

# IATI

## Module 2: What is IATI and what kind of data can I find?

Welcome Module 2

1. Background

2. What is IATI?

3. Where does the data come from?

4. What are the key advantages of using IATI data?

5. How is IATI data organised?

6. What kind of information can I find in IATI data?

7. Matching game

8. Limitations of IATI data

9. Key Take Aways: Module 2

Quiz

# Welcome Module 2

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## 1. Module 2: What is IATI and what kind of data can I find?

### Welcome to Module 2

In Module 1, you had an overall introduction to development cooperation data and a high-level description of IATI as an organisation. In Module 2, we will go into more detail to help you familiarise yourself with IATI as an organisation and as a data standard. You will also learn what kind of data is available in IATI; the benefits and limitations of IATI data; and who contributes their data to IATI.

Duration of the module: Approximately 90 minutes



## Learning objectives

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

- Explain where IATI data comes from, including which (types of) organisations publish data to IATI.
- Identify the types of information contained in IATI data.
- Explain the advantages and limitations of IATI data.

## Module Content

The module contains the following segments:

### Welcome to Module 2

[GO TO WELCOME](#)

### 1. Background

[GO TO LESSON 1](#)

### 2. What is IATI?

[GO TO LESSON 2](#)

### 3. Where does the data come from?

[GO TO LESSON 3](#)

**4. What are the key advantages of using IATI data?**

[GO TO LESSON 4](#)

**5 How is IATI data organised?**

[GO TO LESSON 5](#)

**6. What kind of information can I find in IATI data?**

[GO TO LESSON 6](#)

**7. IATI data: a practical look (video)**

[GO TO LESSON 7](#)

**8. Matching Game**

[GO TO LESSON 8](#)

**9. Limitations of IATI data**

[GO TO LESSON 9](#)

**10. Key Takeaways: Module 2**

[GO TO TAKE AWAYS](#)

**Ready? Let's start! Let's explore the information you can find in IATI data!**

**CONTINUE**

# 1. Background

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## Lesson 1: Background

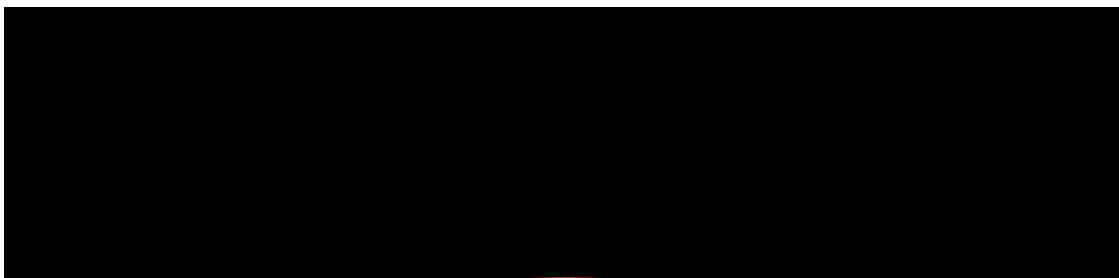


[Source: UN]

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The development and humanitarian challenges that we face as an international community, including reducing poverty, protecting the climate, ensuring gender equality and many others, are huge, whole-of-society puzzles that require collective efforts and integrated approaches to overcoming them. As such, increased availability and transparency of development cooperation data is not an end in itself, but an essential step towards improving the coordination, accountability and effectiveness of development resources to maximise their impact and support achievement of countries' national (and international) development goals, including the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#), a set of 17 internationally-agreed targets for development.

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## What are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

Human-kind faces many challenges to ensure that all people have the same development and well-being opportunities. One of the major recent achievements in sustainability has been the adoption of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals. Do you know what they are and how they were born?

**VIEW ON YOUTUBE >**

Across the world, governments and other stakeholders are systematically making more (and more relevant) data on their development financing open and accessible. Data collected and shared by these stakeholders, including through publishing to the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), can support positive development outcomes by enhancing service delivery, prioritising scarce resources, holding governments accountable, empowering individual citizens and supporting evidence-based decision-making by development and humanitarian stakeholders.

**Let's quickly recap what IATI is and what it does!**

**CONTINUE**

## 2. What is IATI?

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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 resources and increase accountability for their use; and to simultaneously support development partners in meeting their commitments on transparency.

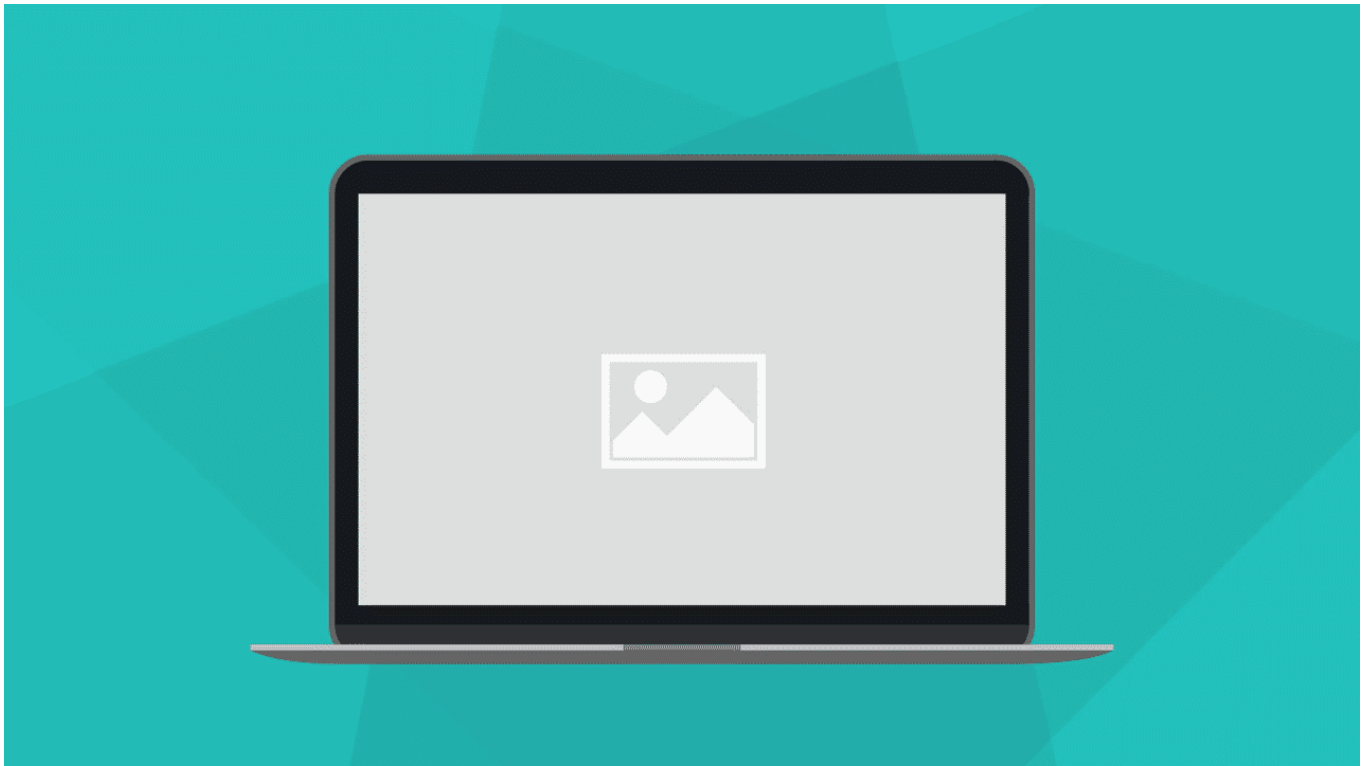
At the centre of IATI is the [IATI data Standard](#), a framework for publishing data on development and humanitarian activities in a common format. More than [1,500 organisations](#) (or IATI “publishers”) have provided information on their

development and humanitarian spending using the IATI Standard.



[Source: IATI]

The data they provide includes:



#### What is an IATI publisher?

An IATI publisher is any organisation, whether from government, a multilateral organisation like the United Nations, civil society organisation, private sector company, philanthropic organisation, etc., who publishes data to IATI using the IATI data Standard. More than 1,500 organisations have reported data to IATI since the initiative's inception in 2008 (find a full list of IATI publishers [here](#)).

**Let's explore where the data comes from!**

**CONTINUE**

### 3. Where does the data come from?

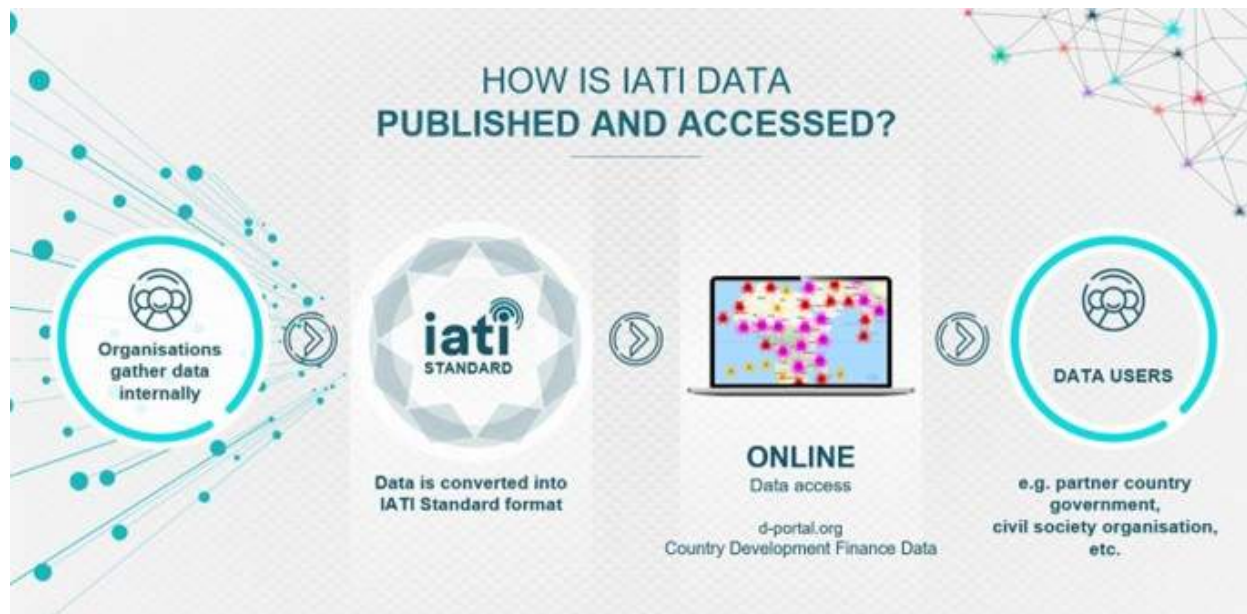
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### 3. Where does the data come from?

IATI is a voluntary initiative, meaning that there is no official directive by the international community for organisations working in development or humanitarian cooperation to provide data to IATI. As such, when a development or humanitarian actor chooses to publish to IATI, it joins a large community of governments, civil society organisations, multilateral organisations, foundations, private sector organisations and others who are committed to increasing transparency through the sharing of their development and humanitarian cooperation data. The motivation for sharing data might differ by organisation: some have committed to sharing data openly to increase the transparency of their development and humanitarian activities, to find new partners or to reduce overlap and duplication. For others, including many civil society organisations, it may be a requirement by their funding agency to publish data on how the resources are being spent.





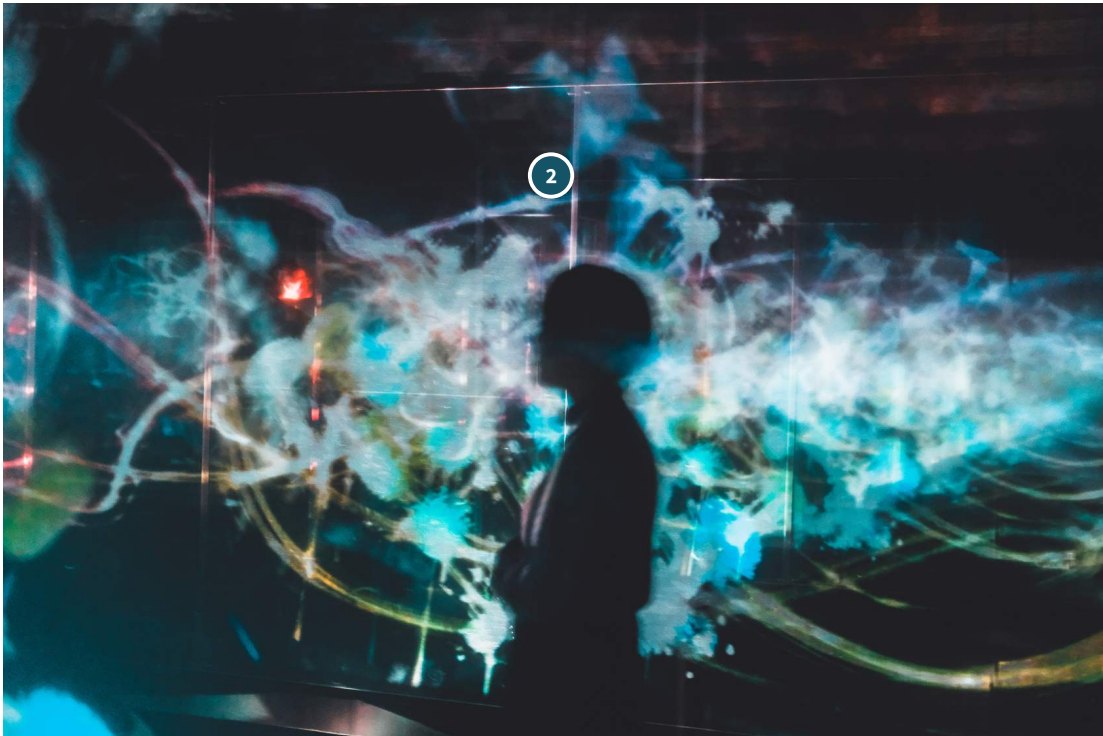
More than 1,500 organisations have “published” data to IATI on their development and humanitarian activities using the IATI data Standard, a set of rules and guidance on what (and how) data should be published to IATI. Most of the time, this information is pulled from publishers’ own internal systems, formatted to the IATI data Standard and then published to [IATI’s Registry](#), where it is pulled into IATI tools and freely available online for anyone to use

The more than 1,500 IATI publishers include:





Governments, e.g. the Netherlands or the United States of America;



Multilateral organisations, e.g. United Nations agencies or the Global Fund;

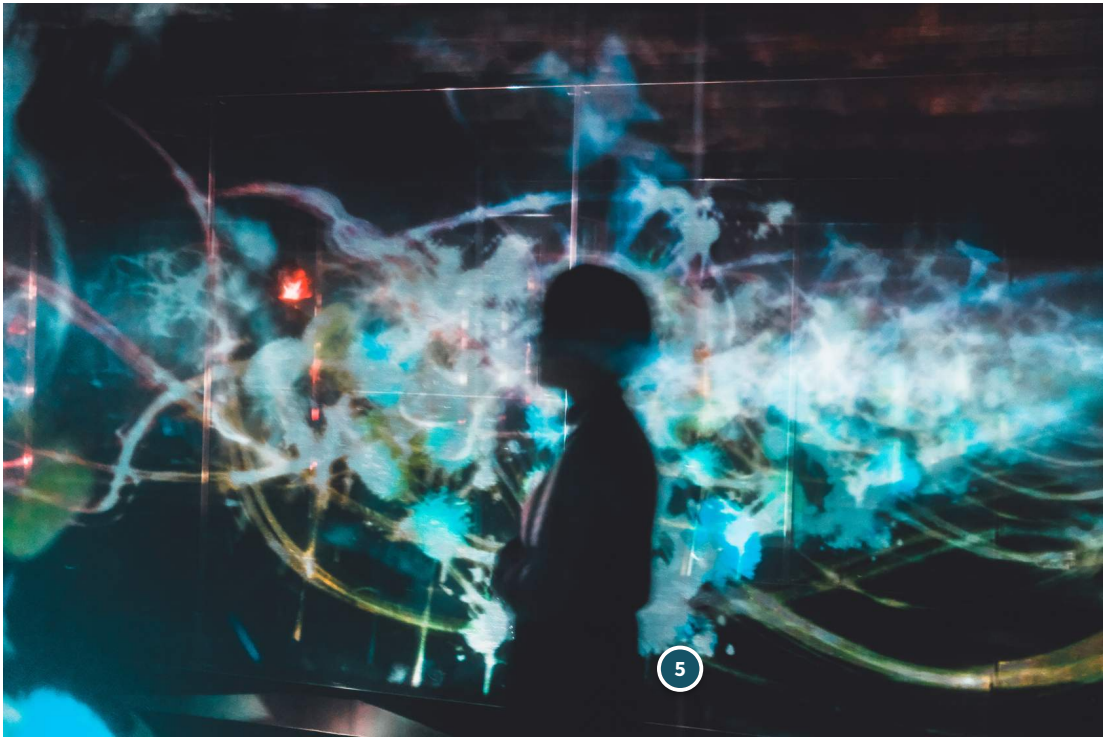


Multilateral and bilateral Development Finance Institutions, e.g. the European Investment Bank (EIB), International Finance Corporation (IFC) or FMO (the Netherlands);





Philanthropic organisations, e.g. the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation;



International NGOs, e.g. Save the Children or Oxfam;



Local CSOs, e.g. ASK Nepal or Reach a Hand Uganda;



Private sector organisations, e.g. PwC or KPMG;



Academic, training and research organisations, e.g., the University of Oxford or the University of Zimbabwe

**i Should my organisation publish to IATI?**

IATI welcomes any organisation funding or implementing development or humanitarian activities to publish to IATI. Publishing to IATI demonstrates your organisation's commitment to potential funders, partners or beneficiaries, as well as providing visibility to your organisation. In addition, many development partners (for instance, the United Kingdom, Belgium and the Netherlands) mandate that their grantees publish to IATI.

For more information on the IATI publishing process, [visit the IATI website](#) or contact IATI at [support@iatistandard.org](mailto:support@iatistandard.org).

Do you remember what sort of data IATI provides?



☐

How resources within development and humanitarian activities are budgeted and spent.

☐

The locations where an activity is taking place.

☐

Qualifications of the project leads

SUBMIT

CONTINUE

## 4. What are the key advantages of using IATI data?

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### 4. What are the key advantages of using IATI data?

As a comprehensive, online and free-to-use dataset, there are many advantages of using IATI data, including finding:

## IATI AIMS TO MEET THE DEMAND FOR BETTER DATA



### Up-to-date information

Publishers are encouraged to refresh their data regularly: in fact, IATI publishers are asked to update their data at least quarterly, and a growing number of publishers refresh their data monthly or even weekly. Data is refreshed in IATI data access tools (explored further in Module 4) every 24 hours, so once a publisher updates their data, it is available in nearly real-time.

For example, [ActionAid International](#), a global federation working to free the world from poverty and injustice, used real-time IATI data to target their COVID-19 response in Bangladesh. Learn more about this project [here](#).

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## ActionAid: Covid-19 response in Bangladesh

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.

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### Comprehensive data in one place —

IATI displays data from over 1,500 organisations, which can help to provide a comprehensive picture of the development and humanitarian landscape in a particular country (e.g., Nepal) or focus area (e.g., tuberculosis control). Using IATI data also avoids gathering data from each individual organisation, which can involve looking through various websites and reports, or sending requests for information to individual entities.

For example, [Fundación Datalat](#), an Ecuadorian civil society organisation focused on promoting the use of data for social causes, used IATI data to inform a comprehensive picture of funding in their country during a training for Ecuadorian students. [Hear more from the organisation.](#)

 YOUTUBE



## Fundación Datalat: promoting the use of IATI data for social causes in Ecuador

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.

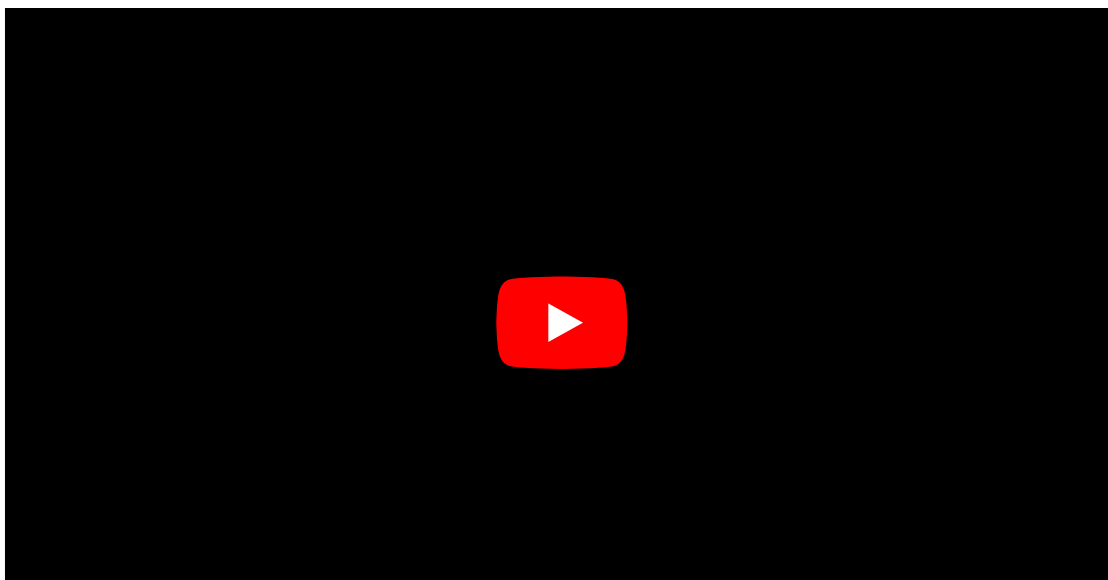
**VIEW ON YOUTUBE >**

### Comparable data —

Every organisation has its own way to capture and display information, from annual reports to Excel spreadsheets and internal databases; and at different levels of granularity or disaggregation, often making data difficult to compare. With IATI data, users can access data from many organisations in one format (the IATI data Standard), so it is much easier to compare and analyse.

For example, [Development Initiatives](#), a global organisation harnessing the power of data and evidence to end poverty, reduce inequality and increase resilience, used IATI data to track trends in aid spending under COVID-19 in East Africa. [Hear more from the organisation.](#)

 YOUTUBE



## Development Initiatives: tracking trends in aid spending in East Africa

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.

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### Data on a wide range of resources —

There are many types of resources that address poverty and crises. IATI includes data about a wide range of resources flowing into partner countries, from foreign aid to private investments to climate finance.

For example, [livestockdata.org](https://livestockdata.org), a platform dedicated to improving the landscape of livestock data, has used IATI data to create a dashboard with the aim of giving funders, project implementers and national governments access to key information on livestock projects: where they are, what they are about and what data they possess.

 YOUTUBE



## SEBI Livestock: improving the landscape of livestock data

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 >**

### Future spending plans, not just past spending —

IATI publishers are encouraged to share their future budgets / spending plans for at least three years in advance. This data allows governments, civil society organisations, and other data users to better plan and coordinate future activities and services.

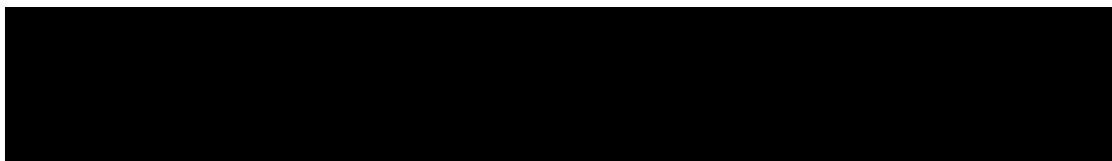
For example, the **governments of Nigeria and Chad** have used IATI data to help assess the projected and actual external inflows of development resources to their countries. IATI data has been used to inform the governments' national budget planning, in particular the allocation of resources in the national budget; to prepare Nigeria's Medium Term Expenditure Framework; and has fed into development cooperation reports based almost exclusively on IATI data: Nigeria's Development Cooperation Report: Fiscal Year 2016-2020 and Chad's Rapport sur l'aide internationale au Tchad et perspectives, which was included as an annex to the 2021 Finance Law.

### Data beyond finances —

In addition to financial data, organisations publish other useful information on their development and humanitarian activities, including in some cases, locations, strategic documents and / or results.

For example, the [PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency](#) used geographic information contained in IATI data to better understand activities happening in their locations of interest. [Hear more from the organisation.](#)

 **YOUTUBE**



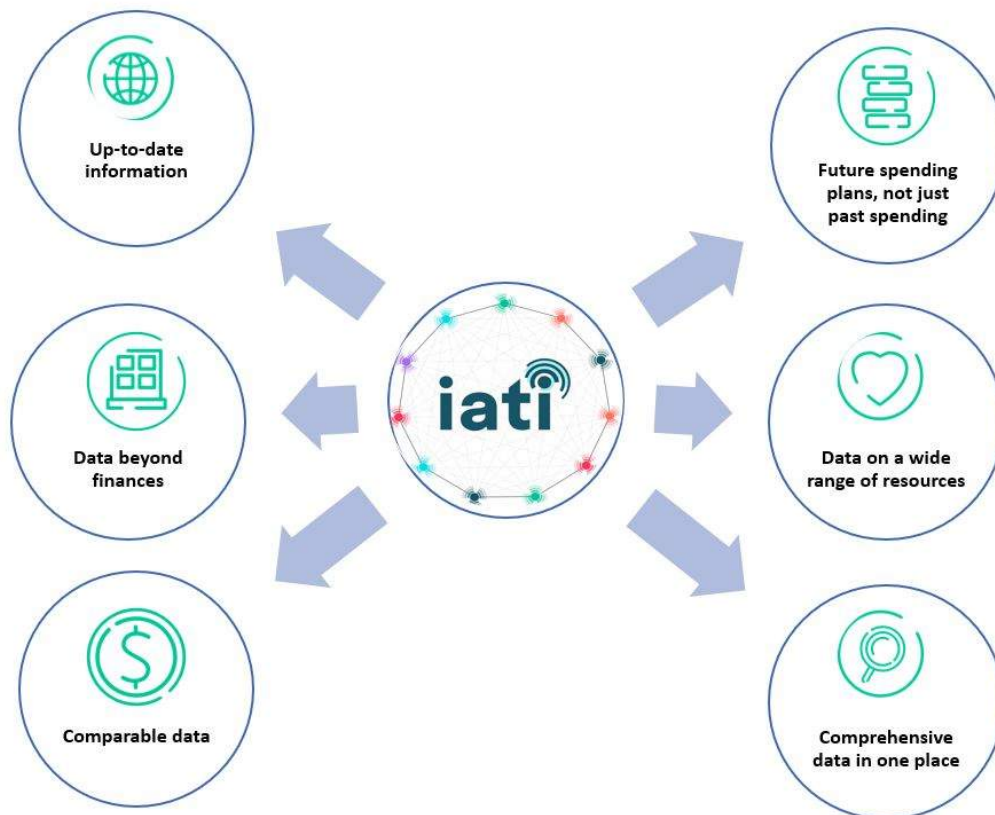


## **PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency: d-portal for Landscape Governance and Planning**

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 >](#)**





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However, IATI is not the only source of international development cooperation data. Do you know any other organisations providing development cooperation data?

CONTINUE

## Where else can I find development cooperation data, outside of IATI?

In addition to data contained in IATI, there are several other national and international databases that also provide useful development and humanitarian cooperation information.

### ***The OECD's Creditor Reporting System (CRS)***

The OECD's Creditor Reporting System (CRS): The CRS enables analysis on where aid goes, what purposes it serves and what policies it aims to implement, on a comparable basis for all [OECD-DAC members](#) (major bilateral donors). Data is curated and validated by the OECD and is generally available one year following the calendar year of reporting (for instance, information on 2021 activities is available in late 2022). As such, CRS data is generally more useful for backward-looking, accountability purposes.

### ***The OECD's Forward Spending Survey (FSS)***

The OECD's Forward Spending Survey (FSS): The FSS measures [Country Programmable Aid \(CPA\)](#), a subset of Official Development Assistance (ODA). Only the donors that have agreed to make their forward spending plans publicly available are included in the dataset. Figures are donors' current indicative planning figures, and do not represent firm commitments, but rather their best estimates of future cooperation efforts.

### ***National-level Aid Information Management Systems (AIMS)***

National-level Aid Information Management Systems (AIMS): An AIMS is an information and communication application that enables donors and partner governments to openly share data on development cooperation resources. Several different types of AIMS are in use in different countries, and not every country has an AIMS, however, they are generally owned by governments and populated by partners with information about what they are funding in the country. Many AIMS are publicly available (for instance, the [Liberia Project Dashboard](#)), and are an integral part of government efforts to increase transparency and accountability for use of development resources. IATI data can be used alongside data contained in an AIMS to provide a more holistic picture of development resources, or to fill gaps when AIMS are not operational or working as intended.

Quick Recap: Which of these are the examples to the advantages of IATI ?

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- ☐ Data on a wide range of resources.
- ☐ Comprehensive data in one place.
- ☐ Only past spending data.
- ☐ Comparable data.

SUBMIT

CONTINUE

## 5. How is IATI data organised?

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How is information organised in IATI?



[Source: IATI]

Publishing to IATI involves breaking down the work that an organisation undertakes into useful components, including financial data, sectors, location, results and other information and documents. Publishers group their work into “activities”, and the individual publisher defines what an activity is for their organisation - these could be programmes, projects, etc. But at its core, an IATI activity reports the details of an individual development or humanitarian intervention. Publishers provide details for each activity including what the work is, where and when it happened or is happening, who is involved, how it is being financed and so on.

As the level of reporting is defined by the publisher, an activity might be a large programme, a small project or another logical grouping of work and resources. Some of the details for an activity are mandatory to provide and some are recommended. This means that there can be some variation in the information that organisations provide on their activities, as some report more data than others. In addition, activities can be further broken down into “transactions,” which detail the flow of money between organisations, giving data users a better sense of where and by whom resources are being committed and spent.



### What is a transaction in IATI?

Transaction data is a core component to IATI, detailing the flow of money between organisations. There are several types of transactions. The most common are:

- Commitments: a firm, written obligation from a development partner to provide a specified amount of funds. For instance, if Germany commits in writing to the Government of Rwanda that they will disburse USD 1 million for a particular project as of a certain date.
- Disbursements: the amount transferred to another organisation in the delivery chain (e.g. a partner organisation being funded), for instance, a bilateral government funding a national-level CSO to implement a project.
- Expenditures: spending by the organisation on a good or a service, for instance, the purchase of school supplies or payment for printing services .

Incoming funds: the funds received from a funding source (e.g. a donor) for use on the activity, for instance, UNICEF's receipt of incoming funds from the government of the Netherlands for a WASH project.

**Let's learn more about what kind of information you can find in IATI data!**

**CONTINUE**



## 6. What kind of information can I find in IATI data?

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All [activities](#) published to IATI report the details of an individual development or humanitarian intervention and will contain at a minimum the following mandatory information:

### **1. Name**

The name and a meaningful description of the activity.

## 2. A unique identifier

A [unique identifier](#) for the activity. Each activity published to IATI must have an “IATI identifier,” or globally unique way of referring to the activity made up of numbers and / or letters.

The screenshot shows the development portal.org interface. At the top, there's a header with the logo, a 'BETA' badge, and links for 'FAQ' and 'Settings'. Below the header, the page is titled 'Malawi' with a flag icon. A navigation bar includes links for 'About IATI Publisher', 'About this data', and 'About data quality'. The main content area displays the project title 'Advocacy for nutrition security policies programmes and interventions' and the version 'VERSION 2.03'. It also shows the reporting organization 'Save The Children International' with the identifier 'GB-CHC-1076822' and the category 'International NGO'. A table provides details on the activity scope, collaboration type, aid type, finance type, flow type, tied status, and hierarchy. The IATI identifier 'GB-CHC-1076822-82603731' is displayed at the bottom.

ACTIVITY SCOPE	COLLABORATION TYPE	AID TYPE	FINANCE TYPE	FLOW TYPE	TIED STATUS	HIERARCHY
	Bilateral, core contributions to NGOs and other private bodies / PPPs	Contributions to specific-purpose programmes and funds managed by implementing partners	Standard grant	ODA	Untied	1

## 3. Dates

The [dates](#) that help describe the timeframe of the activity, for instance both the planned start and end dates of an activity, as well as the actual start and end dates.

PLANNED START DATE	2022-01-16	PLANNED END DATE	2022-11-15
ACTUAL START DATE	2022-01-16	ACTUAL END DATE	2022-11-15
<b>ACTIVITY STATUS: IMPLEMENTATION</b> The activity is currently being implemented			
WHO'S INVOLVED (3)			

#### 4. Organisations

Which organisations are involved in the activity and their relevant role. For instance:

Organisations funding or implementing the activity.

- Organisations providing or receiving resources for individual transactions. For example, Germany provides resources to UNDP and UNDP records Germany as a provider in an incoming fund transaction.
- The receiver of resources. For example, WFP disburses money to Save the Children to implement an activity and WFP records Save the Children as a receiver in a disbursement transaction.

In addition, publishers may also choose to include the following information in their IATI data:

WHO'S INVOLVED (3)			
PARTICIPATING ORG	REFERENCE	ROLE	TYPE
Nigeria Humanitarian Fund	REF XM-OCHA-CBPF-NGA75 ID XM-OCHA-CBPF-NGA75-2021	Funding	Multilateral
ZOA International		Accountable	International NGO
ZOA International		Implementing	International NGO

#### 5. Financial details

Financial details, including [budgets](#) and [transactions](#), either for the organisation as a whole or for specific activities.

This could include:

- Total spend by the organisation on development activities in a particular year or over the last year or quarter.
- Total planned budget for the organisation for the upcoming year.
- An organisation's planned budgets broken down by individual receiving countries or regions.
- An organisation's planned budget for a specific activity.
- Transactions, including information on how the activity is being financed and how the money is being spent.

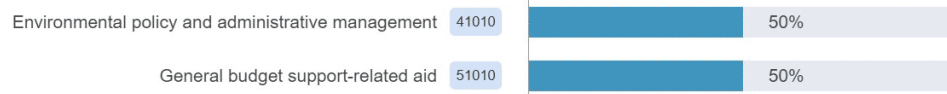


## 6. Sector

Sector, or the area in which the activity operates. Publishers can report the sector the activity targets, for instance, basic education, forestry or water supply and sanitation. Organisations largely label their activities with the [OECD Development Assistance Committee's sector \(purpose\) codes](#) to ensure consistency across different reporting standards.

OECD DAC CRS 5 DIGIT 1 ( 2 )

The sector reported corresponds to an OECD DAC CRS 5-digit purpose code  
<http://reference.iatistandard.org/codelists/Sector/>



#### GLOSSARY

Environmental policy and administrative management	Environmental policy, laws, regulations and economic instruments; administrative institutions and practices; environmental and land use planning and decision-making procedures; seminars, meetings; miscellaneous conservation and protection measures not specified below.
General budget support-related aid	Unearmarked contributions to the government budget; support for the implementation of macroeconomic reforms (structural adjustment programmes, poverty reduction strategies); general programme assistance (when not allocable by sector).

## 7. Type of resource flows

Type of resource flows, e.g. Finance Type. For example, resources can be delivered as either a grant or a loan, which is recorded under Finance Type. Other classifications can also be recorded, such as aid type or flow type. Additional examples can be found [here](#).

PROJECT TITLE

VERSION 2.03

# Climate Change Resilience Project

REPORTED BY

United Nations Development Programme

XM-DAC-41114

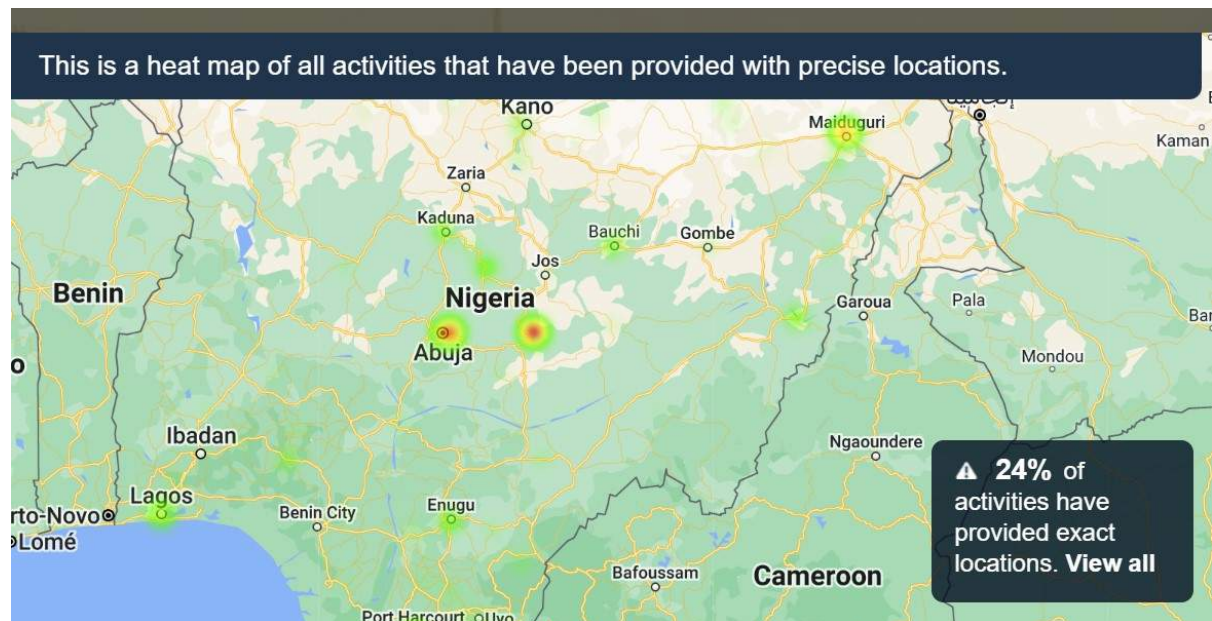
Multilateral

ACTIVITY SCOPE	COLLABORATION TYPE	AID TYPE	FINANCE TYPE	FLOW TYPE	TIED STATUS	HIERARCHY
	Multilateral outflows 4	Project-type interventions C01	Standard grant 110	ODA 10	Partially tied	1

## 8. Location

[Location](#). Publishers may provide location data relating to the activity, which could include the country, sub-national location (e.g. district) and even precise coordinates (e.g. for a school or hospital financed through the activity) where

the activity is taking place.



## 9. Results

Results. Publishers may also choose to include results data on the impact or outcome of the activity. This includes a title, a short description of the result and reference to an indicator that the specific activity is being measured against. Links to result documents may also be available.



RESULT ( 7 )

OUTPUT ( 8 )

OUTCOME ( 1 )

GLOSSARY

Output

Results of the activity that came about as a direct effect of your work and specific, what is done, and what communities are reached. For example, X number of individuals.

Outcome

Results of the activity that produce an effect on the overall communities or issues you serve. For example lower rate of infection after a vaccination programme.

OUTPUT

INDICATOR ( 1 )

Intermediate Results Indicator

INDICATOR

Satisfaction of users with the early warning system

FACET	BASELINE	TARGET	ACTUAL	%	PERIOD
		Unit	Unit		
No dimension has been provided No location has been provided	2015 0.00	15.00	0.00	0%	2015-06-15 : 2022-10-28

OUTPUT

INDICATOR ( 1 )

Intermediate Results Indicator

INDICATOR

Number of personnel working in the disaster management area applying learned skills on the job

FACET	BASELINE	TARGET	ACTUAL	%	PERIOD
		Unit	Unit		
No dimension has been provided No location has been provided	2015 40.00	70.00	120.00	100%	2015-06-15 : 2022-10-31

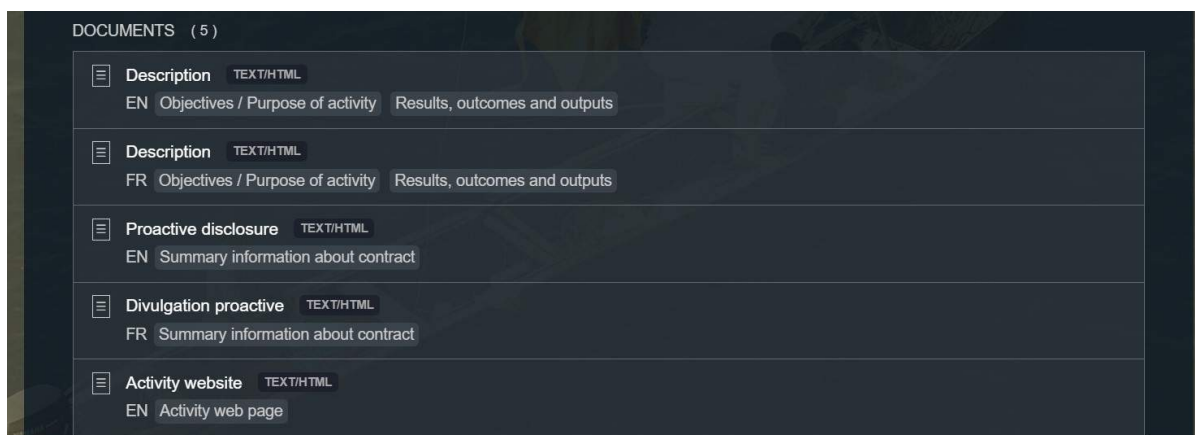
## 10. Policy Markers

Policy markers. An activity can indicate whether it is targeting a cross-cutting area, such as gender, climate change or disability.

POLICY MARKER (16)			
CODELIST	SIGNIFICANCE	VOCABULARY	DESCRIPTION
Adolescent (Youth) Issues <i>Questions touchant les adolescents (jeunes)</i> CODE 10	Not Targeted	Reporting Organisation	The score "not targeted" means that the activity was examined but found not to target the policy objective.
Children's issues <i>Questions touchant les enfants</i> CODE 9	Not Targeted	Reporting Organisation	The score "not targeted" means that the activity was examined but found not to target the policy objective.
ICT as a tool for development <i>Les TIC comme outils de développement</i> CODE 13	Not Targeted	Reporting Organisation	The score "not targeted" means that the activity was examined but found not to target the policy objective.
Indigenous issues <i>Questions touchant les populations autochtones</i> CODE 11	Not Targeted	Reporting Organisation	The score "not targeted" means that the activity was examined but found not to target the policy objective.
Questions urbaines <i>Urban issues</i> CODE 8	Not Targeted	Reporting Organisation	The score "not targeted" means that the activity was examined but found not to target the policy objective.

## 11. Other useful documents

Other useful documents. Publishers can include background documents that relate to a specific activity, or to their organisation, as part of their IATI publishing. These can include country action plans, results frameworks and annual reports, among others.



## 12. Additional useful information

Additional useful information including how the activity might be [linked](#) to other activities; and if any [Sustainable Development Goals](#) can be assigned to the activity.

Let's look more closely at a specific IATI activity, including what kind of information it contains!

CONTINUE

## 7. Matching game

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### Matching game

#### Match the sentences!

If I want to find out....



...how much money was spent on health-related activities in Guinea.

I need to analyse the data by sector.



... how much a publisher spent on goods and services within a specific activity.

I need to analyse the data by expenditures.



... whether money was disbursed by an organisation as a loan or a grant in Samoa.

I need to analyse the data by finance type.



... how much money a publisher gave to an implementing organisation.

I need to analyse the data by disbursements.



....where the publisher's funding came from.

I need to analyse the data by incoming funds.

SUBMIT

As we've seen, IATI data has many advantages, however there are also limitations. Can you think of any?

CONTINUE

## 8. Limitations of IATI data

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### Limitations to IATI data

While IATI data is an important piece of the puzzle in assessing international development cooperation resource flows, it's important to note several limitations in analysing and using the data:





## Data quality

Each publishing organisation is responsible for deciding the amount of information they provide and ensuring the quality and accuracy of its own data. Many organisations publish high-quality data, but it can and does vary between publishers. IATI ensures that publishers' data meets minimum rules outlined in the IATI data Standard, however, IATI does not audit or verify the content of published data. IATI is continually working to support its publishers to improve the quality of their data, including through dedicated outreach, publisher support and the availability of tools like the [IATI Validator](#), which helps publishers ensure their data meets minimum quality requirements.



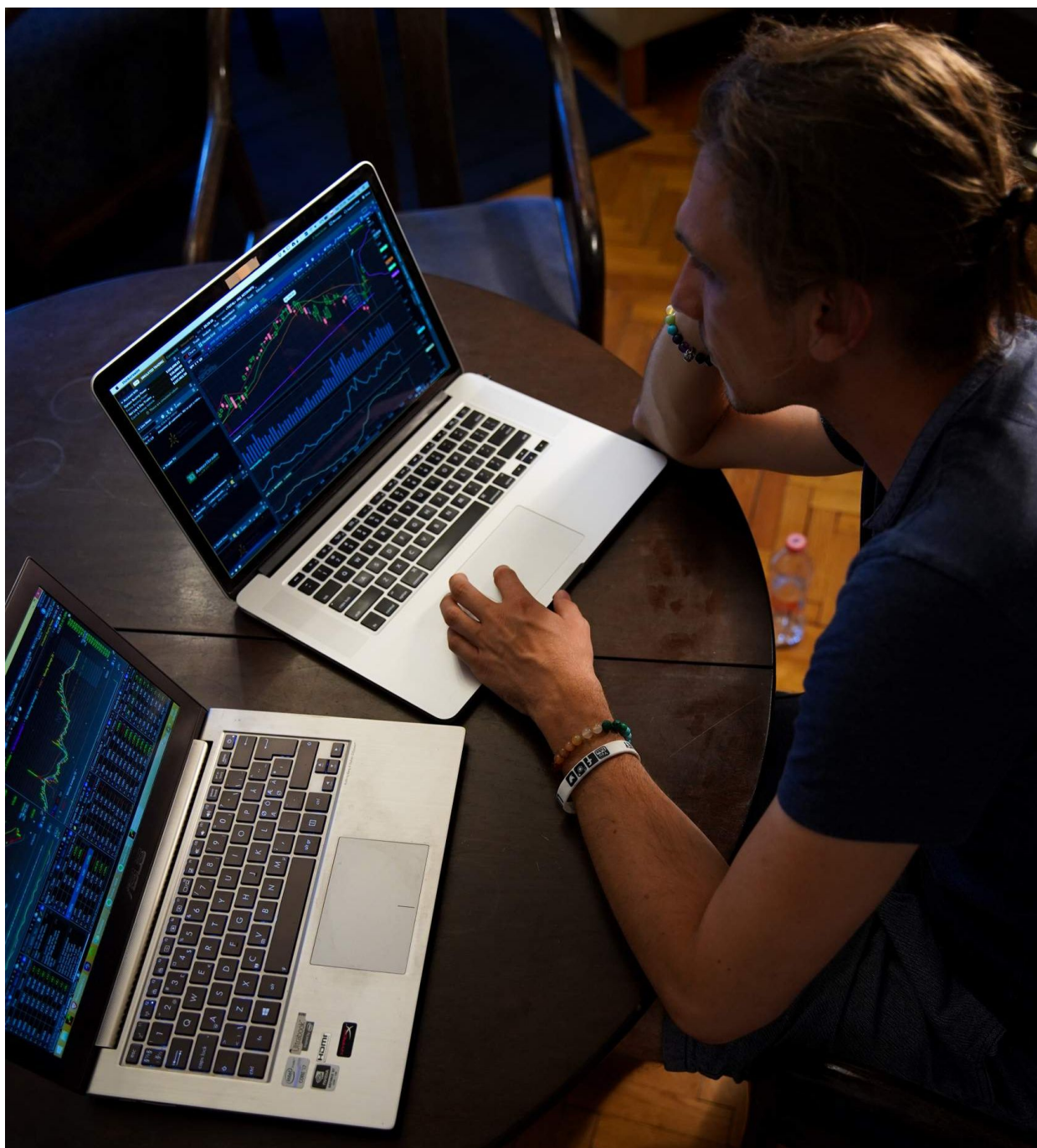
### How can I find out more about the quality of a publisher's IATI data?

The [IATI Dashboard](#) can give data users a general overview of a publisher's data quality, broken down by metrics which support the usability of the data. From 2023, this Dashboard will be replaced by an "IATI Data Quality Index."

---

## **Comprehensiveness**

As publishing to IATI is not mandatory, IATI data does not fully capture all activities or resources in the development and humanitarian landscape and should therefore not be considered a fully comprehensive picture of resources available in a country, for instance. While data coverage is quite strong for major bilateral and multilateral development partners, IATI still has work to do in ensuring South-South Cooperation and private sector flows, among others, are well represented. As such, IATI data should ideally be considered as a compliment to data already publicly available at the country level through countries' own Aid Information Management Systems.





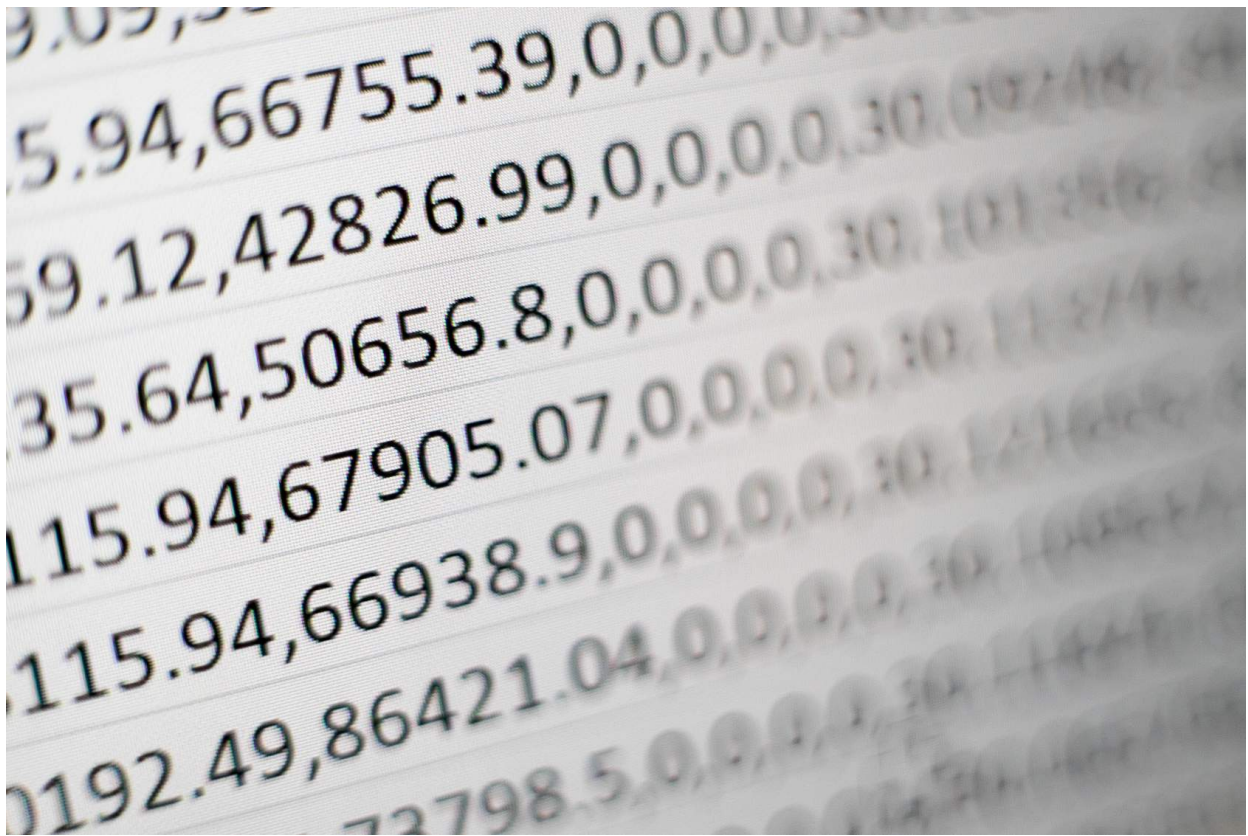
## **Timeliness**

IATI encourages organisations to update their data at least quarterly, however, as a voluntary organisation, the frequency of updates varies amongst publishers. As such, data you may expect to see in IATI could be missing if the publisher has not yet updated their files. IATI is continually working with publishers to ensure the timeliness of their updates continues to improve.

## **Double counting**

As is typically the case when analysing development and humanitarian resource flows, double counting of resources is a challenge when analysing data published to IATI. A common example is when a bilateral organisation disburses money to a UN agency which further disburses that money to an INGO, who then disburses money to a local NGO, which implements the activity. If all of these organisations publish their disbursements, then this will result in a duplication of resources when you aggregate across organisations. There are ways to minimise ([read more information here](#)), but not eliminate, this double counting, which is important to keep in mind when analysing IATI data.





Let's recap what we looked at in this module!

CONTINUE

## 9. Key Take Aways: Module 2

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### Key Take Aways: Module 2

#### In this module, we've learned that:

1

More than 1,500 organisations have “published” data to IATI on their development and humanitarian activities using the IATI data Standard;

2

Publishing to IATI involves breaking down the work that an organisation undertakes into useful components, including financial data, sectors, location, results and other information and documents;



3

These activities can be further broken down into “transactions,” which detail the flow of money between organisations, giving data users a better sense of where and by whom resources are being committed and spent;

4

Transactions under IATI are:

- Commitments;
- Disbursements;
- Expenditures;
- Incoming funds;

5

Information that can be found within IATI data can include:

- The name and a meaningful description of the activity;
- A unique identifier for the activity;
- The dates that help describe the timeframe of the activity;
- Which organisations are involved in the activity and their relevant role;
- Financial details, including budgets and transactions, either for the organisation as a whole or for specific activities;
- Sector, or the area in which the activity operates;
- Type of resource flows, e.g. Finance Type;
- Location;
- Results;
- Policy markers;
- Other useful documents;
- Additional useful information;

6

IATI Data has several advantages such as:

- Up-to-date information;
- Comprehensive data in one place;
- Comparable data;
- Data on a wide range of resources;
- Future spending plans, not just past spending;
- Data beyond finances;

7

However there are also limitations of IATI data:

- Data quality;
- Comprehensiveness;
- Timeliness;
- Double counting.

**Congratulations! You have reached the end of Module 2! Please continue to the module quiz.**

**CONTINUE**

# Quiz

---

Congratulations on making it to the end of Module 2! Below, you'll take the Module 2 Quiz. You may take the quiz as many times as you like.

---

*Question*

**01/10**

What is the IATI data Standard?

---

- ☐ All the data contained in IATI.
- ☐ A standard way to analyse and use IATI data.
- ☐ A set of rules and guidance on what (and how) data should be published to IATI.

*Question*

**02/10**

What is an IATI publisher?

---

- ☐ A paying member of the IATI initiative.
- ☐ Any organisation who reports data to IATI using the IATI data Standard.
- ☐ Any organisation who accesses, analyses and / or uses IATI data.

*Question*

**03/10**

Publishing to IATI is mandatory for all organisations implementing development or humanitarian activities.

---

☐

True

☐

False

*Question*

**04/10**

By publishing to IATI, organisations can show their commitment to transparency to key stakeholders.

---

☐

True

☐

False



*Question*

**05/10**

What are the key advantages to using IATI data (select one or many)?

---

- ☐ Up-to-date information
- ☐ Data from many development partners in one place
- ☐ Comparable data
- ☐ Access to development partners' private spending information
- ☐ Data on a wide range of resources
- ☐ Future spending plans, not just past spending
- ☐ Data beyond finances

*Question*

**06/10**

The following information is mandatory for publishers to include in their IATI data (select one or many):

---

- ☐ The name of the activity
- ☐ A meaningful description of the activity
- ☐ A unique identifier for the activity
- ☐ Organisation(s) involved in funding and / or implementing the activity
- ☐ Financial information for the activity
- ☐ Location of the activity
- ☐ The date / timeframe for the activity
- ☐ The sector in which the activity is operating
- ☐ Results information on the activity
- ☐ Whether the activity is linked to a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)



*Question*

**07/10**

The following information can typically be found in IATI data (select one or many):

---

☐

Financial data

☐

Finance type

☐

Sector

☐

Location

☐

Results

☐

Procurement plans

☐

Other useful documents like country action plans

☐

Grant applications

*Question*

**08/10**

Which of the below are resource flows recorded in activities published to IATI (select one or many)?

---

- ☐ Incoming funds, which are funds received by the publisher
- ☐ Expenditures, or spending by the publisher on a good or a service
- ☐ A publisher's planned budgets, broken down by individual receiving countries or regions
- ☐ Disbursements, or funds that the publisher passes on to another organisation, for instance a bilateral government funding a national-level CSO to implement a project
- ☐ Total annual planned budget for the publisher in each of the next three years, where available

*Question*

**09/10**

What are some of the potential limitations you should be aware of when using or analysing IATI data (select one or many)?

---

☐

Timeliness

☐

Double counting

☐

The need to have a paid account to access IATI data

☐

Too much information is available in one place

*Question*

**10/10**

IATI data should be used:

---

- ☐ In place of a national Aid Information Management System.
- ☐ As a complement to a national Aid Information Management System