

Module 1: Virtual training for civil society on how to access, understand and use IATI data

Welcome Module 1

1. What is “development cooperation”?

2. What is development cooperation data?

3. Learning from practitioners: using development cooperation data in practice

4. What is IATI?

5. How can civil society organisations use IATI data?

6. Key Take Aways: Module 1

Quiz

Welcome Module 1



1. Module 1: What is “development cooperation data”? How can my organisation use this data to increase its impact?

Welcome to Module 1

Welcome to Module 1 of the “Virtual training for civil society on how to access, understand and use IATI data”. In this Module, you will receive an introduction to development cooperation data as well as the diverse ways civil society organisations (CSOs) may wish to use it to meet their own organisational goals. After completing this Module, you will have a clear understanding of the concept of development cooperation and the possible uses of development cooperation data in your work.

Duration of the module: Approximately 90 minutes

Learning objectives

At the end of this Module, you will be able to:

- Explain the context for and basic objectives of development cooperation and development cooperation data.
- Identify different uses of development cooperation data for civil society organisations.
- Recognise the key aims of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI).

Module Content

The module contains the following segments:

Welcome to Module 1

GO TO WELCOME

1. What is “development cooperation”?

GO TO LESSON 1

2. What is development cooperation data?

GO TO LESSON 2

3. Learning from practitioners: using development cooperation data in practice

GO TO LESSON 3

4. What is IATI?

GO TO LESSON 4

5. How can civil society organisations use IATI data?

GO TO LESSON 5

6. Key Takeaways: Module 1

GO TO TAKE AWAYS

Ready? Let's start! Click on continue find the answers to:

1. What is “development cooperation data”?

2. How can my organisation use this data to increase its impact?

CONTINUE

1.What is “development cooperation”?



Lesson 1: What is “development cooperation”?



[Source: IATI]

Development cooperation, which was formerly referred to as “international aid,” is the national and international support that is given to both government institutions and non-governmental organisations to help them support development objectives. Moving away from the hierarchical concept of “aid”, development cooperation represents a more equal relationship, where partners - whether they are governments, or increasingly also international organisations, civil society organisations, members of the private sector, philanthropy or other entities - cooperate and share resources to achieve better development outcomes.

Development cooperation is not necessarily limited to financial support (for instance, loans or grants), but is also increasingly focused on areas such as technical and technological cooperation that are not financial in nature (this could include, for example, technical support from government to government to increase domestic resources, i.e. taxes, or the sharing of sustainable energy technologies between countries).

In short, development cooperation can be defined as an activity that meets the following four criteria:

Click on the icons to find out more.





Aims explicitly to support national or international development priorities;



Is based on cooperative relationships that seek to enhance developing country ownership over the development process.



Discriminates in favour of developing countries; and




Is not driven by profit;

Transparent development cooperation means that everyone can see how much assistance is being provided, what it is being spent on and what it aims to achieve. This helps to ensure that resources are used most effectively and that cooperation goes as far as possible in advancing development goals.

Do you have any example of how you advance transparent development cooperation?

CONTINUE

2. What is development cooperation data?



What is “development cooperation data”?

Across the world, governments and other stakeholders are systematically making more (and more relevant) data on their development cooperation open and accessible. In short, development cooperation data refers to information about what is budgeted and spent on development cooperation, including through the projects and activities that are implemented by development partners, formerly referred to as “donors”. It provides a measurable insight into what development work is being done, where and by whom; and a mechanism for ensuring that activities are effectively carried out, to maximise their benefit for intended beneficiaries. Development cooperation data should ideally be “open” data, meaning that it is available online and free of cost for anyone to analyse and use.



[Source: IATI]

Development cooperation providers are from :





Bilateral governments (for example, the government of the United States),



Local and international civil society organisations



Philanthropic organisations (for instance, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation) and



Development banks (like the World Bank),



Multilateral organisations (for instance, United Nations entities),

[Click on the icons to find out more](#)

These openly share development cooperation data, including through publishing to the [International Aid Transparency Initiative \(IATI\)](#).



What do we mean by an “activity” or “project”? Examples of activities available in IATI for Malawi include, for instance:

- United States Agency for International Development (USAID): [Reading for All Malawi \(REFAM\)](#);
- World Bank: [Malawi Education Reform Program Project](#);
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF): [HIV and COVID policy and coordination support in Malawi](#);
- Plan International UK: [Improving agricultural services in Malawi using the Farmer Field School \(FFS\) approach](#).

Do you remember what the criteria for development aid are ? Please select all that apply.

☐

Aims explicitly to support national or international development priorities.

☐

Is driven by profit.

☐

Discriminates in favour of developing developed countries.

☐

Is based on cooperative relationships that seek to enhance partner developing country ownership over the development process.

SUBMIT

Let's explore how development cooperation data is used, and what you can learn from existing success stories! is Development cooperation data used?



Complete the content above before moving on.

How is Development cooperation data used?

Development cooperation data is an important source of information across stakeholder groups, including for:



Partner country governments, formerly called “developing country governments”, who use this data to improve how they plan future budgets and allocate their national resources; and to assess and monitor external inflows to the country;



Civil society organisations and citizens in partner countries, who use development cooperation data to



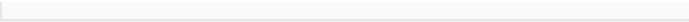
countries, who use development cooperation data to improve their understanding of what external support their country is receiving, so they can hold the providers and receivers of these resources to account;



Citizens of donor countries, who can use this information to better understand how their taxes are being used to advance progress towards development goals;



Development partners, who can use this information to better coordinate their activities, target specific sectors or geographical areas and reduce duplication of efforts.



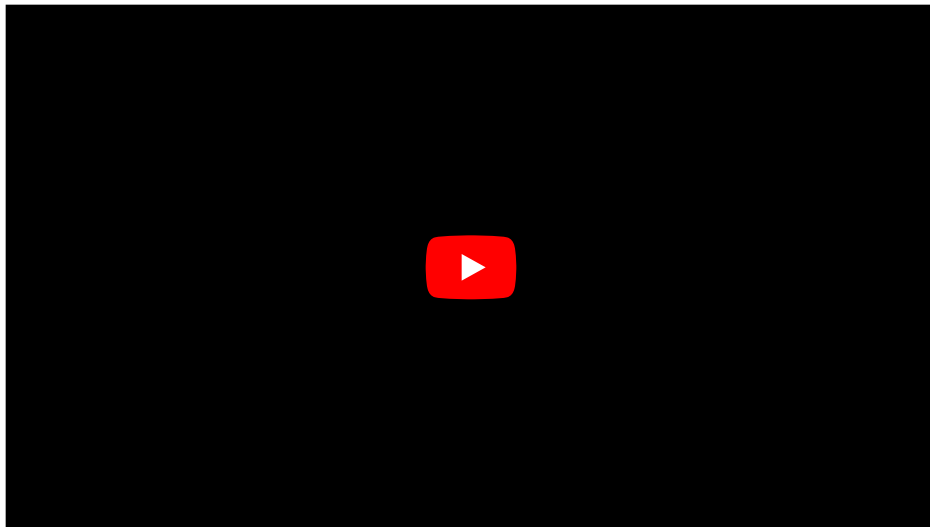
Click on the cards to learn more!

CONTINUE

3. Learning from practitioners: using development cooperation data in practice



 YOUTUBE



Success Stories: How CSOs are using IATI data in practice

This video is part of the Virtual Training for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) offered by IATI. The aim of the course is to provide a space for civil society organizations to learn how to access, understand and use IATI data.

[VIEW ON YOUTUBE >](#)

Do you have any experience in using cooperation data? Take a moment to reflect.

CONTINUE

4. What is IATI?



In the following Modules, you will learn more about IATI, including how the initiative is structured and about IATI's data and tools. In this section, however, you will receive a quick introduction to the initiative to help illustrate possible uses of IATI data in your own work, which will be revisited in depth in later Modules.



[Source: IATI]

The [International Aid Transparency Initiative \(IATI\)](#) is a global initiative, bringing together governments, multilateral institutions, civil society organisations, the private sector and others to increase the transparency and openness of development and humanitarian resources. IATI was launched at the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra, Ghana, in 2008 and was designed to serve the information needs of partner country stakeholders: to enable the planning and management of development cooperation and increase accountability for the use of these resources; and to simultaneously support development partners in meeting their commitments on transparency.

Since its inception in 2008, the IATI community has expanded considerably, now with nearly [100 “members”](#) from governments, multilateral organisations, civil society and the private sector, who govern the initiative and demonstrate their commitment to increased transparency of development resources.



[Source: IATI]

Let's see what IATI does in practice!

CONTINUE

What is the IATI Standard?

At the centre of IATI is the IATI Standard, a format and framework for publishing data on development and humanitarian activities in a standardized way, to allow for comparability and effective analysis of the data. More than [1,500 organisations](#) (or IATI “publishers”) have provided information on their development and humanitarian spending using the IATI Standard, including:

Planned budgets and spending

Planned budgets and spending (disbursements and expenditures) available for individual recipient countries and regions;

The sectors that activities target

The sectors that activities target, for example health or education, whether activities are targeting certain policy priorities such as COVID-19 or gender, the type of assistance being provided (e.g., loans vs grants), among others;

The locations where an activity is taking place

The locations where an activity is taking place, including particular regions or districts or even precise

coordinates (e.g., where a school is being built);

Results information

Results information on the impact or outcome of the activity; and

Useful background documents

Useful background documents, such as country action plans, project documents and annual reports.

Click on the cards to learn more!

Organisations “publish” data to IATI on their development and humanitarian activities, and then update this information as the activities progress. This published data is then made available online and is open for anyone to access and use at no cost. Publishers update their data at different frequencies, but most update their data quarterly, with some updating their data monthly or even weekly. As soon as publishers make changes to their data, it is refreshed in IATI's data access tools (explored in Module 4) within 24 hours, which allows data users to download, analyse and visualise the data, making IATI data available in real-time in many cases.

How can civil society organisations use IATI data ? Let's find out!

CONTINUE

5. How can civil society organisations use IATI data?



The more civil society organisations know about how governments, foundations and other funders spend their money on development projects, the more robust the accountability for delivery of services can be. Civil society actors may be interested to use IATI data in several ways, to be further explored in future Modules, including:

Accountability —

providing feedback on whether particular projects are working successfully or not, and making sure resources are spent as planned;

Advocacy —

seeing what donors are funding in your country / region and making the case for a different allocation of resources (e.g. more funding for health or education, or more funding for a particular region);

Coordination —

understanding which organisations are working in similar sectors or locations, in order to find new partners or work more efficiently;

Research —

uncovering expenditure issues or better understanding the actions and priorities of donors, governments and civil society organisations in different countries;

Funding —

seeing which organisations are active in your country / region and which organisations they fund, making it possible to discover funding opportunities or trends.

Do you remember what kinds of information IATI publishers provide?

Please select one or many.

- ☐ Planned budgets and spending;
- ☐ The locations where an activity is taking place;
- ☐ The sectors that activities target;
- ☐ National Climate Adaptation Plans;

SUBMIT

Let's see how civil society organisations are using IATI data in practice!



Complete the content above before moving on.

6. Key Take Aways: Module 1



In this module, we've learned that:

1

Development cooperation can be defined as an activity that meets the following four criteria:

- Aims explicitly to support national or international development priorities;
- Is not driven by profit;
- Discriminates in favour of developing countries; and
- Is based on cooperative relationships that seek to enhance developing country ownership over the development process.

2

Key uses of IATI data within the CSO community are:

- Accountability: provide feedback on whether particular projects are working successfully or not, and make sure resources are spent as planned;
- Advocacy: see what donors are funding in your country / region and make the case for a different allocation of resources (e.g.: more funding for health or education, or more funding for a particular region);
- Coordination: understand which organisations are working in similar sectors or locations, in order to work more effectively together;
- Research: uncover expenditure issues or better understand the actions and priorities of donors, governments and civil society organisations in different countries; and

see which organisations are active in your country / region and which organisations they fund, making it possible to discover funding opportunities or trends.

Congratulations! You have reached the end of Module 1! Please continue to the module quiz or go directly to module 2.

Module 2

What is IATI and what kind of data can I find?

[GO TO MODULE 2](#)

[CONTINUE TO QUIZ](#)

Quiz

Congratulations on making it to the end of Module 1! Below, you'll take the Module 1 Quiz. You may take the quiz as many times as you like.

Question

01/10

“Development cooperation” means:

- ☐ Partnerships between United Nations agencies
- ☐ Support given to partner countries to assist in meeting their development objectives
- ☐ Partnerships between public institutions and private companies
- ☐ Two or more civil society organisations working together on a project

Development cooperation can be defined as an activity that meets the following criteria (please select all that apply):

- ☐ Aims explicitly to support national or international development priorities
- ☐ Is not driven by profit
- ☐ Includes both a public sector and private sector partner
- ☐ Discriminates in favour of developing countries
- ☐ Is based on cooperative relationships that seek to enhance developing country ownership over the development process

Development cooperation data can be used:

- ☐ Only by partner country governments
- ☐ Only by journalists
- ☐ By anyone looking to make development activities more effective

Development cooperation data can be shared openly (or “published”) by (please select all that apply):

- ☐ Governments
- ☐ Individual citizens
- ☐ CSOs
- ☐ Multilateral organisations like the United Nations
- ☐ Development banks
- ☐ The private sector
- ☐ Philanthropic organisations

Transparent and open development cooperation data can (please select all that apply)

- ☐ Ensure partner country governments have information to better plan and budget
- ☐ Support effective coordination of development activities
- ☐ Allow procurement to take place more effectively
- ☐ Help to hold all development actors accountable

IATI is:

- ☐ An initiative providing information on effective data management practices
- ☐ An initiative looking to make development and humanitarian activities more transparent
- ☐ An initiative working on public-private partnerships for development
- ☐ An initiative working on more effective digital governance

Question

07/10

IATI data is:

- ☐ Data about budgeting and spending in the development and humanitarian sectors
- ☐ A transparency grade given to civil society organisations
- ☐ Data about the results of international donor conferences

Organisations that share development cooperation data using the IATI Standard are called:

- ☐ IATI publishers
- ☐ IATI data users
- ☐ IATI members

The following information can be found in data published to IATI ((please select all that apply)

- ☐ Planned budgets and spending
- ☐ Organisations funding and implementing an activity
- ☐ Sectors that activities target
- ☐ Locations where an activity is taking place
- ☐ Results information
- ☐ Useful background documents
- ☐ Proposals for funding opportunities
- ☐ Gaps between commitments and spending by providers of development cooperation

CSOs can use IATI data to support ((please select all that apply)):

- ☐ Accountability
- ☐ Advocacy
- ☐ Hiring of high-quality staff
- ☐ Coordination
- ☐ Research
- ☐ Procurement
- ☐ Resource mobilisation