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1. Introduction



The International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) Strategic Plan (2020-2025) outlines a comprehensive vision to enhance the transparency, accessibility, and use of development cooperation and humanitarian aid data. As IATI nears the end of this strategic period, the 2023 Results Monitoring Report provides a critical assessment of the progress made towards achieving the plan's objectives. This report is especially significant as it coincides with the transition to new IATI hosting arrangements, which began on 1 July 2023, and represent a pivotal shift in the operational and strategic management of the initiative.

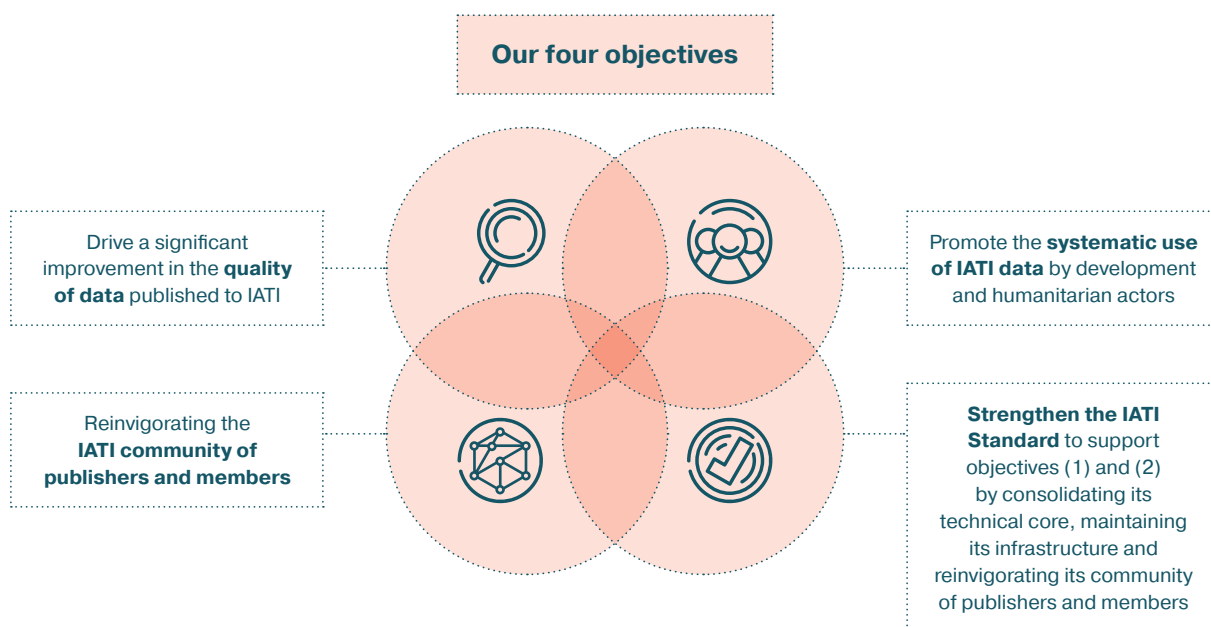
The 2023 monitoring exercise is the fourth annual review of the IATI Strategic Plan and its associated Results Framework. It offers an in-depth analysis of the advancements made over the past year, while also identifying the challenges encountered during implementation. As IATI approaches the final year of its current Strategic Plan, this report serves as a key tool for both reflecting on the journey thus far and informing the development of future strategies, particularly in light of the evolving global development landscape and technological advancements that have shaped IATI's operational environment.

The report is structured to provide an overview of the methodologies used in monitoring, key findings from the data collected, and a detailed analysis of the results across the Strategic Plan's four primary objectives. Additionally, the report highlights the impact of the transition to new hosting arrangements on IATI's performance and outlines recommendations for sustaining momentum in the final phase of the Strategic Plan and beyond.

Contextualising Results

The IATI Strategic Plan (2020-2025) sets a clear direction for the initiative, focusing on capitalizing on its strengths, addressing its weaknesses, and maximizing its contribution to achieving sustainable development outcomes. Developed through extensive consultations with the IATI community and its membership, the Strategic Plan identifies four mutually reinforcing objectives:

- Improving the quality of IATI data;
- Promoting the systematic use of IATI data by development and humanitarian actors;
- Strengthening the IATI Standard by consolidating its technical core; and
- Reinvigorating the IATI community of publishers and members.



To ensure these objectives remain measurable and actionable, IATI has developed a complementary Results Framework. This framework translates the Strategic Plan's goals into a set of measurable targets, guiding the IATI membership, Secretariat, and Governing Board in prioritizing efforts to deliver on the initiative's mandate and vision through 2025. Informed by detailed feedback from members, the Secretariat has implemented a comprehensive methodology to support the Results Framework.

This report presents the outcomes from the fourth annual monitoring of the 2020-2025 IATI Strategic Plan and its Results Framework, reflecting on the progress and challenges encountered in 2023. While not exhaustive in cataloging all of IATI's activities, this report serves as a vital performance monitoring and evaluation tool.¹ It identifies where progress has been made towards the Strategic Plan's goals and where additional efforts are required. Importantly, the analysis of these results will also provide insights into how the initiative should position itself as it transitions into the next strategic phase, with a long-term view towards 2030.

¹ For a complete picture of activities conducted in 2023 in support of meeting the Strategic Plan aims, see the IATI 2023 Annual Report.

2. Data Collection

The 2023 Results Monitoring Report employs a robust and mixed methods approach to evaluate progress towards the Strategic Plan objectives. The data collection process is de-

signed to capture a comprehensive view of IATI's performance by integrating both quantitative and qualitative data sources.



Overall monitoring approach

As outlined in the methodology, the data source for several of the Results Framework indicators is derived from two annual surveys, which are central to assessing progress against the Strategic Plan. These surveys, one targeting IATI members and publishers and the other focusing on data users, aim to gather crucial insights from the IATI community. The surveys were made available in English, French, and Spanish and remained open from 4 April 2024 to 1 July 2024. This multilingual approach was intended to maximize participation and engagement across the diverse IATI community, resulting in a total of 84 responses—51 from members and publishers, and 33 from data users.

Given that IATI operates as an open data standard that is decentralized by nature, it is often challenging to ascertain exactly where and by whom the data is being used, as well as to measure progress comprehensively. Monitoring efforts rely significantly on the self-reporting of progress by stakeholders, which can introduce variability in the data. This decentralized nature underscores the importance of these surveys in providing a structured means of collecting data that reflects the experiences and contributions of IATI's broad and diverse membership base.

In addition to the survey data, the monitoring process incorporated system-generated analytics from IATI's core tools—such as the IATI Registry, Validator, and d-Portal—alongside third-party analytics tools like Plausible and Twitter. These data sources provided valuable insights into user engagement, data quality, and the systematic use of IATI data. Furthermore, progress in data quality among IATI publishers was measured using metrics from the IATI Dashboard and the IATI Validator, which provided objective data on the timeliness, comprehensiveness, and accuracy of published data. For more detailed explanations of these methodologies and metrics, readers are encouraged to refer to the Results Methodology section of this report.

By combining self-reported survey data with system analytics, the monitoring approach seeks to triangulate findings and present a comprehensive picture of IATI's progress. This methodology acknowledges the inherent challenges of monitoring a decentralized standard and attempts to mitigate them through diverse data sources and enhanced visualization techniques.

A link to the complete monitoring table matrix is provided in Annex 1, providing a snapshot picture of progress achieved in 2023.



3. Key Findings

Stories of progress, impact, and challenges

The 2023 annual survey of IATI members and publishers provides a rich collection of insights into how organizations across the globe are utilizing IATI data to enhance their development and humanitarian efforts. Through these stories, we gain a deeper understanding of the tangible progress made, the positive impact on organizational effectiveness, and the challenges that remain in fully realizing the potential of IATI data. From gov-

ernment bodies to NGOs and private sector entities, respondents shared compelling examples of how IATI data has supported transparency, improved coordination, and informed decision-making. However, the survey also highlighted areas where capacity gaps and data integration challenges persist, underscoring the need for continued support and capacity building to ensure that all stakeholders can maximize the benefits of IATI data.

Positive Impact on Organisational Effectiveness



A significant number of respondents confirmed that using or publishing IATI data had a substantial positive impact on their organization's effectiveness in 2023.

For example, **Berytech**, a development organization, noted,

“IATI data helped us to show the impact of our program by presenting indicator results, which in turn supported better program management and planning.”

Similarly, **Adili Solar Hubs Limited** used IATI data to track funding received and spending, stating that

“it allowed us to plan for future projects more effectively.”

In **Lesotho**, IATI data was used alongside other sources to enhance transparency of aid flows, enabling better coordination among government agencies, NGOs, and international donors. These examples demonstrate how IATI data has been instrumental in improving planning, coordination, and budgeting across various organizations, including NGOs, private sector entities, and government bodies.

Enhancing Transparency and Accountability



IATI data has been particularly effective in enhancing transparency and accountability across different sectors and types of organizations.

The **German Government** has been developing a transparency portal built on IATI data since 2022, which

“aims to increase public access and comprehension of development cooperation data... The internal awareness of IATI data and its potential has increased within our Ministry, leading to an aspiration for an overarching Germany transparency portal.”

Beyond governments, the **Land Portal**, an online resource for land governance, reported using IATI data to track funding for specific land governance issues, such as gender and climate change. They noted,

“This enhances transparency and allows for the identification of funding gaps and trends in land governance.”

Similarly, in **Liberia**, IATI data was used to input into the 2024 National Budget, leading to significant improvements in the quality of data being published and used for decision-making.

Identified Challenges

Despite the positive feedback, some respondents did indicate challenges in utilizing IATI data effectively. A respondent from Niger mentioned, “We encounter difficulties in ensuring the reliability of data submitted by project management units, which has led us to rely on IATI data to consolidate our annual budget execution reports.” In Vietnam, while IATI data was used in development cooperation reports, there were challenges in ensuring its consistent application across all program documents. These examples illustrate the ongoing struggle some organizations face in integrating IATI data into their existing workflows, often due to limitations in internal capacity or the complexity of the data itself.

“We used IATI data to input into the 2024 National Budget, and it is now used consistently for quarterly development cooperation reports. This has led to significant improvements in the quality of data being published.”



Use Cases Demonstrating Effectiveness

Specific examples of IATI data usage further illustrate its impact across a variety of sectors. In Liberia, IATI data was used to assess project performance, influencing decision-making and improving the alignment of projects with national development goals. A respondent explained, “We used IATI data to input into the 2024 National Budget, and it is now used consistently for quarterly development cooperation reports. This has led to significant improvements in the quality of data being published.” In Lesotho, IATI data complemented other data sources like the Commonwealth Secretariat Debt Recording Management System, enhancing the transparency of aid flows and supporting better coordination among various stakeholders. Additionally, the Land Portal used IATI data to enhance transparency in land governance, focusing on critical issues such as gender and climate change.

Need for Continued Capacity Building

Given the challenges reported, there is a clear need for ongoing capacity building and support. Some organizations indicated that they struggled with understanding how to fully leverage IATI data for improved outcomes. A respondent from Madagascar noted, “We often compare the data provided by our partners with that of IATI. When there is missing information, we refer to IATI to fill the gap. However, more support is needed to ensure data accuracy and reliability.” Additionally, a respondent from an NGO mentioned that while they could see the potential of IATI data, they faced difficulties in accessing and utilizing it effectively, suggesting a need for more tailored training programs. This underscores the importance of continued training and resources to help organizations maximize the benefits of IATI data for planning, budgeting, and reporting.



Improving the quality of IATI data



Positive Trends and Improvements

Assessed by current data quality metrics via the [IATI Dashboard](#), 2023 saw a slight improvement in overall data quality, with 20.3% of publishers demonstrating progress. This marks a modest increase from the 16.5% recorded in 2022, showing some positive movement towards improving the quality of IATI data. In particular, publishers with a reported annual spend between USD\$100 million and USD1 billion demonstrated notable progress across key metrics such as timeliness, comprehensiveness, and forward-looking data, with 48.7% improving their timeliness, and 43.6% showing gains in data comprehensiveness.

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Continued Challenges in Timeliness and Forward-Looking Data

Despite these positive trends, consistent forward-looking and timely data remain significant challenges for the majority of publisher groups. In 2023, only 20.9% of all publishers improved the timeliness of their data, and just 11.8% made progress in publishing forward-looking data. These figures, while slightly improved from 2022, still fall far short of the ambitious targets set for this year.

Publishing Frequency

The frequency of data publishing also continued to face challenges, with only 13.8% of active publishers managing to publish at least quarterly in 2023. This represents a slight decline from the 15.6% achieved in 2022, and it is significantly below the target of 69.8%. Larger publishers, particularly those with over USD 1 billion in spend, continued to maintain higher timeliness scores compared to other spend categories, with 83% showing improvement in 2023.

Validation Errors and Warnings

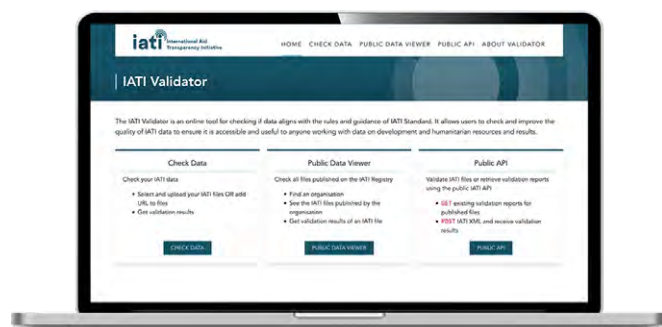
Assessed by data quality metrics via the [IATI Validator](#), the percentage of publishers reducing 'Error Types' decreased to 30.7% in 2023, down from 32.6% in 2022. Similarly, the percentage of publishers reducing 'Warning Types' dropped to 32.9% in 2023, compared to 39.0% in 2022. While errors are more common among larger publishers, those with more than USD 1 billion in reported spend saw a decrease in the percentage reducing error types, with 30.3% improving in 2023, down from 45.5% in 2022.

Mandatory Fields Compliance

Overall publisher performance in meeting mandatory fields slightly declined to 75.1% in 2023, compared to 76.9% in 2022. This performance remains below the 2023 target of 94%. Smaller publishers, particularly those with less than USD100 million in spend, continued to outperform larger publishers in this area, but all categories remain below the desired targets.

User Satisfaction of Publishing and Data Quality Tools

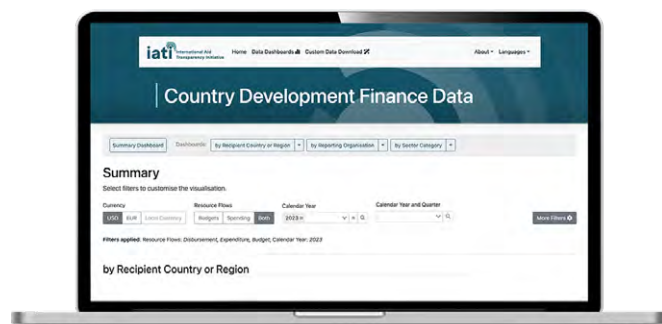
In 2023, user satisfaction with key IATI technical tools remained strong, particularly for the [IATI Validator](#), which sustained a high satisfaction rating for 2023 (87.5%), and well above the target of 81.0%. This reflects the Validator's continued effectiveness in helping publishers improve the quality of their data. The [IATI Registry](#) also saw a modest increase in satisfaction, reaching 75.0% compared to 72.7% in the previous year, though it slightly missed the 2023 target of 76.0%. Additionally, the [IATI Publisher](#) tool, introduced as a new category in 2023, received a robust satisfaction rating of 81.8%, underscoring its value to users in managing their data publishing activities. While these results highlight positive user experiences, they also suggest areas where further enhancements could be beneficial, particularly for the [IATI Registry](#).



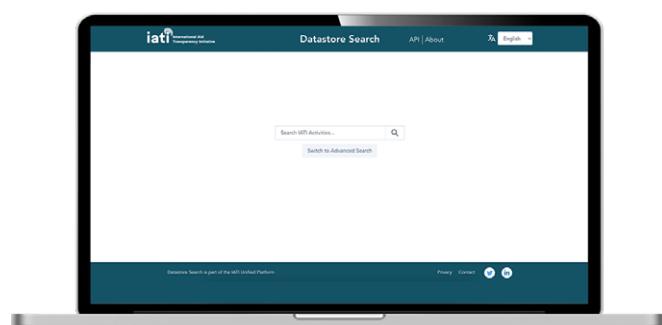
[IATI Validator](#)



[d-portal](#)



[Country Development Finance Data Tool](#)



[IATI Datastore](#)

Improving the systematic use of IATI data

Increased Engagement with IATI Data Tools

In 2023, IATI's data platforms saw strong engagement, with d-Portal recording 90,201 visits, Datastore Search 47,921, and the Country Development Finance Data (CDFD) tool 3,401 visits. The high traffic on d-Portal indicates its central role in activity-level data exploration, while the growing use of Datastore Search shows increasing demand for more complex data queries and exports. Although CDFD visits fell short of the target, the tool remains essential for country-level stakeholders, especially for analyzing financial flows and projections.



User Satisfaction of Data Use Tools

User satisfaction remained solid for IATI's data tools in 2023, with d-Portal maintaining a 75.9% satisfaction rating, Datastore Search improving to 78.6%, and the CDFD tool reaching 79.0%. Users appreciated the insights these tools offered, particularly for detailed data exploration and analysis. However, many suggested enhancements, such as improving export features, refining search functions, and providing more user-friendly guides, which would increase accessibility, particularly for non-technical users seeking actionable insights.

Systematic Use of IATI Data by Partner Countries

In 2023, 19 partner country governments systematically used IATI data for decision-making, surpassing the target of 14. IATI data has been instrumental in shaping key national planning documents like development cooperation reports and medium-term expenditure frameworks. Countries such as Liberia and Nigeria integrated IATI data into their aid coordination systems, improving resource allocation and transparency. Tools like the CDFD have supported countries in tracking financial flows, highlighting IATI's role in enhancing government planning and decision-making.

Strengthening the IATI community

IATI Membership Growth

In 2023, IATI membership reached 107 organizations, falling short of the 114-member target. This growth represents continued engagement across diverse constituencies, including partner countries, development cooperation providers, and civil society organizations (CSOs). However,

membership expansion has been slower in regions like Latin America, the Middle East, and South Asia, indicating the need for focused outreach and recruitment efforts. Addressing the barriers to membership in underrepresented regions could increase participation and ensure a more globally balanced IATI community, enhancing overall governance and resource contributions.



IATI Members' Assembly 2024 and Community Exchange, 23-26 April 2024, Bogotá, Colombia.

Participation in the Members' Assembly

The 2024 Members' Assembly in Bogotá saw 66.3% attendance, below the 71.0% target, with differing participation rates across constituencies and regions. While some constituencies, such as development cooperation providers, maintained strong participation, others, like CSOs, saw notable declines. Regionally, participation remained low in the Middle East, highlighting gaps in engagement. The decision to return the assembly to a regular fourth-quarter schedule is expected to improve future attendance, aligning the event with annual reporting cycles and strategic planning efforts, which may encourage greater participation across all sectors and regions.

4. 2023 Results



A. Strategic Plan Objective 1: Significant improvement in the quality of data published to IATI

Publishing to IATI is voluntary, and the quality of IATI data, like all open data, depends on the commitment of publishers to provide open, comprehensive, and timely information. While the responsibility for ensuring data quality rests with publishing organizations, the IATI Secretariat plays a pivotal role in supporting both new and existing publishers by offering guidance and technical tools to improve the quality of their data. In 2023, there was a slight rebound in overall data quality performance compared to 2022, particularly in user satisfaction of publisher tools such as the [IATI Validator](#) and the [IATI Registry](#), which received high levels of user satisfaction.

However, despite this rebound, overall performance in data quality (particularly timeliness), as measured by the IATI Dashboard, still fell short of the ambitious targets set for this year. Publishing forward-looking and timely data remains a significant challenge for many publishers, and these hurdles continue to affect data quality across various publisher groups. Although more publishers are providing information in all mandatory fields of the IATI Standard, consistent improvements are still needed to ensure high-quality and timely data publishing.



Outcome Indicator 1.1

Percentage of publishers whose Data Quality Index score increases above baseline

assessment of data quality performance in the future. As a key commitment of the current IATI Strategic Plan, the development of a new Data Quality Index (DQI) was intended to optimize how data quality is measured and tracked. In 2021, IATI launched consultations to inform the creation of this DQI, with the Secretariat publishing initial proposals to measure the components of IATI data that matter most to the community. Between September and November 2021, the first phase of consultations attracted broad engagement, with two virtual consultations held to gather further input. Following this, the Secretariat published a summary paper highlighting key stakeholder feedback on the pro-

posed data quality components.

However, despite these early steps, the operationalization of the DQI has been delayed, partly due to the prolonged transition of IATI's hosting arrangements. Given the remaining time in the current Strategic Plan's life cycle, it is unlikely that the DQI will be fully developed and implemented during this period. Nevertheless, the lessons learned from the consultations, as well as the valuable feedback provided by stakeholders, will feed into IATI's future efforts. These insights are expected to play a pivotal role in shaping the development of IATI's next Strategic Plan and its results framework methodology, ensuring that the measurement and improvement

Overview of Outputs Towards Outcome 1

of data quality are optimized in the future.

INTENDED OUTPUT	OUTPUT INDICATOR
<p>Output 1.a Current and new publishers meet the highest standards of data quality through improved tools and guidance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Output Indicator 1.a.i Percentage of data users satisfied with feedback after alerting publishers (via the Secretariat's Technical Team) to issues with their data • Output Indicator 1.a.ii Percentage of known publishing tools integrating the IATI Validator • Output Indicator 1.a.iii Percentage of publishers who reduce their number of validation error types; and percentage of publishers who reduce their number of warning types² • Output Indicator 1.a.iv Percentage of users satisfied with IATI technical tools (including IATI Registry, Datastore Search, Publisher Tool, Validator, d-Portal, Country Development Finance Data (CDFD) tool) • Output Indicator 1.a.v Percentage of publishers publishing every quarter or more
<p>Output 1.b IATI Standard strengthened to improve data quality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Output Indicator 1.b.i "Standardised" Standard³ developed, agreed, and implemented • Output Indicator 1.b.ii Percentage of publishers publishing data in all mandatory fields • Output Indicator 1.b.iii Percentage of total annual spend reported to IATI by publishers who sign up to a single set of member-approved IATI Publishing Guidelines⁴ that specify how data must and <i>should</i> be reported

² Or maintain 0 errors or warnings once achieved.

³ As agreed in the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, IATI will undertake an exercise to streamline the Standard so that it contains "core" fields which are universally relevant for all data users and publishers. The process of arriving at these changes was delayed during the transition in 2022, and will need to be assessed by the IATI hosts in close consultation with the IATI membership, publishers, and data users going into 2024/25.

⁴ This set of publishing guidelines will only be developed after the process of "standardising" the Standard has been concluded. The guidelines will be developed in close consultation with the IATI community and should be approved by its membership. Progress towards assessing this indicator was delayed given dependency on output indicator 1.b.i.

Outcome Indicator 1.2

Percentage of publishers whose scores in the current IATI Dashboard increase above baseline, or that maintain a score of 100% once achieved

Tracking Data Quality Through Key Metrics

This indicator assesses improvements in IATI data quality by tracking publisher scores on the IATI Dashboard, based on three core data quality metrics: timeliness, comprehensiveness, and the forward-looking nature of published data. These metrics are intended to encourage publishers to improve their internal data management practices, leading to better-quality data that is more timely, complete, and predictive of future developments.

Moderate Progress with Gaps in Forward-Looking Data

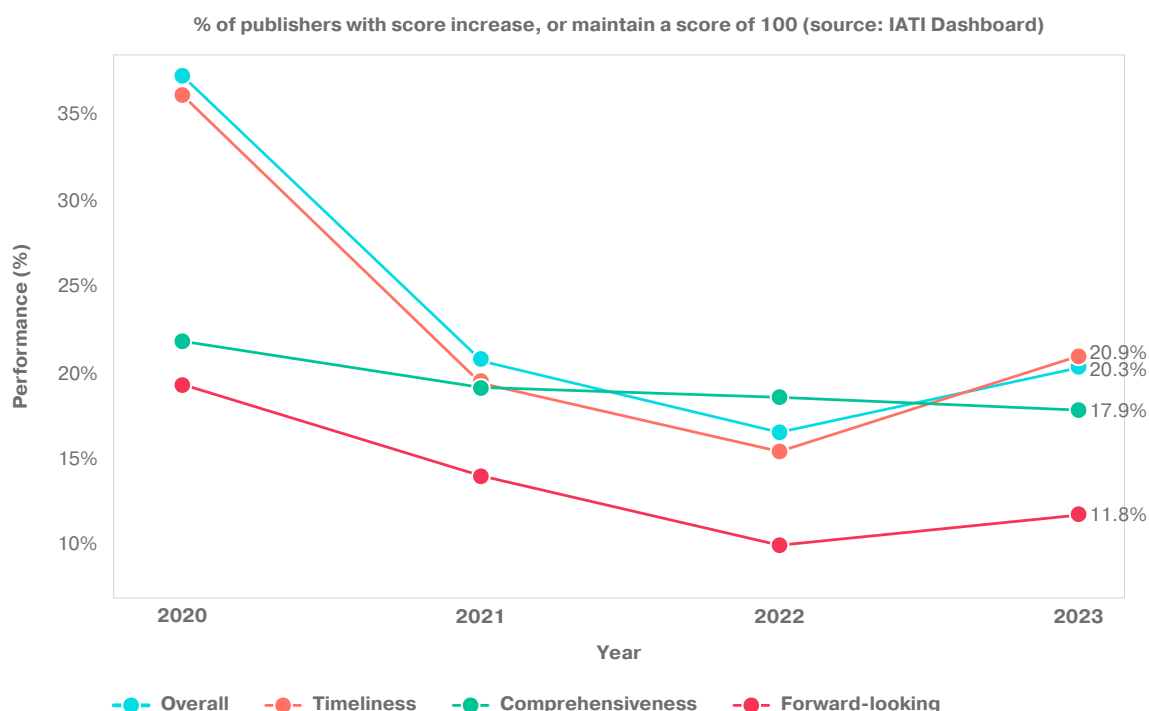
In 2023, 20.3% of publishers showed overall progress, reflecting a modest increase from the 16.5% recorded in 2022. However, this remains well below the 2023 target of 59.0%. Publishers in the USD100M-1B spend category made the most significant strides, with 48.7% improving timeliness and 43.6% enhancing the comprehensiveness of their data. Yet, challenges persisted in forward-looking data, with only 11.8% of all publishers showing improvement, especially among organizations with smaller budgets.

Assessing Data Quality Performance Across Publishers

The overall assessment indicates that while some publishers were able to improve their data quality or maintain a perfect score, significant gaps remain. Publishers in the mid-tier spend category (USD100M-1B) demonstrated stronger performance, with nearly half improving on key metrics. However, many smaller publishers struggled to maintain or improve their scores, particularly in providing forward-looking data. This is likely attributed to the fact that some of these publishers are compliance-driven, often reporting to IATI due to donor requirements rather than an internal commitment to data quality. For many, reporting may be linked to one-off projects or activities, further limiting their ability to consistently meet data quality targets.

Moreover, this challenge may also point to a methodological limitation in the way the IATI Dashboard scores publishers. The Dashboard applies the same scoring criteria across all spend categories, which may disproportionately affect smaller publishers who face different constraints compared to larger organizations. Tailoring the scoring methodology to account for varying resources and capacities across publisher categories could provide a more nuanced and fairer

Figure 1: Overall Publisher Data Quality Performance (2020 – 2023)



At the output level, results on the improvement of IATI data quality are underscored by improved tools and guidance. Performance data for the majority of these output indicators is available to comparatively assess results in 2023 with the results from prior monitoring rounds (2020 to 2022). Nevertheless, collection of results for three out of the eight output indicators continued to face challenges into 2023.⁵ The feasibility of data collection processes and baselines will need to be reassessed in the context of the development of the next Strategic Plan and Results Framework. Nonetheless, in 2022 there are five output indicators to help analyse performance and progress in improving IATI data quality. These indicators monitor:

- The percentage of publishers publishing every quarter or more (**Output Indicator 1.a.v**);
- The percentage of publishers who reduce their number of validation errors and warning types as assessed by the IATI Validator (**Output Indicator 1.a.iii**).
- The percentage of publishers publishing data in all mandatory fields (**Output Indicator 1.b.ii**)
- The percentage of known publishing tools integrating the IATI Validator (**Output Indicator 1.a.ii**)
- The percentage of users satisfied with IATI technical tools including the IATI Registry, Validator, d-Portal, Datastore Search, and the Country Development Finance Data tool (CDFD) (**Output Indicator 1.a.iv**);

⁵ This is because the baseline values could not be determined as measuring them required processes to be put in place (1.a.i); or it is because the indicator is not implemented (1.b.i); or because of a need to sequence outputs, e.g. Publishing Guidelines referenced in indicator 1.b.iii can only be drafted and consulted after the process of “standardising” the Standard is complete (indicator 1.b.i).

Percentage of publishers publishing every quarter or more (Output Indicator 1.a.v)

Timeliness and the Importance of Regular Data Updates

To make IATI data useful for most users, it must be timely. Timeliness ensures that the data available reflects current activities and can inform decision-making processes effectively. For this reason, it is recommended that publishers update their data at least quarterly. More frequent updates contribute to an overall improvement in data quality and enhance the utility of the data for end users. This indicator measures the proportion of publishers who update their data at least quarterly, a best practice for maintaining data relevance and quality.

This indicator uses the frequency metric from the IATI Dashboard, which assigns reporting frequencies of quarterly or monthly based on the regularity of updates. The IATI Dashboard assigns a quarterly reporting frequency if:

- A publisher has published to IATI for one year or more, with data updated in at least three of the past 12 full months and updated at least once in the last four full months.
- A publisher has published for more than six months, with data updated for two of the last two quarters.

For publishers assigned a monthly reporting frequency, the requirements are:

- A publisher has published to IATI for one year or more, with data updated in at least seven of the past 12 full months and updated at least once in the last two full months.
- A publisher has published for more than six months, with data updated in four of the last six months.
- A publisher has published for more than three months, with data updated in each of the last three months.

These criteria ensure that publishers who maintain regular updates are recognized, and this in turn improves their overall data quality score on the IATI Dashboard.

Performance in 2023

In 2023, only 13.8% of publishers met the quarterly publishing benchmark, down from 15.6% in 2022, and well below the target of 69.8%. Larger publishers, particularly those with annual spending over USD1 billion, performed better in terms of timeliness, with 83% maintaining or improving their reporting frequency. However, the overall decline in the number of publishers meeting the quarterly reporting standard across all spend categories indicates ongoing challenges in maintaining regular data updates.

Understanding the Decline and Its Implications

The struggle to meet quarterly reporting standards is tied to the nature of publishers' business processes and the constraints they face. Many smaller publishers operate on project-based timelines, making it challenging to update data regularly. For some, data publishing is driven by compliance requirements from larger donors rather than being an integral part of their operational processes. As a result, smaller publishers are less likely to maintain consistent, frequent updates. Moreover, the IATI Dashboard's uniform application of reporting frequency metrics across all publisher categories may not fully account for these differing operational contexts, which could be a limitation in the current methodology.

Percentage of publishers who reduce their number of validation errors and warning types as assessed by the IATI Validator (Output Indicator 1.a.iii)

The Role of the IATI Validator in Ensuring Data Quality

The IATI Validator is a key tool for helping publishers ensure that their data aligns with the IATI Standard. It checks for validation errors, which indicate that the data does not conform to the IATI schema, and warnings, which flag potential issues that could affect data quality but are not critical. This indicator measures the percentage of publishers who have successfully reduced the number of validation errors and warnings in their data files, signaling improvements in data quality management.

Performance in 2023

In 2023, the percentage of publishers reducing validation errors fell slightly to 30.7%, down from 32.6% in 2022. Similarly, the percentage of publishers reducing warning types dropped to 32.9%, compared to 39.0% in 2022. Larger publishers, particularly those with annual spending over USD1 billion, saw a decline in performance, with 30.3% reducing errors in 2023, down from 45.5% the previous year. While the reduction is notable, it is important to consider that factors such as the inflexibility of certain schema validation rules may have played a role in these results, where minor issues can still trigger errors or warnings.

Understanding the Trends and Implications

Although the increase in validation errors and warnings points to ongoing challenges, these trends could partly be attributed to the rigid nature of the IATI schema, where even minor discrepancies can trigger validation issues. This suggests that while some publishers may face challenges in managing data quality, others may be impacted by the stringent validation rules.

To support publishers, improvements in the Validator tool's flexibility and clearer guidance on error resolution may help address some of these challenges. Additionally, while larger publishers have seen more significant declines, this might also reflect the complexity of their datasets. Further refinement of the Validator and tailored guidance could better support publishers in meeting the IATI Standard without compromising the quality of their reporting.



The percentage of publishers publishing data in all mandatory fields (Output Indicator 1.b.ii)

Ensuring Complete Data Submission

This indicator assesses the proportion of all IATI publishers who are publishing data for all mandatory fields in both their organization and activity files. Compliance with this requirement is critical for ensuring the data is comprehensive, accurate, and usable by stakeholders. A publisher is considered to be fully compliant with this indicator if they have published data in 100% of the required mandatory fields, with no omissions.

Compliance is assessed through the IATI Validator, which generates a critical validation error if any mandatory elements are missing. A critical error indicates that the datafile is not schema-compliant and requires corrective action. While publishers are encouraged to go beyond the mandatory fields and provide more comprehensive data, ensuring that all mandatory fields are populated is a fundamental first step towards improving the overall quality of IATI data.

Key Mandatory Fields:



These fields are essential for providing a complete picture of the activities and organizations involved, ensuring that users of IATI data can trust the information and use it for analysis, decision-making, and transparency purposes.

Performance in 2023

In 2023, overall compliance with mandatory fields slightly declined to 75.1%, down from 76.9% in 2022. Notably, 50% of publishers in the over USD1 billion spend category published data in all mandatory fields, which, while significant, still fell short of the 2023 target of 94.67%. Smaller publishers, particularly those with annual spending under USD100 million, outperformed larger ones in meeting this requirement.

The complexity and sheer number of activities that larger organizations manage may have contributed to the differences in performance. These organizations often deal with vast datasets across multiple projects, making it more challenging to ensure that all mandatory fields are accurately populated. In contrast, smaller publishers, with fewer activities to report, may find it easier to comply with the IATI Standard's requirements. Nonetheless, this gap highlights the importance of targeted support and tailored tools to assist larger organizations in managing their more complex data needs.

Critical First Step to Data Quality Improvement

While this indicator focuses exclusively on whether publishers have populated all mandatory fields, it forms the foundation for higher levels of data quality. Publishing data for the mandatory elements is the first step toward improving overall data quality, as it establishes a baseline of completeness and compliance. Without meeting these basic requirements, the usability and effectiveness of the data are significantly reduced.

It is important to note that there is some overlap with **Output Indicator 1.a.iii**; however, **Output Indicator 1.b.ii** specifically focuses on whether publishers are providing data for all the required elements/attributes. This emphasis on complete and accurate data entry for mandatory fields will contribute to better data quality and useability of the data.

Analysis and Implications

Although the slight decline in compliance with mandatory fields is concerning, it is essential that all publishers strive to ensure they are publishing at least the mandatory data fields to guarantee that the data is usable and actionable. The relative success of smaller publishers suggests that tailored support for larger

organizations, which manage more complex datasets, may be needed. Larger publishers face inherent challenges due to the number and complexity of activities they report, which might make ensuring all fields are populated more difficult.

Moreover, the rigidity of the IATI schema may play a role in these results, as even minor omissions can trigger validation errors. Offering clearer explanations or enhancing the Validator tool to provide more actionable feedback could help publishers ensure that all mandatory fields are correctly populated. By doing so, publishers will significantly enhance the usability and reliability of their data, directly contributing to the broader goals of transparency and accountability within the development community.

The percentage of known publishing tools integrating the IATI Validator (Output Indicator 1.a.ii)

Ensuring Data Quality through Validator Integration

This indicator assesses the proportion of publishing tools that integrate the IATI Validator, a critical tool for ensuring that data conforms to the IATI Standard before being published. The Validator can be linked to publishing tools through its API, enabling automated checks for schema and ruleset compliance. This integration helps publishers identify and address any data quality issues before their datasets are made publicly available, contributing to an overall improvement in data quality.

In November 2022, improvements to the Validator introduced activity-level validation features, allowing publishers to identify specific activities that have critical errors. These enhancements have further strengthened the tool's ability to support data quality improvements across publishing platforms.

Performance in 2023

As captured in the 2023 annual survey, 51.6% of publishers indicated that they have incorporated a level of integration with the IATI Validator, a significant improvement from 19.5% in 2022. This growth reflects increasing recognition among publishers of the Validator's importance in achieving higher data quality standards. However, it is important to note that this result is based on self-reported data from the survey. While this shows a positive trend, the figure may be underrepresenting the actual number of publishers integrating the Validator, as not all publishers participated in the survey.

The integration of the Validator into publishing workflows is a key driver of data quality improvement, enabling real-time checks and reducing errors before data is published. However, the reliance on self-reporting introduces variability in how integration is interpreted by publishers—



some organizations may fully integrate the Validator API into their publishing tools, while others may use the Validator in an ad-hoc manner or rely on manual checks via the IATI Validator website.

Challenges in Measuring Full Integration

Full integration with the Validator would involve seamless, automatic use of the API within an organization's publishing workflow and tools, ensuring continuous data validation. However, as the data from the annual survey does not distinguish between different levels of tool integration, it is challenging to assess the true extent of Validator adoption. Some publishers report using the Validator API to validate files, but this does not necessarily reflect comprehensive integration into their entire publishing process.

Reflecting on these data collection limitations, it is essential to recognize that while the reported integration percentage has improved, there is still room to better understand and encourage full API adoption across all publishing tools. Differentiating between ad-hoc use and full integration in future data collection efforts would provide

a clearer picture of how effectively the Validator is being used to enhance data quality.

Analysis and Implications

The increased integration of the Validator into publishing tools is a positive development that should lead to long-term improvements in data quality. However, the fact that nearly half of the known publishing tools are still not integrated with the Validator indicates that there is more progress to be made. The gap in adoption could be due to resource constraints, technical barriers, or differing organizational priorities among publishers.

The IATI Secretariat can play an important role in fostering wider adoption of the Validator by working closely with tool developers and publishers to address any barriers to integration. Additionally, providing clearer guidance on the benefits of full Validator integration and offering support to streamline this process may encourage more publishers to incorporate the Validator fully into their publishing workflows, resulting in more consistent and reliable data quality.

Percentage of users satisfied with IATI technical tools including the IATI Registry, Datastore / Query Builder, Validator, d-Portal, and the Country Development Finance Data (CDFD) tool (Output Indicator 1.a.iv)

Ensuring Usability and Satisfaction with IATI Tools

The suite of IATI technical tools is designed to facilitate the publication and use of high-quality data. These tools include the IATI Validator, IATI Registry, the IATI Publisher Tool, d-Portal, Datastore Search, and the Country Development Finance Data (CDFD) tool. These tools are essential for data publishers and users alike, offering functionalities that range from data validation and compliance checks to data visualization and querying.

This indicator measures user satisfaction with each tool,⁶ based on responses collected through

the 2023 annual survey. Survey feedback offers a valuable snapshot of how users experience these tools, including areas of strength and suggestions for improvement.

The satisfaction levels for IATI's technical tools in 2023 demonstrate that these tools are generally meeting the needs of users, but there are several opportunities for improvement. Enhancing usability, providing more intuitive interfaces, and addressing specific technical limitations could further improve the user experience and encourage more widespread use of these essential tools. The IATI Secretariat's role in supporting these improvements will be critical in driving future data quality and usability enhancements.

⁶ On a satisfaction rating scale from 1-5, users are considered to be satisfied with the tool if they score a 4 or 5 on the satisfaction scale.

IATI Validator

The IATI Validator is critical in ensuring that data published to IATI meets the required quality standards. It checks data for compliance with the IATI schema and ruleset, helping publishers identify and resolve issues before data is published.

Performance in 2023

Satisfaction with the IATI Validator remains high, with 87.5% of users expressing satisfaction in 2023, slightly down from 96.6% in 2022. Users continue to appreciate the Validator's effectiveness in identifying errors and helping to ensure data quality. However, several suggestions were

made for improving the Validator's usability, including requests for extractable validation reports in CSV or XLSX format and enhancements to the user interface for easier error tracking.

Analysis and Implications

The IATI Validator continues to be a highly valued tool for publishers, but there is room for improvement in the way validation results are presented and how easily errors can be tracked. Improving these areas could further streamline the validation process, making it even easier for publishers to maintain data quality.

Survey Feedback

“In general, the Validator is a really helpful tool to monitor data quality. It would be even more helpful if the results of the IATI validator were extractable in a CSV or XLSX file.”

“To increase accuracy of validation errors and some UI enhancements (e.g. no way to copy programme/project ID from error log directly).”

“It would be better to have more specifications when there is an error message.”



IATI Registry

The IATI Registry is a key tool for registering and linking data files, serving as a central repository for all IATI publishers. It plays a vital role in ensuring that data is accessible and well-organized.

Performance in 2023

Satisfaction with the IATI Registry increased slightly, with 75.0% of users expressing satisfaction, compared to 72.7% in 2022. Although the Registry is generally well-regarded, some users pointed out limitations in its functionality, such

as the 50-line limit for mass updates and a perceived lack of user-friendliness, especially for non-technical users.

Analysis and Implications

While the IATI Registry continues to serve its core purpose effectively, there is a need to improve its usability, particularly for non-technical users. Streamlining the mass update process and enhancing the user interface could help make the Registry more accessible and efficient.

Survey Feedback

“When doing a mass update, there is a limit of 50 lines.”

“Could be more user-friendly, only works for real technical staff.”

“The user experience is not very satisfactory as far as the registration/dataset modification process is concerned.”



IATI Publisher Tool

The IATI Publisher Tool is a recently introduced platform designed to make it easier for smaller organizations to publish their data to IATI. The tool is aimed at simplifying the publishing process and reducing the technical burden on smaller publishers.

Performance in 2023

The IATI Publisher Tool saw a strong initial response, with 81.8% of users expressing satisfaction. This suggests that the tool is meeting a key need for smaller organizations that

may not have alternative publishing methods. Feedback, however, suggests that further simplification of the tool could make it even more accessible.

Analysis and Implications

The IATI Publisher Tool is clearly addressing a gap for smaller publishers, but further simplification could enhance its accessibility and ease of use. Reducing the number of fields and focusing on mandatory data requirements could make the tool even more effective.

Survey Feedback

“IATI Publisher should be significantly simplified and focused on (very) small organizations which don't have an alternative way of publishing.”

“Removing unnecessary fields that are not mandatory so it's not overwhelming to publish.”



d-Portal

d-Portal is a user-friendly interface for exploring and navigating IATI data. It allows users to access detailed activity-level information and visualize data, making it a key tool for both publishers and data users.

Performance in 2023

Satisfaction with d-Portal remained stable at 75.9% in 2023. While users appreciate its ability to provide detailed insights into IATI data, there were several suggestions for enhancing its func-

tionality, including improving export options and adding more user-friendly guides.

Analysis and Implications

d-Portal is well-regarded for its detailed insights, but enhancing its export options and providing clearer guidance on how to use the tool could improve the user experience. Simplifying some of the more technical aspects of the portal could make it more accessible to a wider audience.

Survey Feedback

“It would be easier if individual projects could open on a new tab/page rather than having to refresh the search after navigating to an individual project.”

“Possibility to export more columns when exporting to Excel.”

“More user-friendly glossary and explanation of terms and filters.”



Datastore Search

Datastore Search is an advanced tool that allows users to search and query IATI data. It offers both simple and advanced search functions, giving users flexibility in how they access the data.

Performance in 2023

Satisfaction with Datastore Search increased to 78.6% in 2023. Users praised the tool's advanced search capabilities, but some found the interface cumbersome and suggested

that more control over export formats would improve usability.

Analysis and Implications

Datastore Search is a powerful tool, but its usability could be improved by offering more intuitive export options and simplifying the search interface. Enhancing these areas would make the tool more accessible to both technical and non-technical users.

Survey Feedback

“The advanced search functionality is super useful and nicely designed. I would like to have more control over the format of the exported data.”

“Would it be possible to add a field where the query can be typed in like an SQL query?”

“Simplifying spreadsheet exports (e.g. in line with CDFD).”



Country Development Finance Data (CDFD) Tool

The CDFD tool provides critical insights into financial data related to development projects at the country level. It is particularly valuable for users tracking financial flows and projected spending (budgets) in specific countries.

Performance in 2023

Satisfaction with the CDFD tool remained high at 79.0%. However, users highlighted issues related to the comprehensiveness of the data, particularly when using certain vocabularies that affect how financial data is reflected in the tool.

Analysis and Implications

While the CDFD tool is valued for its insights into country-level financial data, addressing issues related to data completeness and vocabulary inconsistencies would improve its functionality. Expanding the tool's capabilities to better handle complex, multi-donor programs would also enhance its utility for a wider range of users.

Survey Feedback

- “An issue with how Finance type and Aid type are reflected on the dashboards. The dashboard shows ‘no data’ even though ILO publishes both data items at the transaction level.”
- “CDFD doesn't pull all our IATI data, so our spend/budget appears lower.”
- “Data on cross-cutting sector, multi-donor programs would be critical to utilize the CDFD tool.”



Conclusion

The 2023 performance across Outcome 1 indicators demonstrates both progress and ongoing challenges in improving IATI data quality. While there has been an increase in user satisfaction with core publishing tools such as the IATI Validator and IATI Registry, and a modest rebound in overall data quality, many publishers continue to face difficulties meeting the ambitious targets set for timeliness and comprehensiveness. The complexity of managing larger datasets and operational constraints among smaller organizations are key factors contributing to these ongoing challenges.

Publishing forward-looking and timely data remains a particular concern, and the underperformance of smaller publishers, often driven by compliance rather than internal data quality priorities, reflects the need for more tailored solutions. Moreover, methodological limitations in

the IATI Dashboard's uniform scoring approach across all publisher categories may contribute to a skewed assessment of data quality performance. Addressing these challenges requires continued enhancements in IATI tools, more flexible validation rules, and refined methodologies that account for the varying capacities of different publishers.

Looking ahead, as IATI transitions into its next strategic planning cycle, the lessons learned from the Data Quality Index consultations and the feedback from stakeholders will be crucial in shaping new approaches to improve data quality measurement. With these insights, IATI is well-positioned to implement strategies that ensure data published to IATI is not only complete and timely but also actionable and impactful for the global development community.





B. Strategic Plan Objective 2: Improving Systematic Use of IATI Data

IATI's Strategic Objective 2 focuses on enhancing the systematic use of its data by partner country governments, publishers, and civil society organizations (CSOs). This outcome aims to ensure that IATI data is not only published but actively used to improve decision-making and development coordination.

In 2023, significant strides were made in promoting the use of IATI data through improved engagement with partner country governments and increasing the use of IATI's data access tools. With initiatives like the Country Development Finance Data (CDFD) tool, Datastore Search, and

d-Portal, IATI has provided a diverse range of data-use tools that cater to different stakeholders, enabling them to leverage IATI data more effectively in their decision-making processes. By tracking these key indicators, IATI is able to measure the success of its efforts to make data more accessible and useful to a broader audience.

The following sections explore performance across these key indicators, emphasizing IATI's success in fostering the systematic use of data among partner country governments, enhancing access to key data tools, and identifying areas for further improvement.

Outcome Indicator 2.1

Number of partner country governments referencing IATI data in national development policies and other government documents

This indicator assesses the number of IATI partner country governments referencing IATI data in their national development or cooperation policies, as a proxy for its use in strategic planning and decision-making. By 2023, 11 partner country governments were recorded as referencing IATI data in such documents, highlighting an upward trend in the use of IATI data by governments. However, it is important to note that the results for this indicator are cumulative, meaning that each year builds on previous reporting years.

The cumulative nature of the indicator ensures that the references are tracked year-on-year, especially considering that many national policies are not revised annually. Given the reliance on survey responses from partner countries and desk reviews, some references may not be captured, particularly if the documents are not publicly available. While the desk review attempts to capture this data, non-member countries are less likely to have publicly accessible reports, limiting the depth of insights for those countries.

Data Collection and Challenges

To track this indicator, a survey is administered annually, asking partner governments if IATI is referenced in their current national development or cooperation policies. Respondents are encouraged to provide hyperlinks to these documents, where available. However, the availability of these

documents often depends on whether they are published online. Non-member countries may not make these policies publicly available, further complicating data collection for desk reviews. Additionally, since these policies are typically issued every few years, measuring this indicator cumulatively is critical to reflect IATI's continued relevance over time.

Context for 2023 Results

Since 2020, the number of governments referencing IATI data increased to 11,⁷ signaling the ongoing integration of IATI data into national-level decision-making. This progress demonstrates growing recognition of IATI as a useful tool for transparency and strategic planning. However, the cumulative nature of this indicator, coupled with data collection challenges, emphasizes that there may be further instances of IATI references that are not captured due to limited survey responses or non-publicly available policy documents.

As IATI continues to promote transparency and effective development cooperation, the number of countries referencing IATI data in national documents is expected to grow. Efforts to engage with partner countries and encourage the publication of policy documents may further enhance the accuracy and comprehensiveness of this indicator.

⁷ Nigeria, Cameroon, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Benin, Malawi, Nepal, Côte d'Ivoire, Somalia, Bangladesh, and Ghana.

Outcome Indicator 2.2

Number of IATI partner country governments systematically using IATI data for decision-making

In 2023, 19 partner country governments systematically used IATI data for decision-making, exceeding the target of 14.⁸ Examples include Nigeria, Cameroon, Malawi, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. These governments used IATI data to prepare development cooperation reports, analyze total resource flows, and integrate it into key planning documents such as medium-term expenditure frameworks.

Integration of IATI Data into National Systems

Several countries have successfully integrated IATI data into national systems for aid coordination. Liberia's Project Dashboard and Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning serve as notable examples. Nepal also developed a new Development Finance Information System, demonstrating progress in using IATI data to support national-level decision-making and resource management. These country-level innovations reflect the growing utility of IATI data in managing development finance.

Survey Insights on Tooling and Data Usage

Survey results from partner country governments revealed that many are using the Country Development Finance Data (CDFD) tool, designed to help national stakeholders collect real-time financial landscape data, including transactions and sector flows. Thirteen out of the 17 partner country respondents rated the CDFD tool with high satisfaction, indicating that it meets their needs in tracking and analyzing budgeted spending by country. This suggests that tools like the CDFD are becoming critical in the systematic use of IATI data by partner countries.

Conclusion

The 2023 results underscore the expanding role of IATI data in national decision-making and the growing satisfaction with IATI tools. Partner governments increasingly rely on the CDFD tool and other IATI resources to improve aid coordination and planning processes. The progress made highlights the value of continuing to support partner countries in using IATI data to enhance transparency and more effective management of development finance.



⁸ Nigeria, Chad, Burkina Faso, Lesotho, Liberia, Guinea, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Cameroon, Malawi, Nepal, Somalia, Madagascar, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Benin, Niger, Vietnam, Comoros, and Côte d'Ivoire were reported to the IATI Secretariat that all use IATI data for systematic decision-making.

INTENDED OUTPUT	OUTPUT INDICATOR
Output 2.a IATI data is regularly accessed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Output Indicator 2.a.i Number of unique visits to d-Portal, Datastore / Query Builder, and the Country Development Finance Data (CDFD) tool (excluding developers and testers to the extent possible) • Output Indicator 2.a.ii Number of active tools that access IATI data via the Datastore • Output Indicator 2.a.iii Number of IATI partner country members whose national aid information management systems include IATI data
Output 2.b Data literacy and capacity for data use of partner countries, publishers, and CSOs is strengthened.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Output Indicator 2.b.i Number of publishers directly supported on how to use IATI data • Output Indicator 2.b.ii Number of partner country governments directly supported by the Secretariat on how to use IATI data • Output Indicator 2.b.iii Number of CSOs directly supported on how to use IATI data

Number of unique visits to d-Portal, Datastore Search, and the Country Development Finance Data (CDFD) tool (Output Indicator 2.a.i)

This indicator assesses the number of unique visitors accessing IATI's three main data tools: d-Portal, Datastore Search, and the CDFD tool. In 2023, d-Portal had 90,201 visits, Datastore Search recorded 47,921, and the CDFD tool saw 3,401 visitors. While visits to d-Portal and Datastore Search exceeded their respective targets of 36,500 and 30,000, CDFD fell short of its 6,500 target, reflecting the need for more awareness-raising and outreach for the latter tool.

The increased numbers of visitors to d-Portal and Datastore Search reflect growing engagement with IATI data, signaling improved access to information that supports development and humanitarian decision-making. **d-Portal** remains the most visited platform, allowing users to view detailed information on individual activities and offering keyword search and filtering ca-

pabilities, making it the go-to tool for exploring specific activities.

The Country Development Finance Data tool (**CDFD**), which is designed to meet the needs of country-level stakeholders such as partner country governments and CSOs, is used for conducting detailed analysis. CDFD offers accessible, tabular data on spending and projections by country or region, with easy-to-navigate dashboards, making it especially beneficial for non-technical users.

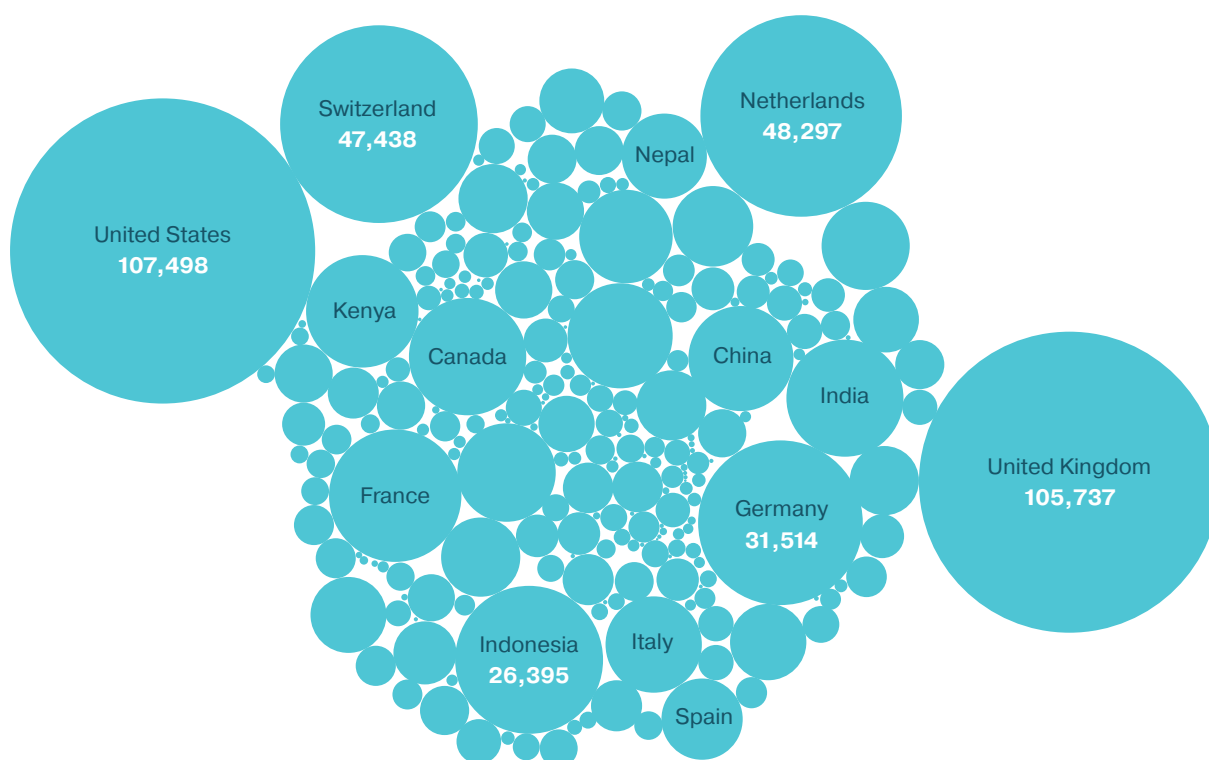
Meanwhile, **Datastore Search** enables users to conduct complex searches across all data fields in the IATI Standard. It provides export options in CSV, XML, and JSON formats, making it ideal for those who need to work with large datasets or perform advanced data analysis.

Increased engagement with these tools demonstrates the growing utility of IATI's data access platforms, particularly for more detailed exploration of IATI data, with d-Portal leading in session traffic and Datastore Search facilitating deeper

analysis. However, the lower-than-expected visits to the CDFD tool suggest that further awareness-raising and training efforts could help partner country stakeholders and others make better use of this valuable resource.⁹

⁹ Usage statistics and analytics on all IATI sites are available to the public. This link lists where the analytics can be found: ([Usage statistics – iatistandard.org](#)) Plausible, an open-source web analytic tool. All the site measurement is carried out anonymously; cookies are not used and no personal data is collected. There are no cookies to track persistent identifiers and fully compliant with GDPR, CCPA and PECR.

Figure 2: Global Traffic to IATI Tools (2022-2023)



Tool	2022	2023
d-Portal	215,038	90,201
IATI Website	99,256	74,893
TATI Registry	71,362	33,148
Datastore Search	28,152	47,921
IATI Connect	17,112	12,253
IATI Dashboard	11,015	6,561
Validator	9,083	9,232
CDFD	4,279	3,401
IATI Publisher		3,655



Number of active tools that access IATI data via the Datastore (Output Indicator 2.a.ii)

This indicator measures the number of active tools built by the IATI community that import data from the IATI Datastore using its API. These tools, including internal publisher tools and public data use applications, must refresh data at least monthly to be considered active. An increasing number of such tools indicates greater usage and regular access to IATI data. In 2023, 29 active external tools were recorded, showing continued engagement by the community in leveraging IATI's open data for various uses.

The significance of this indicator lies in its ability to reflect how IATI data is being utilized and integrated into different platforms for both analysis and decision-making. These tools serve diverse needs, ranging from visualizing aid flows to internal organizational reporting, thus ensuring that IATI data is not only published but also widely accessed and used. The regular refresh

rate requirement ensures that these tools maintain the most up-to-date information, further enhancing the relevance and usability of IATI data.

The steady growth in the number of tools accessing the IATI Datastore also highlights the flexibility and adaptability of the API. As more organizations continue to build tools on the IATI Datastore, this trend reinforces the importance of IATI as a cornerstone for data transparency in the development and humanitarian sectors. Looking forward, improving API access and encouraging more innovative uses of IATI data could help drive even broader engagement and value creation.

By tracking the number of active tools, IATI can gauge the success of its efforts to foster data use and provide targeted support for developers and users to build and improve these tools.

Number of IATI partner country members whose national aid information management systems include IATI data (Output Indicator 2.a.iii)

This indicator captures the number of IATI partner country members that have integrated IATI data into their national AIMS. In 2023, 10 countries reported this integration: Vietnam, Madagascar, Nigeria, Lesotho, Liberia, Nepal, Somalia, Honduras, Myanmar, and Uzbekistan.

AIMS are critical tools for sharing aid data between donor and recipient governments, offering transparency and improving coordination. Integrating IATI data provides partner countries with a more comprehensive picture of resource flows, enabling better planning and decision-making for development cooperation.

Benefits of Using IATI Data in AIMS

IATI data offers detailed information on transactions, sector flows, and budgeted spending, empowering partner country governments to manage aid more effectively. Benefits include:

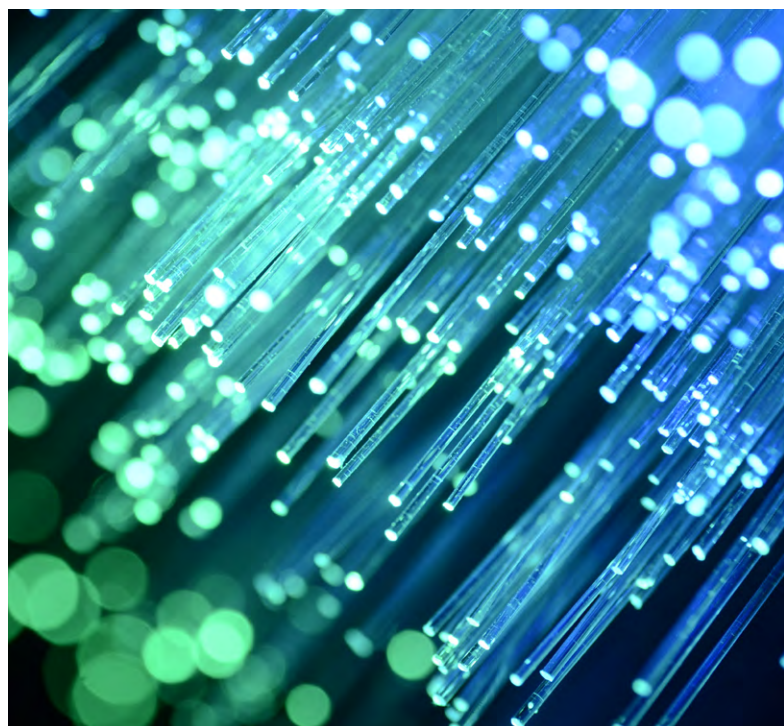
- Identifying previously unknown projects, leading to improved resource allocation.
- Providing information from more organizations, including NGOs, which enriches planning efforts.
- Allowing real-time insights on financial flows and non-financial data (e.g., sector, location, and results) to support aid coordination.

For example, Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning and Liberia's Project Dashboard successfully incorporated IATI data into their aid coordination systems, improving transparency and coordination between in-country development providers and partner governments. Nepal has also developed a Development Finance Information System, which draws from IATI data for planning purposes.

Limitations and Considerations

This indicator's data collection relies heavily on the self-reporting of partner country governments, meaning there may be additional countries using IATI data that are not captured in these results. Additionally, the indicator does not assess the frequency or depth of integration of IATI data with AIMS, which could vary significantly.

While IATI data is an invaluable supplementary resource for national-level reporting systems, its primary benefit has been identifying coordination gaps and improving aid effectiveness between development providers and partner governments. It should be used to complement existing national reporting mechanisms, ensuring more robust planning and better coordination of resources in real-time.¹⁰



¹⁰ The IATI Secretariat maintains [a list of developing countries showing which AIMS provider they use](#). This is not an exhaustive list. It has been compiled by the IATI Secretariat using information provided by partner countries.

Number of publishers directly supported on how to use IATI data (Output Indicator 2.b.i)

IATI Data Use Support: Number of Organisations Trained (2023)

Indicator	Organisation Type	HQ Region	
2.b.i (IATI publishers)	Civil Society Organisation & Other	Europe and Central Asia	9
		South Asia	2
		North America	2
		N/A (Individual Research)	2
		Sub-Saharan Africa	1
	Multilateral	Europe and Central Asia	6
		North America	3
		Latin America and Caribbean	1
	Provider of Development Cooperation	Europe and Central Asia	4
		East Asia and the Pacific	2
		North America	1
2.b.ii	Partner Country Government	Sub-Saharan Africa	18
		Latin America and Caribbean	4
		Europe and Central Asia	3
		South Asia	2
		East Asia and the Pacific	1
2.b.iii	Civil Society Organisation & Other	Europe and Central Asia	18
		N/A (Individual Research)	14
		North America	6
		Sub-Saharan Africa	5
		Middle East and North Africa	1
		East Asia and the Pacific	1

Performance in 2023

The IATI Secretariat provided direct support to **33 publisher organizations**, surpassing the **2023 target of 30**. These organizations were mainly concentrated in **Europe and Central Asia** and **Sub-Saharan Africa**, with a diverse representation across **CSOs, multilaterals**, and **providers of development cooperation**.

This level of support has helped publishers improve their technical skills in **data use** and **publishing**, potentially enhancing **data quality** and **coordination** across organizations. It ensures that publishers are more engaged in identifying and resolving issues related to their own data, leading to more accurate and actionable IATI data. This, in turn, could improve **development and humanitarian activity planning**.



Number of partner country governments directly supported by the Secretariat on how to use IATI data (Output Indicator 2.b.ii)

Performance in 2023

In 2023, **28 partner country governments** received support from the Secretariat, falling short of the **target of 35**. The majority of this support occurred in **Sub-Saharan Africa** (18 countries), with smaller groups in **Latin America and the Caribbean** and **Europe and Central Asia**.

This support enables partner country governments to integrate IATI data into their national planning and **budgeting processes**. By improving the transparency of **resource flows** and enhancing **development coordination**, these efforts help governments manage **development cooperation** more effectively, especially in regions where resource tracking and donor coordination are critical to sustainable development.

Number of CSOs and others directly supported on how to use IATI data – annual (Output Indicator 2.b.iii)

Performance in 2023

In 2023, the IATI Secretariat provided support to **45 civil society organizations (CSOs)**, well above the **target of 33**. The bulk of this support was delivered to CSOs in **Sub-Saharan Africa** and **Europe and Central Asia**.

This level of engagement highlights the increasing role of CSOs in **holding governments and**

organizations accountable for their use of development resources. By equipping CSOs with the skills to navigate IATI data, they can advocate for **greater transparency**, identify funding gaps, and coordinate better with other local actors. This leads to more efficient and effective development and humanitarian interventions, particularly at the grassroots level.

Conclusion

The 2023 achievements underscore IATI's growing impact in fostering transparency and enabling strategic decision-making among partner countries. With **19 governments** systematically using IATI data, **29 active tools** accessing the Datastore, and high engagement on platforms like **d-Portal**, **Datastore Search**, and the **Country Development Finance Data** tool, concrete progress was made towards the systematic use of IATI data.

Highlights in Data Use Support

IATI directly supported **33 publishers**, **28 partner country governments**, and **45 CSOs and Others** in IATI data use, empowering them for data-driven decision-making and transparency.

This support enhanced publishers' awareness of data quality, strengthened government capabilities in **aid coordination**, and equipped CSOs to promote **local accountability**.

Future Directions

Moving forward, further **outreach and support** are critical to increasing IATI integration within national **Aid Information Management Systems** and ensuring real-time coordination. IATI should also focus on tool refinements to accommodate evolving user needs, especially for non-technical audiences, while bolstering engagement to embed IATI data in policy frameworks for greater transparency and development impact across both humanitarian and development sectors.





C. Strategic Plan Objective 3: Strengthened IATI Standard with a consolidated technical core

The Strategic Plan Results Framework includes one indicator directly linked to the management and/or strengthening of the IATI Standard (**Output Indicator 1.b.i**): “Standardised” Standard developed, agreed, and implemented. Successive updates to the IATI Standard have made it more robust and adaptable, catering to the specific needs of various new user groups such as humanitarian stakeholders, Development Finance Institutions, and UN System entities. This flexibility has helped expand the number of publishers and has reinforced the recognition of the IATI Standard as adaptable to diverse requirements. However, these expansions have also added complexity, potentially impacting the overall usefulness, relevance, and comparability of IATI data.

To address these complexities, the Strategic Plan outlines a collaborative effort with community experts to streamline the IATI Standard, focusing on defining a core set of data fields that

meets the needs of all users. Standardizing the Standard will help reduce reporting burdens for publishers and improve data quality, making IATI data more comparable across publishers.

However, progress on this initiative stalled in 2022 and was postponed to 2023/2024 following the transition to new IATI hosting arrangements. As a first step following this transition, the formation of an IATI Standard Stewardship Working Group in 2024 will be tasked with reviewing and updating governance and revision control documentation to ensure it remains up-to-date and fit for purpose. The progress made by this working group will provide critical insights and inform future work towards the development of IATI’s next strategic plan. This will include assessing the suitability of the proposed methodologies and verification mechanisms for measuring this output and determining how best to streamline and consolidate the IATI Standard moving forward.

D. Strategic Plan Objective 3: Reinvigorated community of IATI publishers and members

IATI has transformed its knowledge-sharing and engagement structures to cater to the increasing demand from its diverse global community of data publishers, users, transparency advocates, and open data specialists. IATI Connect serves as a hub for learning, networking, and sharing best practices on transparency and data publishing. In 2023, the IATI Secretariat hosted the Virtual Community Exchange (VCE 5) on November 16, with active participation from IATI members, offering an open-access platform for discussions on transparency, data use, and innovations in open data.

Earlier in 2024, IATI successfully held an in-person Members' Assembly (April 23-24) and Community Exchange (April 25-26) in **Bogotá, Colombia**, attracting **over 180 participants** from around the world. This event marked an important return to in-person gatherings, building on the momentum of previous virtual events during the pandemic. Both events strengthened the community's engagement and contributions to IATI's future direction, fostering collaboration and consultation between open data publishers and users.

These initiatives signal IATI's continued commitment to offering platforms that enable transparent, data-driven dialogue and capacity-building for its members. The combination of virtual and in-person events further demonstrates IATI's ability to adapt and meet the needs of its expanding global community, ensuring continuous engagement and shared learning.

Moreover, membership in IATI grew to **107 organizations** in 2023, including a mix of partner

countries, providers of development cooperation, and civil society organizations, reinforcing the ongoing relevance and commitment to the transparency and development agenda.



Outcome Indicator 3.1

Number of “logged in” and “contributing” members on IATI Connect – annual

In 2023, IATI Connect continued to support community engagement, with 295 users logging into the platform – to just under the target of 300. This result highlights steady participation on IATI’s digital platform, where members can interact, share knowledge, and discuss topics around transparency and data standards. While

login activity has remained stable, fostering increased contributions and discussions on the platform could strengthen engagement further. As IATI transitions into the next strategic planning phase, this indicator will be reviewed to ensure it effectively measures community involvement and captures the value of IATI Connect for users.

Outcome Indicator 3.2

Percentage of members attending the annual Members’ Assembly (in-person or virtually)

The IATI Members’ Assembly (MA) is essential for member engagement, discussions, and decision-making. This indicator tracks attendance levels, both in-person and virtual, to evaluate participation across various constituencies and regions.

In 2024, the MA took place from 23-24 April in Bogotá, Colombia. Future assemblies will revert to being held in the fourth quarter, returning to a consistent schedule. This shift is expected to improve alignment with IATI’s annual reporting and strategic planning cycles.

Key results by constituency

- **Overall performance:** 66.3% in 2024, down from 75.3% in 2023, missing the 71.0% target.
- **Partner countries:** 68.6%, slightly down from 82.6% in 2023, though meeting the 65.0% target.
- **Providers of development cooperation:** Steady at 71.8%, matching the target and remaining unchanged from 2023.
- **CSOs and others:** Attendance dropped to 54.2% in 2024, below the 65.0% target and a decline from 73.7% in 2023.

Key results by region

- **East Asia and the Pacific:** Slight decline to 3.1% from 3.3% in 2023.
- **Europe and Central Asia:** Declined to 38.5% from 42.6% in 2023.
- **Latin America and the Caribbean:** Slight improvement to 4.6% from 3.3% in 2023.
- **Middle East and North Africa:** No attendance recorded in 2024, similar to 2023.
- **North America:** Consistent attendance at 15.4%, up slightly from 14.8% in 2023.
- **South Asia:** Stable at 3.1%, compared to 3.3% in 2023.
- **Sub-Saharan Africa:** Improved to 35.4%, up from 32.8% in 2023.

Analysis and implications

Regional attendance largely reflects the global distribution of IATI membership. While overall participation remained relatively strong, there were notable declines, particularly among civil society organizations and certain regions. Attendance levels, especially from the Middle East, remain low, signaling a need for in-



creased outreach and engagement. The return to scheduling MAs in the fourth quarter from 2024 onward should positively impact future at-

tendance, providing more consistent opportunities for engagement across all constituencies and regions.

INTENDED OUTPUT	OUTPUT INDICATOR
Output 3.a A larger, more diverse IATI membership is created.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Output Indicator 3.a.i Number of IATI members
Output 3.b Expanded awareness of IATI and its data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Output Indicator 3.b.i Number of members and publishers providing internal training on using or publishing IATI data• Output Indicator 3.b.ii Number of unique visitors to the IATI website (excluding developers and testers to the extent possible)• Output Indicator 3.b.iii Number of impressions and mentions of IATI on twitter

Number of IATI members (Output Indicator 3.a.i)

Overview

This indicator measures the number of IATI members, highlighting their role in governance and financial support through annual membership fees. Members are responsible for approving key strategic decisions, such as the budget and work plan, and contributing to the overall direction of the initiative. By becoming members, organizations signal their commitment to transparency and support for IATI's mission. An expanding membership base reflects IATI's continued relevance to its core demographic of publishers and data users, fostering the initiative's growth and sustainability.

Performance in 2023

- **Overall membership:** 107 members, below the 2023 target of 114.

Constituency Breakdown

- **Partner countries:** Remained at 35 members, falling short of the target of 41.
- **Providers of development cooperation:** Stable at 42 members, meeting the target.
- **CSOs and others:** Increased to 30 members but still below the target of 32.

Regional Breakdown

- **East Asia and the Pacific:** Maintained 8 members consistently over the past few years.
- **Europe and Central Asia:** Largest regional group, holding steady at 45 members.
- **Latin America and the Caribbean:** Stagnant at 3 members since 2021.
- **Middle East and North Africa:** No change, remaining at 3 members.
- **North America:** Slight increase to 19 members in 2023, up from 16 in 2021.
- **South Asia:** Maintained 2 members without growth.
- **Sub-Saharan Africa:** Continued growth, reaching 27 members in 2023, up from 24 in 2021.

Analysis

The membership base shows steady growth in key regions, particularly Sub-Saharan Africa, though there are clear areas for improvement. Stagnant or slow growth in regions like Latin America, the Middle East, and South Asia highlights a need for more focused outreach. The performance among different constituencies also reveals a gap in member engagement from partner countries, underscoring the importance of strategic efforts to increase membership across regions and categories. Expanding membership will strengthen IATI's governance and further its mission of promoting transparency in international development.



Number of members and publishers providing internal training on using or publishing IATI data (Output Indicator 3.b.i)

This indicator assesses how many IATI members and publishers provide internal training on using or publishing IATI data. The data collection is dependent on responses from the annual Members/Publishers survey, and as such, the number of trainings provided could be higher than captured. Some organizations may have conducted additional trainings that were not recorded in the survey, so the reported figures might not fully represent the extent of training activities.

Performance in 2023

In 2023, seven trainings were provided by IATI members and publishers, down from eight in 2022 and 18 in 2021. These sessions were split into 57.1% member/publisher-led trainings, 28.6% publisher-led, and 14.3% member-led. This marks the first time member-led trainings were recorded.

Data Collection

The reliance on survey responses means that some internal training efforts may not have been captured, limiting the comprehensiveness of this data. This indicator's effectiveness is directly tied to the quality of survey participation, and gaps in response may mean some activities remain unreported.

Analysis and Implications

While the overall number of trainings has decreased, the increase in member-led sessions is a positive trend, suggesting greater engagement from IATI members. However, the drop in publisher-led sessions indicates a potential need for further capacity-building support. Encouraging more organizations to conduct internal trainings is vital for ensuring that staff across all levels are familiar with IATI standards and data usage, which in turn helps improve the overall quality and compliance of IATI data.





Number of unique visitors to the IATI website (Output Indicator 3.b.ii)

Overview

This indicator measures the number of unique visitors to the IATI website on an annual basis. An increased number of visitors demonstrates growing interest, awareness, and engagement with IATI's resources and transparency efforts. The IATI website remains one of the most visited IATI platforms, offering key information and access to the IATI Standard, data, and tools.

Performance in 2023

In 2023, the IATI website recorded 74,893 unique visitors, a significant drop from 99,256 in 2022, and below the target of 127,000 visitors set for

both years. The largest proportion of website traffic continues to come from the Global North.

Analysis and Implications

While the overall number of visitors declined in 2023, the website remains critical to IATI's outreach. The drop in traffic might suggest a need to reassess website content, usability, or promotion strategies to boost engagement, especially among users in the Global South. Additionally, the disproportionate traffic from the Global North highlights the need to improve access, relevance, and visibility in other regions, ensuring IATI's global reach and inclusivity in promoting transparency.

Number of impressions and mentions of IATI on twitter (Output Indicator 3.b.iii)

Due to changes in Twitter's (now X) platform structure and limitations in analytics access, results for this indicator in 2023 are unavailable. This presents a valuable opportunity for IATI to revisit its digital engagement metrics and consider broadening this indicator to encompass platforms like LinkedIn, which may offer a more robust measure of community interaction. During the consultations for IATI's next strategic

plan, this indicator's relevance and alignment with IATI's broader engagement goals can be assessed, ensuring that it remains fit for purpose and aligned with IATI's evolving communications strategy. This review will help validate whether tracking impressions and mentions alone sufficiently reflects community engagement and advocacy, or if an updated, more holistic approach should be adopted.

Conclusion

The progress made in 2023 toward achieving IATI's Strategic Objective 3 demonstrates the growing engagement and resilience of the IATI community in promoting transparency and the use of open data. The successful hosting of key events, including the Virtual Community Exchange and the in-person Members' Assembly and Community Exchange in Bogotá, underscores IATI's ability to foster both virtual and in-person collaboration among its diverse membership, including the development and humanitarian communities.

Despite some declines in attendance and slow membership growth in certain regions, the overall increase in member participation, particularly among partner countries and in Sub-Saharan Africa, illustrates IATI's enduring relevance. These events and engagements provide vital platforms for stakeholders to collaborate, share knowledge, and influence IATI's future strategic direction.

Efforts to expand awareness through internal trainings and outreach activities, while facing challenges, reflect a continued commitment among IATI members and publishers. The recorded trainings and growing satisfaction with IATI's tools indicate promising progress, but there is room for improvement in expanding membership and encouraging wider adoption of IATI standards across all constituencies.

As IATI continues to grow its community and strengthen its technical tools, it will be better positioned to meet its transparency goals for both the development and humanitarian sectors. By fostering a diverse, engaged, and informed membership base, IATI is setting the foundation for sustained collaboration and long-term success in promoting global development and humanitarian transparency.



Annex 1: 2023 Monitoring Results Matrix

Access the monitoring table is available here:

https://cdn.iatistandard.org/prod-iatl-website/documents/IATI_2023_monitoring_matrix.pdf



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