## Data quality and use actions and priorities

## TAG and Steering Committee meetings, May/June 2015

Data quality and use, and the interrelationship between them, were popular topics of discussion at both the TAG and Steering Committee meetings.

## Key discussion points

# Using data

* We need to ensure we take the needs of data users into account, particularly partner countries, to identify which elements of the Standard are of most use or interest to them, and to ensure they are able to access relevant data quickly and easily.
* Shifting the conversation on quality / use to local level would help with this – development partner forums are a ready-made forum for this.
* There was a suggestion that focusing on getting the top 5-10 donors in each country providing good quality IATI data would have a huge impact on data use.
* Development partner forums would also be the ideal place to derive more clearly articulated demands from partner countries.
* Data use isn’t just about governments/aid coordination units – it’s about other users outside government – CSOs etc. So we also need to ensure IATI data is meeting their needs.
* What needs to change to make IATI data relevant to more partners? At national level, focal points need to look at predicted financing for years to come. Decisions on this are taken at HQ level, not in-country offices – if this is well documented in IATI, it will become the main source of information on long-term provision.
* Donors need to ‘eat their own dogfood’, e.g. use IATI data in donor co-ordination meetings – if you use your own data, you’ll soon see if it’s not good enough!
* When AIMS managers or partner countries give feedback to donors, they will listen – point out the problems, you do get results if you speak up.

# Language

* We need better PR, and we may need to present IATI differently – is transparency the right way in, or should we situate IATI within open data/open government/open development?
* Language is important and aid effectiveness is no longer exciting! – IATI should be more about open data, open governance, open development – put IATI into the data revolution, and emphasise its relevance to a wider group of actors.

# Outreach

* IATI is still too much caught up at the technical level – we need to take the discussion to the policy/political level to get data quality and use issues sorted.
* IATI is not well known at the policy/political level and it needs to be – data use is not primarily a technical issue.
* In order to build capacity (internally and at country level) both sides need ammunition –donors need to see the demand from partner countries.
* Donors have made a commitment on IATI and they need to invest in it – only 15 are providing good enough data according to the ATI – the others need to fix that.
* The focus needs to shift from outreach to new publishers to a concerted effort to improve the quality of existing IATI data and support its use.
* We need to join up IATI data with other data sources to maximise use. Working with other standards bodies will aid this.

## Actions and priorities

* Target key donors yet to publish.
* There are specific gaps e.g. forward-looking/budget data, start/end dates – these need to be addressed.
* Regular (quarterly) data reviews with key publishers (possibly also inviting the relevant data users / analysts to provide feedback)
* Support / encourage pilot for NGOs to use IATI for donor reporting
* Support / encourage publishers and IATI community to enhance the results element
* Support / encourage interested publishers on IATI to CRS pilot; support their engagement with the DAC on overcoming obstacles
* Enhance traceability
* It was proposed that there should be a report on data quality at every SC meeting.
* It was suggested IATI should look at technical support for data use at country level.
* Work closely with a small number of partner countries, bringing together government staff, development partner forums, donor office staff, AIMS providers, CSOs and so on to identify the key drivers for using IATI data and support all those involved in its creation and use.