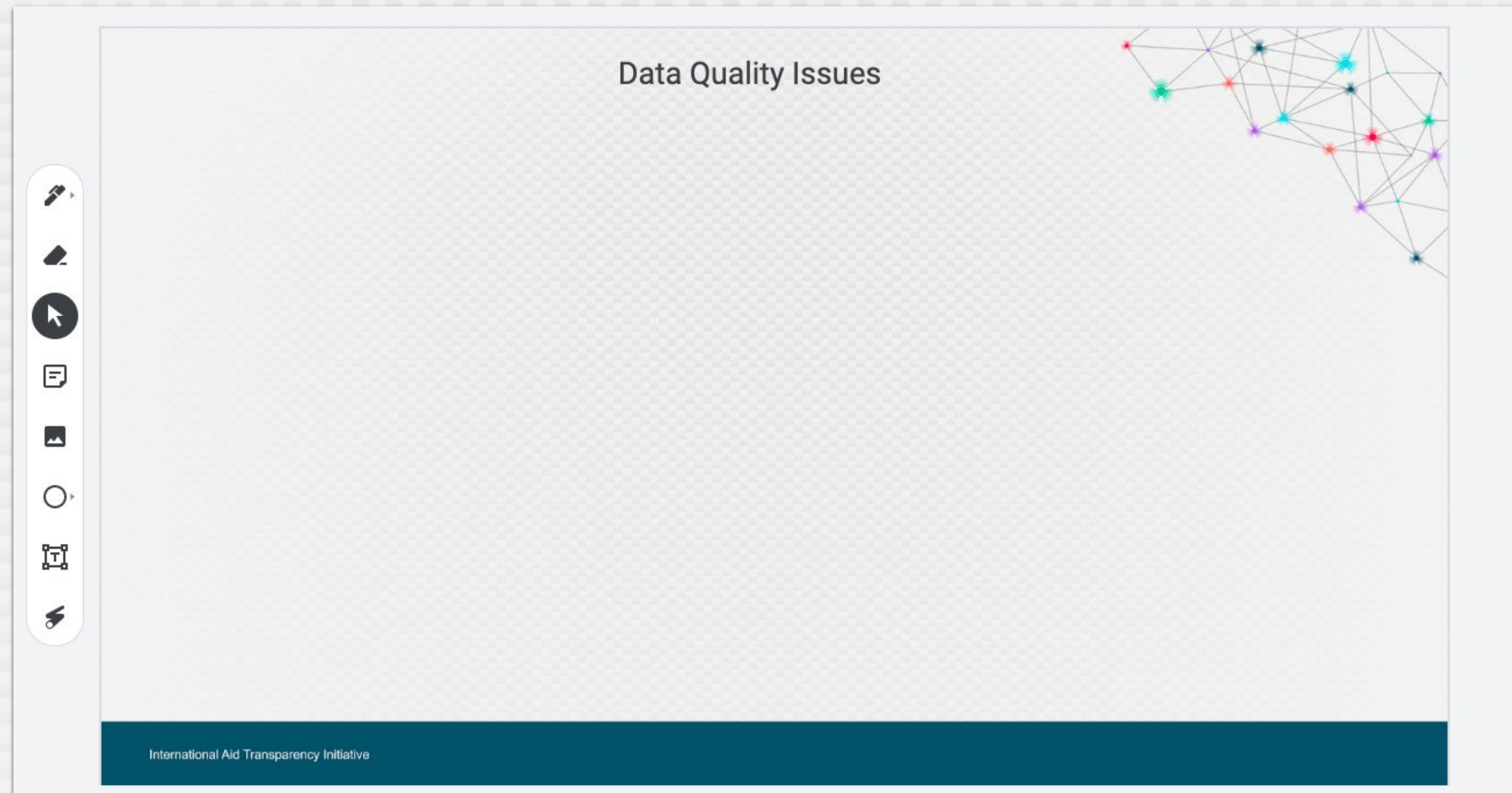
Break

03 Part 2: Discussions

04 Takeaways

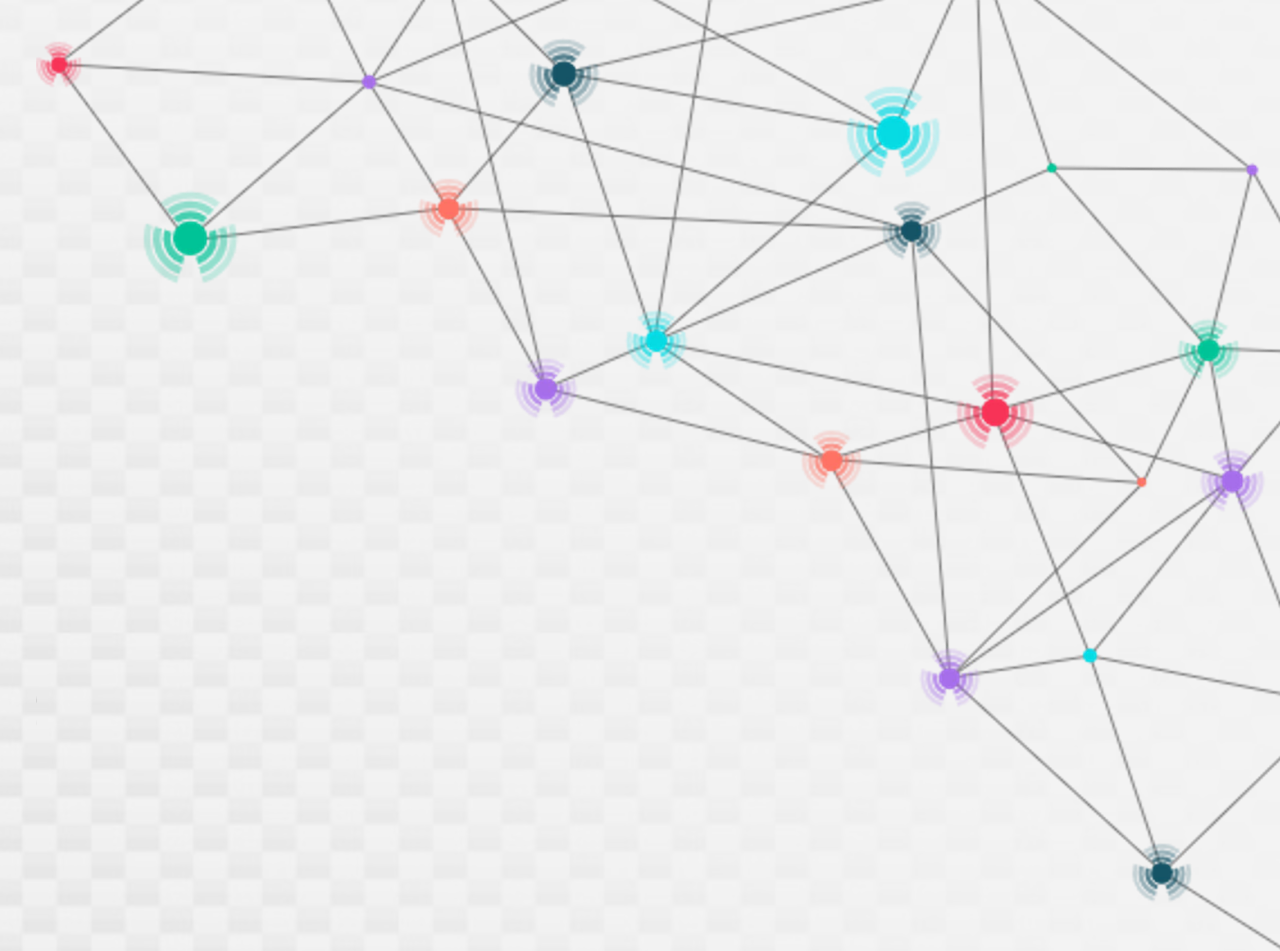
JAMBOARD

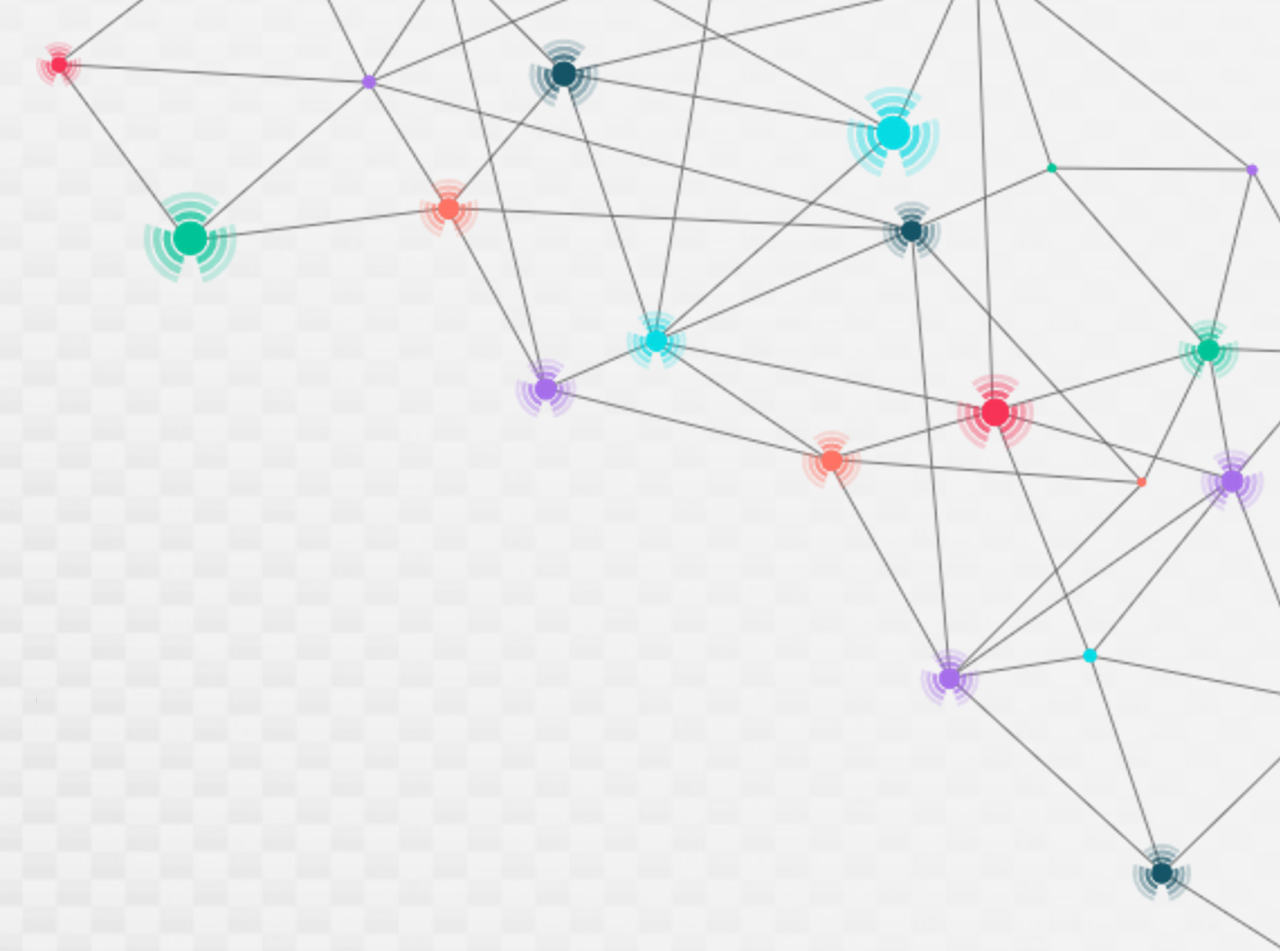
<https://iatistandard.org/data-quality-jam>



OPENING

**Innocent Mugabe, IATI Governing Board,
Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning**





Improving Data Quality to Enable Data Use:

Progress made so far and work still to be done



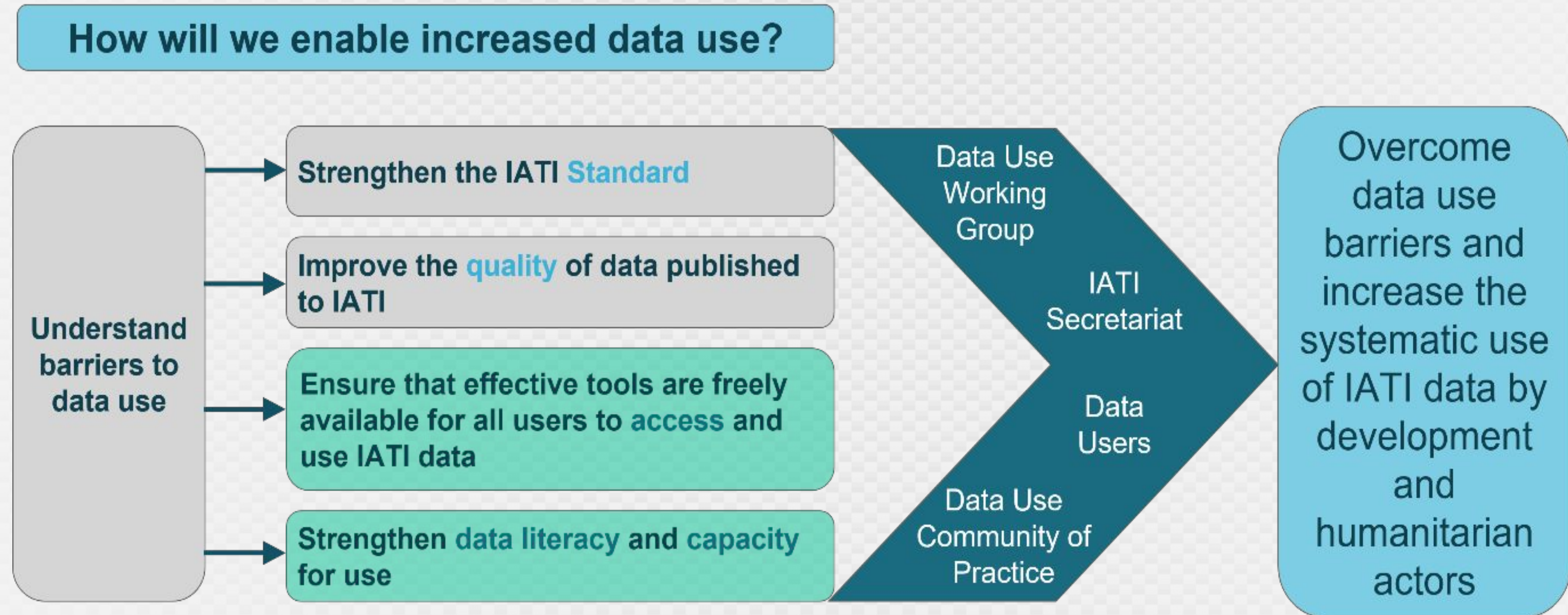


01 IATI's Strategic Plan

02 Progress so far

03 Work still to be done

IATI Strategic Plan: Vision for enabling increased systematic data use



Progress so far

Understanding data quality issues inhibiting use

- Review of previous research, presentations, discussions by the Community to identify commonly cited data quality issues (2020)
- Systematic review of **how publishers publish** (2021) to better understand issues with variation in publishing inhibiting use of IATI data, including:
 - variation in what data publishers do/do not publish
 - how they publish that data (e.g. in what elements/attributes)
 - differences in, and lack of information on, how each publisher maps their internal data to the IATI Standard
- Consultations and discussions with publishers on findings of systematic review of **how publishers publish** (2021)

Development of new tools

- Development of **IATI Validator** to enable publishers to check if their data aligns with the rules and guidance of IATI Standard, to enable them to more easily understand any issues and address them (2020)
- Development of the **IATI Datastore**, which only includes activities that do not contain critical errors (2022)
- Development of the **Country Development Finance Data** tool, offering a processed subset of IATI data, which has enabled easier identification and investigation of data quality issues, particularly related to variation, data gaps, etc. (2021)
- Development of **IATI Publisher**, which is integrated with the IATI Validator, enabling publishers to check the quality of their data before publishing.

Progress so far

Prioritizing data quality issues

- Leveraging the various research, reviews, and consultations, a set of measures were developed to assess key priority data quality issues inhibiting data use
- These measures, part of the **Data Quality Index**, were consulted with the IATI community and revised accordingly
- They are intended to be implemented in a revised version of the IATI Dashboard but work has been put on hold due to the transition
- This will enable publishers to both assess the quality of their data from a technical perspective using the IATI Validator and from a usability perspective using the measures from the DQI

Outreach and Support

- Systematic outreach to publishers to support them in using the IATI Validator to improve their data quality (2021)
- Support/guidance to any publishers that reach out and have questions or want to address issues in their data
- Outreach to publishers when data users share data quality issues found in the data
- Outreach to/engagement with publishers with known data quality issues that take time to resolve

Work still to be done

Implementation of
DQI



Systematic outreach and ongoing support to publishers to effectively leverage the **IATI Validator** and the measures of the **DQI** to improve the quality of their data

Data Quality Issues

Data Users Group

Presenter: Edward Chonia, Ghana Ministry of Finance

Presentation Outline

Objectives

Data Quality Issues Identified

Problem with the data quality issue and Usability Impact

Proposed Changes/Solutions

Objectives

- To outline some commonly cited data quality issues that impact the ability of data users to make use of IATI data.
- To highlight some of the most common issues that have the most impact on the usability of the data.

Issues Identified

- Missing data such as sectors (from the OECD-DAC codelist), aid type, finance type, provider and receiver organization.
- Missing financial data such as budgets and spending.
- Lack of standardized timelines for reporting so unclear how complete the data is at any point in time (e.g. makes it difficult to use the data for predictability/projections for MTEF).
- Some publishers do not include all of their activities (e.g. no regional projects for World Bank).
- Location data - not all activities have this but sometimes if they do publish it the location data provided isn't specific enough to be useful.
- Duplication of Aid from Development Partners
- Challenges with localizing IATI data.

Problem with the data quality issue and Usability Impact

Data Quality Issue	What is the Problem	Usability Impact
Missing data such as sectors (from the OECD-DAC code list), aid type, finance type, provider and receiver organization, key documents such as agreements and transfer advices.	<p>The analysis will not clearly show how much was channelled toward a certain sector (e.g. Health sector) as some sectors are not defined.</p> <p>The report should highlight how much assistance came in the form of Grants or Loans.</p> <p>Data users should know from which development partner the assistance was received as well as which organisation received the assistance.</p>	<p>Without Sector information, it is hard to know how external resources are being allocated so that effective decisions can be made on how to allocate national resources.</p> <p>Without knowing where the money comes from, hard to assess duplication.</p> <p>Without knowing where the money is going to, hard to assess all the sectors involved and whether money is being channeled to Govt, CS, INGOs, Private Sector, etc</p>

Problem with the data quality issue and Usability Impact

Data Quality Issue

Missing data such as sectors (from the OECD-DAC code list), aid type, finance type, provider, and receiver organization.

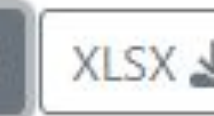
Allocation of 2022 Budgets and Spending to Sectors in Ghana

by Sector Category

Number of results

10

Display options



XLSX



Customise

Sector Category	Value (USD): Budgets	Value (USD): Spending
120 - Health	277,879,322	309,048,725
- No data	103,416,356	97,454,122
230 - Energy	96,471,987	79,862,536
140 - Water Supply & Sanitation	71,060,073	52,493,184
110 - Education	37,402,212	82,895,959
310 - Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing	53,823,090	97,129,277
210 - Transport & Storage	72,956,968	21,282,001
430 - Other Multisector	54,878,915	26,030,100
130 - Population Policies/Programmes & Reproductive Health	107,320,167	80,206,530
160 - Other Social Infrastructure & Services	133,406,714	74,456,392

Problem with the data quality issue and Usability Impact

Data Quality Issue

Missing data such as sectors (from the OECD-DAC code list), aid type, finance type, provider, and receiver organization.

Receiver Organizations in Ghana in 2022

Recipient Country or Region	Receiver Organisation	Value (USD)
Ghana	Ghana Health Services; Ministry of Health	120,573,527
Ghana	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) [XM-DAC-41122]	77,239,396
Ghana		74,616,399
Ghana	Ministry of Health of the Republic of Ghana; CCM Ghana	62,426,806
Ghana	Ghana Investment Promotion Center; Ministry of Trade and Industry; Ministry of Business Development	40,422,746
Ghana	Ghana	39,717,862
Ghana	USAID redacted this field in accordance with the exceptions outlined in the Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act of 2016. [nan]	38,930,812
Ghana	Development Bank of Ghana (DBG)	37,695,715
Ghana	REPUBLIK GHANA	32,158,488
Ghana	Ministry of Finance; Development Bank Ghana	29,960,403

Problem with the data quality issue and Usability Impact

Data Quality Issue	What is the Problem	Usability Impact
Missing financial data such as budgets and spending	This makes it difficult for reporting purposes because the main reason for publishing donor assistance data is to know about the budget and expenditure of donor-supported projects which together will give the the overall picture of external development assistance of a country.	<p>If not included in the reporting data, users will not be able to know the amount projected and spent on the project.</p> <p>Inhibits ability to monitor spending to ensure partners are delivering.</p> <p>Makes it difficult to project future spending for the MTEF.</p> <p>Inhibits dialogue with partners on how resources are being allocated and spent.</p>

Problem with the data quality issue and Usability Impact

Data Quality Issue

Missing financial data such as budgets and spending

2022 Budgets and Spending

Reporting Organisation	Value (USD): Budgets	Value (USD): Spending
European Commission - International Partnerships	0	4,316,013,714
European Commission - Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations	0	3,093,168,486
Norad - Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation	0	4,314,685,059
European Commission - Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection	0	2,184,971,676
U.S. Department of Defense	0	3,374,982,000
European Investment Bank	0	0
AICS - Agenzia Italiana per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo / Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development	0	860,142,038
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	0	998,195,493
Christian Aid	0	1,430,053,226
United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)	0	684,361,516
European Commission - Service for Foreign Policy Instruments	0	263,650,306
World Vision International	0	690,714,724
Disasters Emergency Committee	0	302,740,963
Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations	0	240,900,000
International Climate Initiative / BMU - IKI Secretariat	0	134,144,090
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	0	130,856,925

Problem with the data quality issue and Usability Impact

Data Quality Issue

Missing financial data such as budgets and spending

2022 Budgets and Spending

Reporting Organisation	Value (USD): Budgets	Value (USD): Spending
International Finance Corporation	11,515,900,000	0
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	10,286,500,258	0
European Investment Bank	0	0
CGIAR	608,631,236	0
Ireland - Department of Foreign Affairs	685,145,983	0
One Acre Fund	270,782,226	0
UK - Home Office	237,429,057	0
Private Infrastructure Development Group	223,298,958	0
Germany GIZ Non BMZ	44,422,344	0
UN-Habitat	45,517,149	0

Problem with the data quality issue and Usability Impact

Data Quality Issue	What is the Problem	Usability Impact
<p>Lack of standardized timelines for reporting so unclear how complete the data is at any point in time (e.g. makes it difficult to use the data for predictability/projections for MTEF)</p>	<p>Delays the development of the report which is done annually.</p>	<p>Basically you are not getting the full picture and you are unclear on what you are missing</p> <p>Generates lack of confidence or trust in the data.</p>

Problem with the data quality issue and Usability Impact

Data Quality Issue	What is the Problem	Usability Impact
<p>Timelines for publication vary widely between organizations, even if they publish frequently, and the recency of the data published also varies</p>	<p>It makes it difficult for the timely publication of the Development Assistance Report of a country. It makes it difficult to compare performance across donor partners.</p>	<p>This makes it impossible for data users to know how complete the data is at any point in time; analysis requires info other the completeness of the data being analyzed and this is impossible to determine in IATI data</p>

Problem with the data quality issue and Usability Impact

Data Quality Issue

Lack of standardized timelines for reporting so unclear how complete the data is at any point in time (e.g. makes it difficult to use the data for predictability/projections for MTEF)

Timelines for publication vary widely between organizations, even if they publish frequently, and the recency of the data published also varies

2023/24 Budgets for Bangladesh

Recipient Country or Region	Reporting Organisation	Value (USD)
Bangladesh	The World Bank	1,903,778,570
Bangladesh	Asian Development Bank	1,719,375,431
Bangladesh	Agence Française de Développement	362,645,451
Bangladesh	United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)	307,722,745
Bangladesh	Germany - Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development	174,974,546
Bangladesh	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	140,510,317
Bangladesh	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	137,500,000
Bangladesh	UK - Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	129,981,919
Bangladesh	International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC)	87,302,719
Bangladesh	European Investment Bank	74,333,000

Problem with the data quality issue and Usability Impact

Data Quality Issue	What is the Problem	Usability Impact
<p>Some publishers do not include all of their activities (e.g. no regional projects for World Bank)</p>	<p>Donor-funded projects should clearly state all of their activities in order to minimize funding gaps in the national budget and align it with the priorities of the local and central government.</p>	<p>Government will not be able identify the funding gaps or lagging regions/Sectors.</p>

Problem with the data quality issue and Usability Impact

Data Quality Issue	What is the Problem	Usability Impact
<p>Location data - not all activities have this but sometimes if they do publish it the location data provided isn't specific enough to be useful</p>	<p>It will be difficult to disaggregate the data into regions or districts.</p>	<p>Data users will find it difficult to identify which location is oversubscribed or undersubscribed.</p>

Problem with the data quality issue and Usability Impact

Data Quality Issue

Location data - not all activities have this but sometimes if they do publish it the location data provided isn't specific enough to be useful

Example: Analysis conducted for Chad's annual development cooperation report that was included as an annex to the national budget

- Locations covered only 44% of spend
- Of 2,145 coordinates in the IATI data, 513 (24%) of them were the center of the country and 319 (15%) of them are the center of N'Djamena (directed nationally)

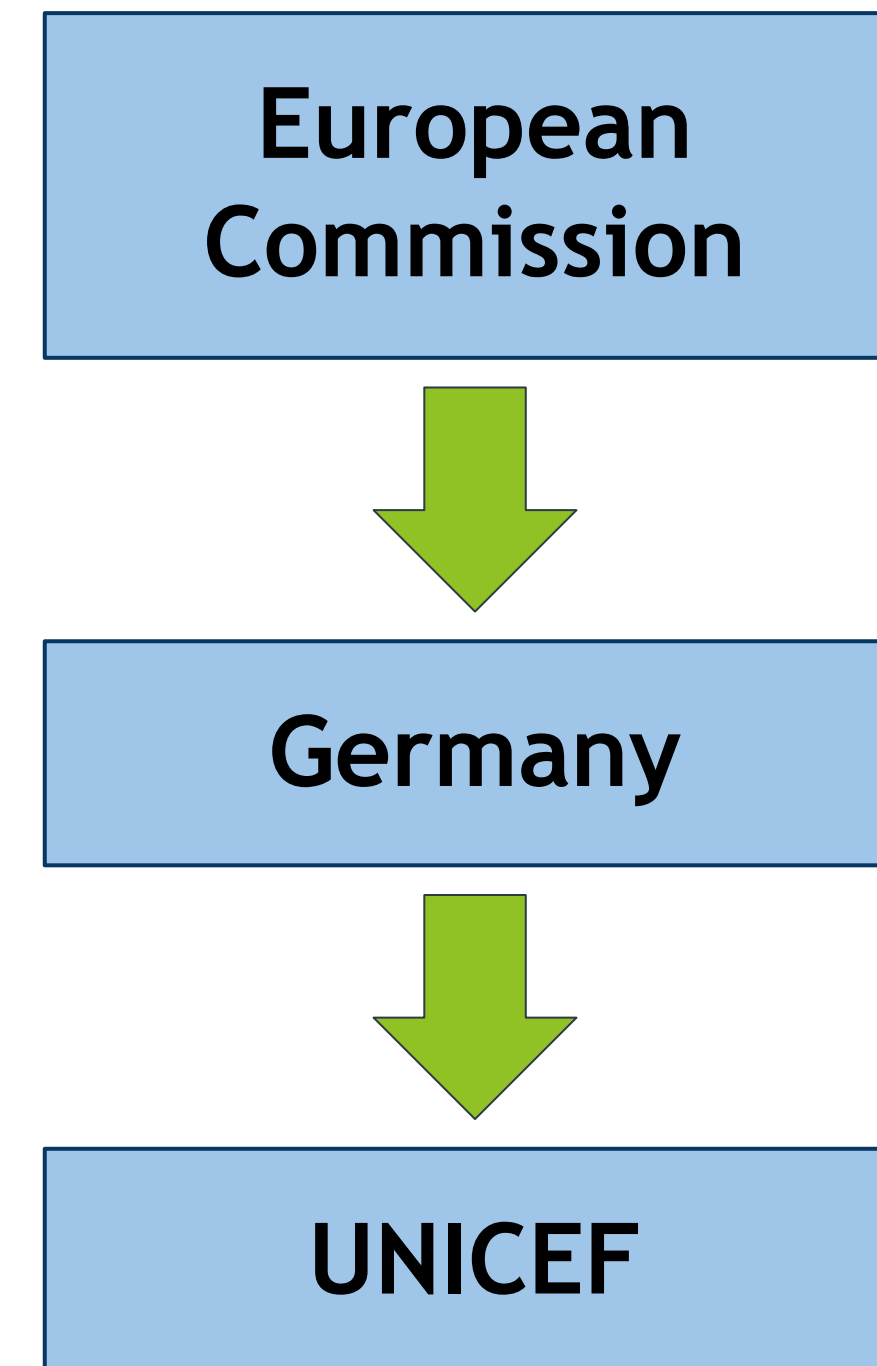
Problem with the data quality issue and Usability Impact

Data Quality Issue	What is the Problem	Usability Impact
Duplication of Aid by Development Partners	<p>As multiple organizations in the delivery chain are publishing to IATI, sometimes it seems there is duplication of resources recorded.</p> <p>Not possible for data users to effectively reduce duplication due to variation in how publishers publish and the lack of inclusion of certain information that would enable de-duplication</p>	<p>The information on total project or spent resources is not correct if there is duplication.</p>

Problem with the data quality issue and Usability Impact

Data Quality Issue

Duplication of Aid by
Development Partners



Problem with the data quality issue and Usability Impact

Data Quality Issue	What is the Problem	Usability Impact
Challenges with localizing IATI data	<p>Variations in sector names between the IATI and national data make it difficult to align the two data.</p> <p>Localized data fields, for example, aid type, finance type, partner names, project titles.</p>	<p>Some IATI sectors will be left unallocated thereby decreasing the total development assistance of a country and also reducing the data quality.</p> <p>A lot of manual data cleaning/analysis/reorganisation work is required to make use of the data as you have to localise it first to be able to use it.</p> <p>This is often complicated, resulting in data users not actually using the data.</p>

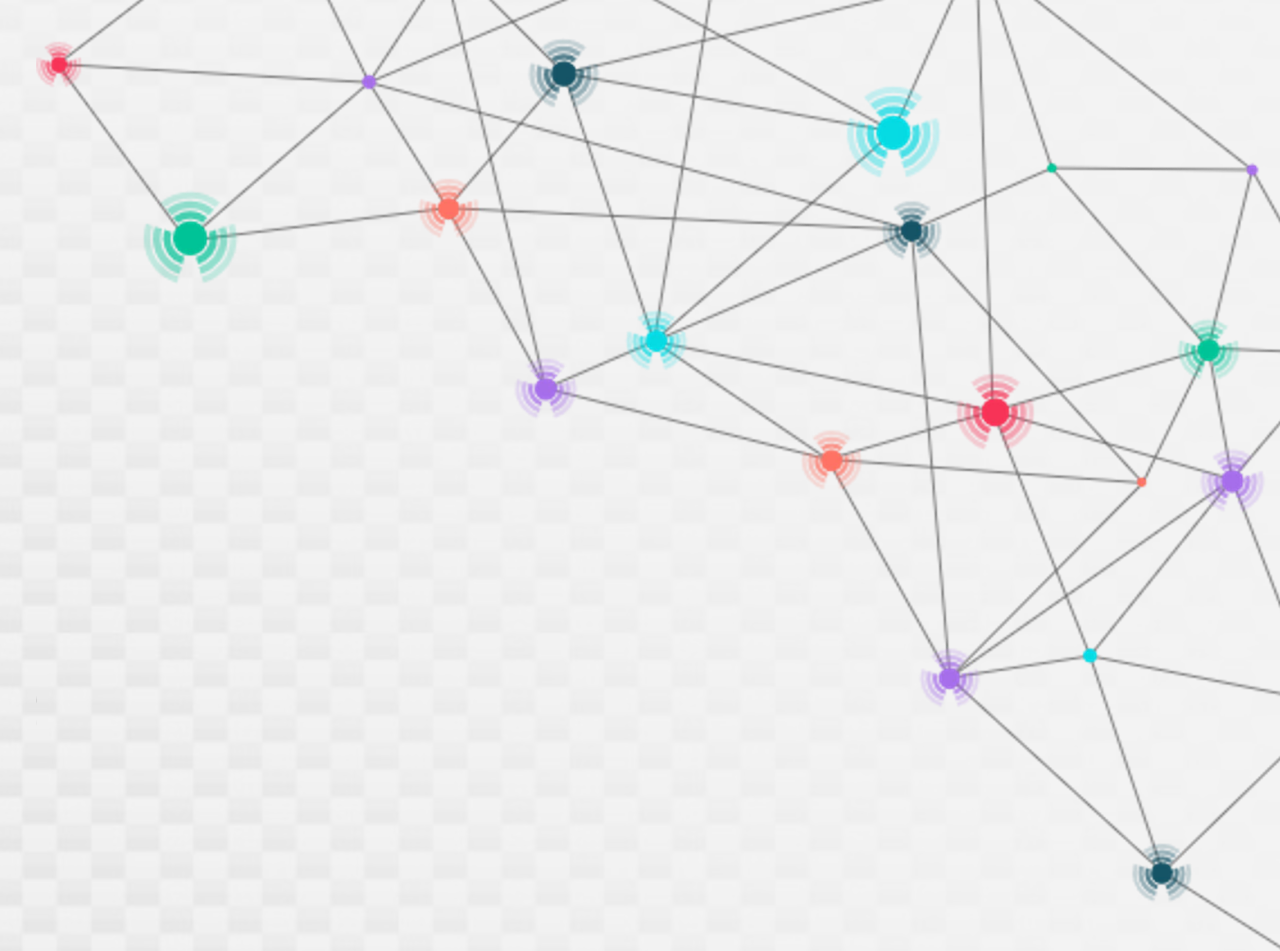
Proposed Changes/Solutions

- Publishers should try to fill in the key fields, such as Aid type, Reporting Organisation, Sectors, Receiver Orgs, etc
- Include the data on budget and spending – Governments will be able to have more accurate analysis and make the projections/forecasts for the MTEF.
- Publishers should publish all their assistance to countries.
- Improvement in the quality of the IATI data to enable dialogue with Development Partners to improve alignment of the allocation of resources to national priorities and avoid duplication of efforts.

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR KIND
ATTENTION**

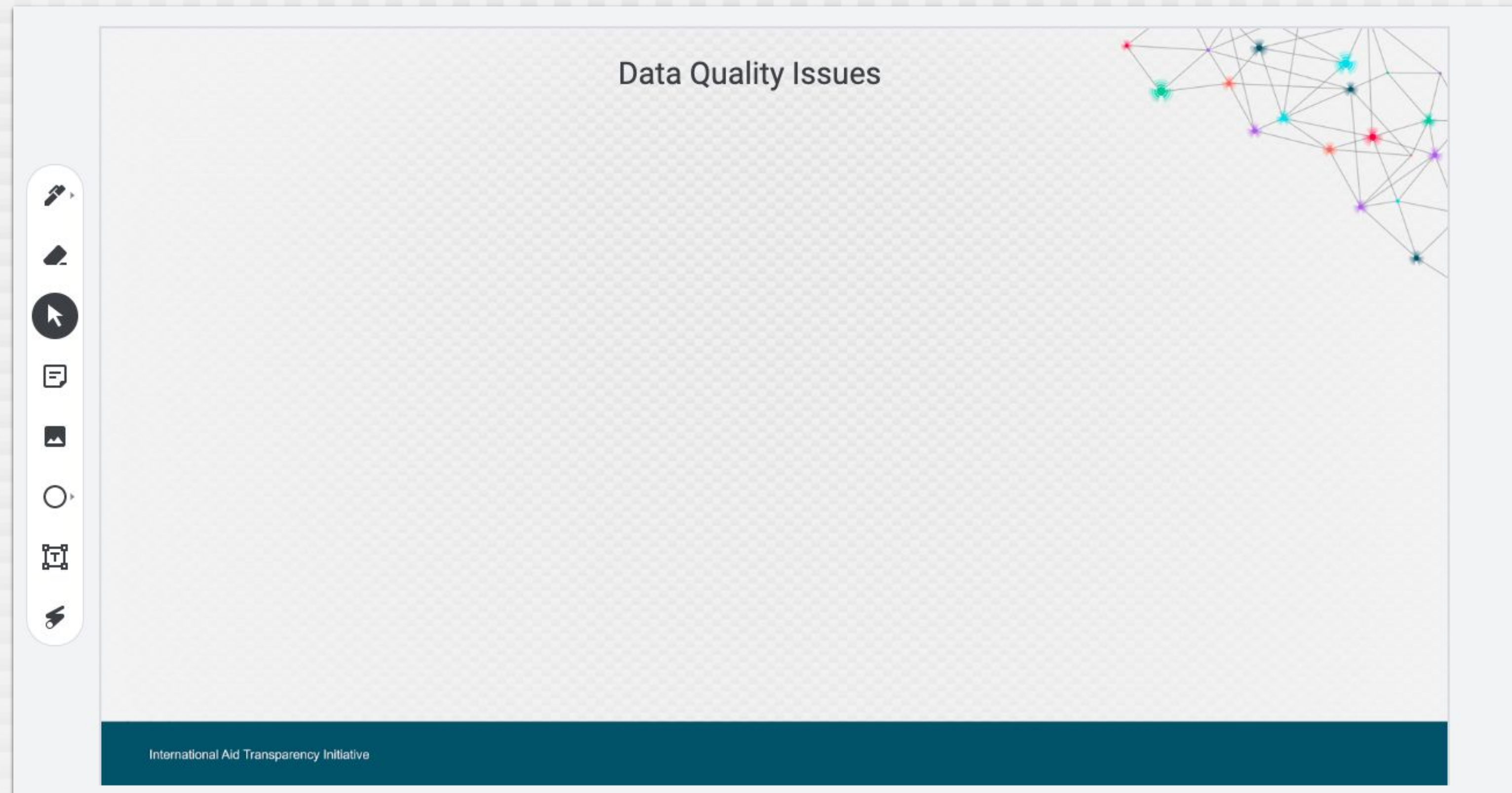
PUBLISHERS GROUP

**Herman van Loon, Nederlands Ministerie van
Buitenlandse Zaken**



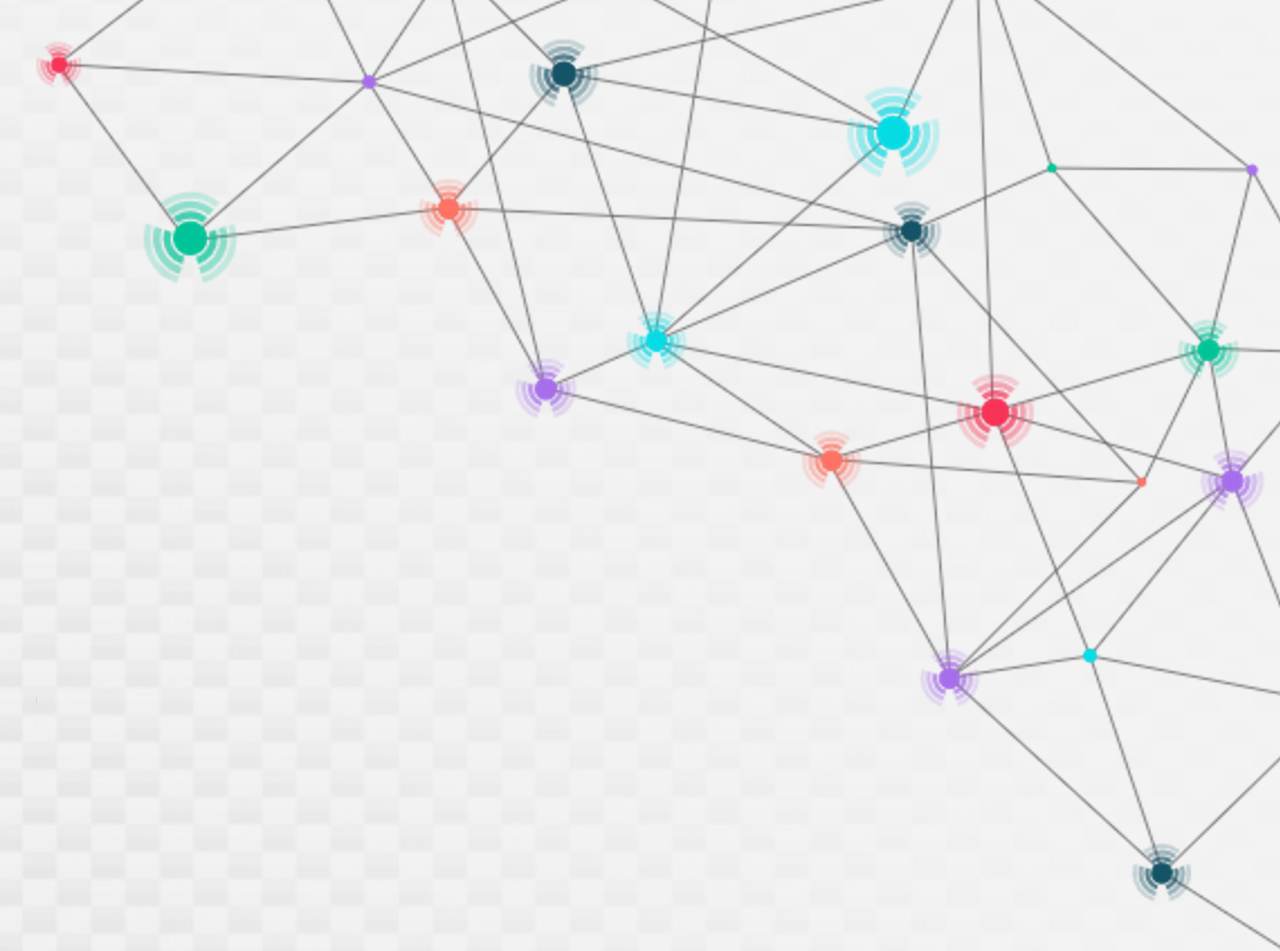
JAMBOARD

<https://iatistandard.org/data-quality-jam>



Small Group Leaders

1. Group 1 (virtual): Innocent / Herman
2. Group 2: Motai / Navin
3. Group 3: Edward / Evgenia
4. Group 4: Nathan / Hannah
5. Group 5: Wolfgang / Ishaka
6. Group 6: (French): Ali



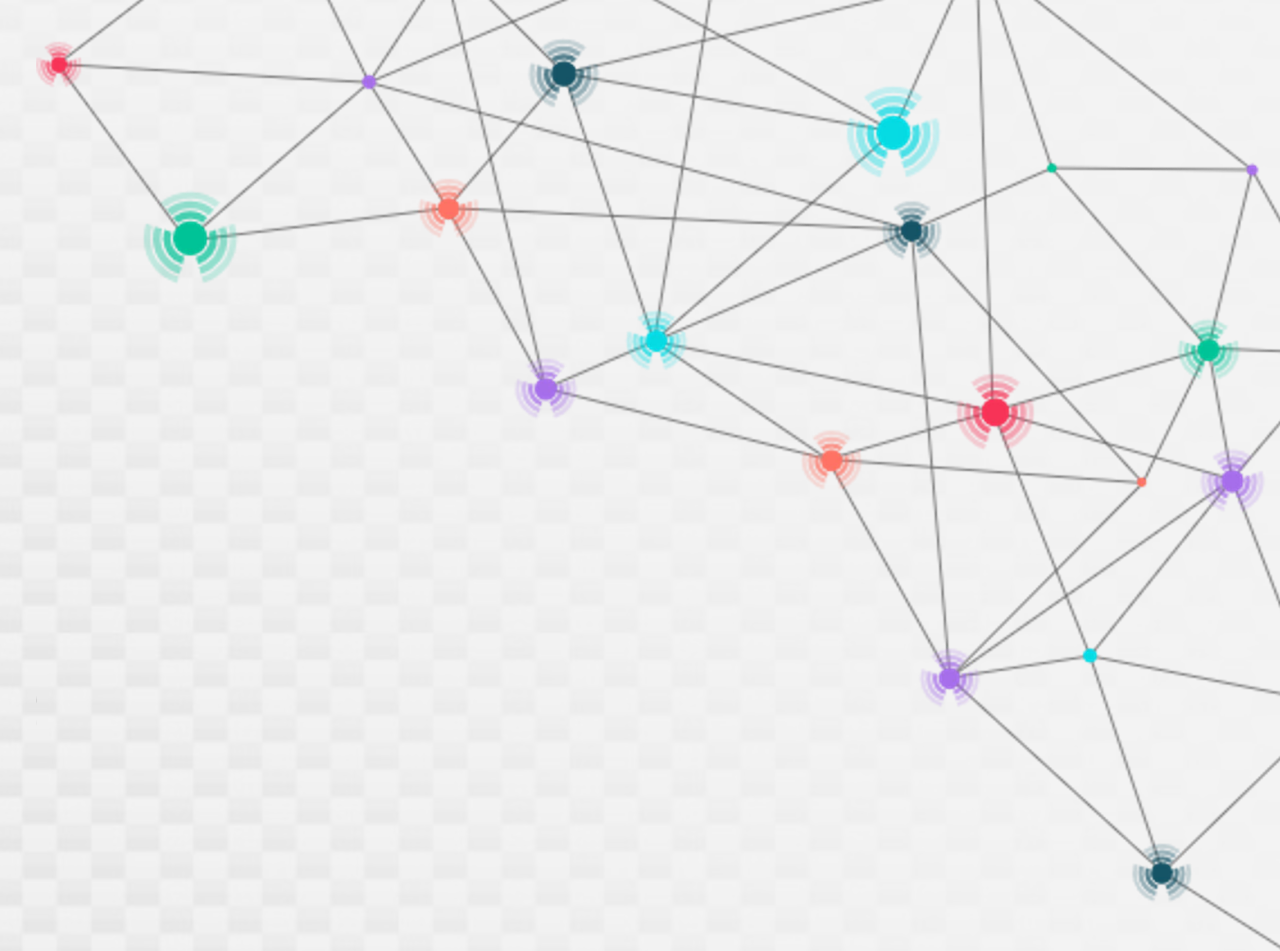
GROUPS



Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5

QUESTIONS

- What are the **causes** of this data quality issue?
- How does this issue **impact the usability** of the data?
- What are some possible **short-term or long-term solutions** that would help to address this data quality issue (e.g changes to the Standard, advocacy with publishers, etc.)? What would be **required to implement these solutions** and **who would be involved**?



Plenary: Discussion

- What comments or questions do you have for other groups based on what they have shared?
- What do you see as possible next steps that could be taken after this workshop to advance progress on these issues?



COMMON THEMES

- Multiple concerns about subnational data, specificity in coordinates, and the ability to locate aid
- Issues raised with the inability to subdivide sectors to match local contextual needs

NEXT STEPS

- Simplify publishing and data use on overlapping or confusing elements
- Maintain existing and create new feedback mechanisms between data users and publishers
- More leadership and guidance on who should be publishing what; beyond mandatory fields, set minimum standards of quality, guidance on how publish to avoid duplication