Spotlight on IATI Data Use: Rwanda

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 awareness within the government of Rwanda about IATI’s purpose, and the tools available for accessing and using IATI data.
- The quality and content of data from IATI publishers is not considered reliable and must be checked with locally available data from these publisher.
- It is important to find ways to harmonise IATI data with that provided by country representations.
- A review of the configuration of government-led development information management systems would assist in developing a functioning IATI import module. In this respect it would be helpful to work with other countries using Development Assistance Database (DAD) systems.

Rwanda involvement in IATI

- The government of Rwanda was founding signatory of IATI in 2012 and continues to be an active contributor at both Members’ Assembly and Technical Advisory Group meetings.
- 19 out of the 20 top aid providers to Rwanda are IATI publishers. Beyond Rwanda’s early interest and stewardship in donor coordination and transparency (the Government of Rwanda wrote its Aid Policy in 2006), this high presence of IATI publishers motivated the government in 2015 to work with its AIMS supplier to develop and pilot a module for automated data import from the IATI Registry.
- The IATI pilot demonstrated that there is a need to strengthen the compliance of publishers with the IATI Standard to facilitate the import of IATI data into the local AIMS. Even now, the automated import is successful for less than 10% of the activities reported in IATI due to various errors (e.g. missing fields) and to a lack of capacity of AIMS specialist to perform the import. More than half of the data needs to be corrected manually or manipulated before entering them into the AIMS.
- The current situation is therefore that the government of Rwanda and its providers all have interests to make best use of available IATI data to decrease transaction costs and improve accuracy and timeliness of aid data. However, the government is not yet convinced of the value of the available data and is currently reluctant to invest further financially and staff-wise into more sophisticated processing or import modalities.

What IATI data is available?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Active Projects</th>
<th>Total Projects</th>
<th>% of activities with locations</th>
<th>Number of IATI Publishers</th>
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<tr>
<td>1280</td>
<td>4726</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>109</td>
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Aid Information Management System

Provider: Synergy International System
System installed in: 2006
Web link: https://dad.minecofn.gov.rw

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

These top ten providers contributed 937 million US$ of the country ODA in 2015. This represents 86% of the total amount reported to OECD (the top twenty providers account for 96%). Non-IATI publishers represent only 1.7% of that total.

IATI displays amounts reported by NGOs, foundations, and a growing number of private cooperation partners. The main ones for Rwanda are The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, WaterAid, Send a Cow, ICCO, and Hope and Homes for Children.
Background on aid information management

- In 2008, the Government of Rwanda (GoR) and its Development Partners (DPs) agreed to enhance their mutual accountability framework through the Donor Performance Assessment Framework (DPAF). DPs currently enter aid data either quarterly or annually in September into the national AIMS (DAD), which was installed in 2006 with support from UNDP. Since then, every year, after verification and validation of data, the ODA and DPAF reports are prepared.

- To date, 76%-100% of the AIMS information is also used to prepare the budget. Forward-looking information is usually missing, and some difficulties are faced when AIMS data is late, or when its accuracy and reliability must be checked. However, an Excel-based template was developed to record forward-spending plans of DPs to assist with the preparation of the Mid-Term Expenditure Framework.

- Another stand-alone system was developed to register and track financial flows from INGOs – it has been operational since 2015. This INGO database is managed by the Rwanda Governance Board, and it is envisioned to have it linked to the DAD to enable automatic data exchange between the two systems.