

From Data Collection to Development Effectiveness



IATI Community Exchange
Copenhagen, March 2023

Emergently.





Liberia Ministry of Finance and Development Planning: Nathan Lloyd

- MFDP requested the development of the Project Dashboard in 2019, which was supported by ODI and financed by the Swedish government.
- This request flows from the National Aid and NGO Policy recently adopted by Liberia.
- Support will be taken forward by Emergently as part of efforts to strengthen the sustainability of the system, including by offering the system to other countries.

Emergently.

We work with civil servants, policy makers, and development partners.

- Focus on **your development effectiveness challenges** with a preference for long-term engagements.
- Consider software development and data management as **tools** rather than objectives in themselves.
- Collaboration with software developers **based in the country** or region of the client.

From Data Collection to Development Effectiveness

1. Data collection - a strategic issue
2. Simplifying data collection - using the Project Dashboard and IATI
3. Turning attention back to development effectiveness

1. Data collection

Getting good quality data as a strategic challenge

Examples of data required by Liberia

- Project name
- Description
- Objectives
- Start and end date of project
- MTEF Projection (once per year, for the coming 3 years)
- Project cost
- Project code
- Disbursements (quarterly)
- Implementing organisation
- Alignment with SDGs

Data collection is difficult

Example of Liberia :

- Many projects (497 ongoing)
- Many development partners (around 32), resident and non-resident

Challenges:

- **For government:** reconciling data collected with data already in the system
- **For Development Partners:** exporting and sharing data from internal systems

The experience of legacy systems

2017 study: among 75 installations of AIMS (Aid Information Management Systems):

- 12 are active (online and updated at least once in the past 6 months)
- 27 are online, but without currently updated data
- 32 are no longer online

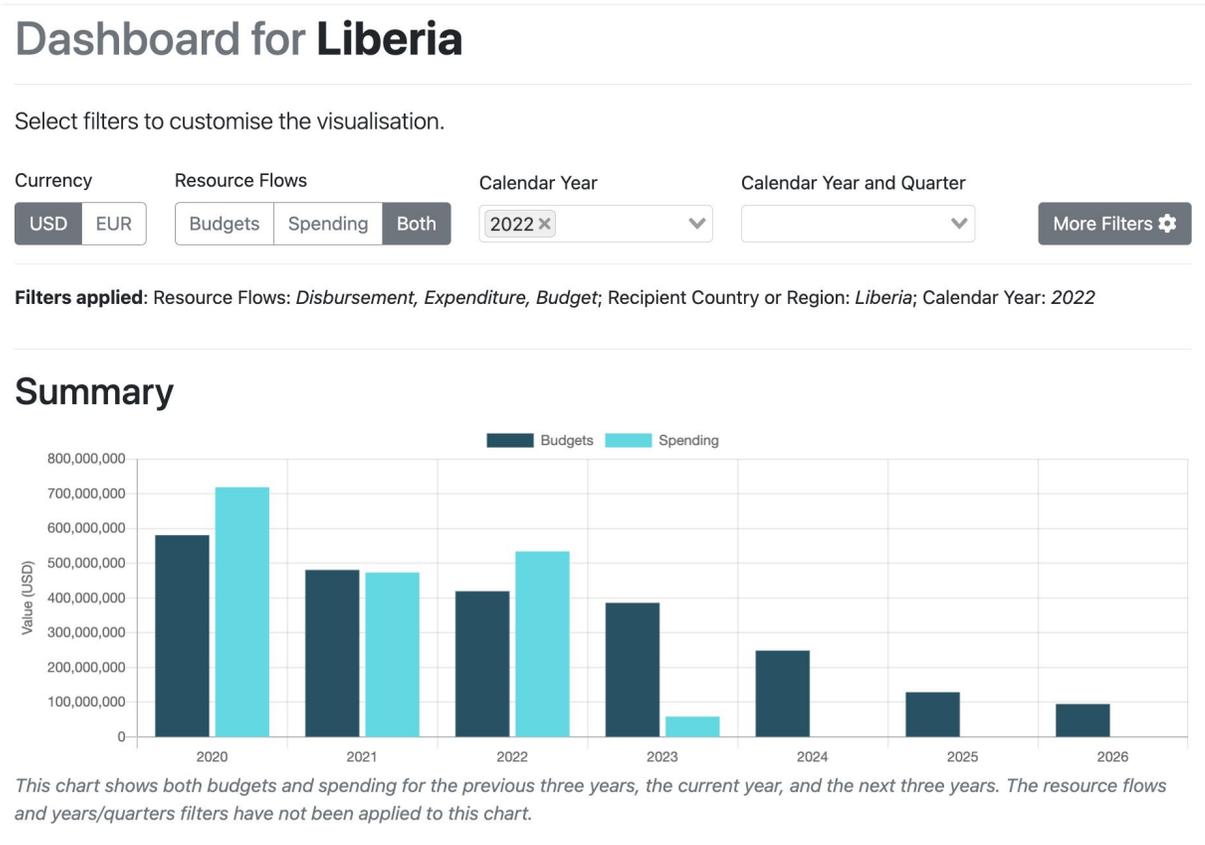
=> what lessons can we draw from this experience?

Lessons from this experience

Systems require:

- User-friendly data entry and reporting tools
- Summary view of the data by development partner or sector
- Simple to use without frequent training
- Data required for country-specific processes (budget, planning)
- A sustainable business model

A big step forward: Country Development Finance Data (IATI)



- Visualisation by reporting organisation, sector or country
- Customised dashboards
- Files formatted according to the needs of governments

Why a country system is still needed

- Data collection
 - Partial publication - need to supplement missing data
 - Non-publication - need to collect data for certain partners (+ govt)
 - Validation by development partners
- Policy questions
 - What should be included?
- Curation of data
 - Handling data quality issues
 - Overcoming double-counting
- Contextualisation of data
 - Budget classifications
 - Particular needs (functionalities, types of projects)

⇒ Respond to the **specific needs** of each country

2. Simplifying data collection

Using the Project Dashboard and IATI data



Tracking development across Liberia

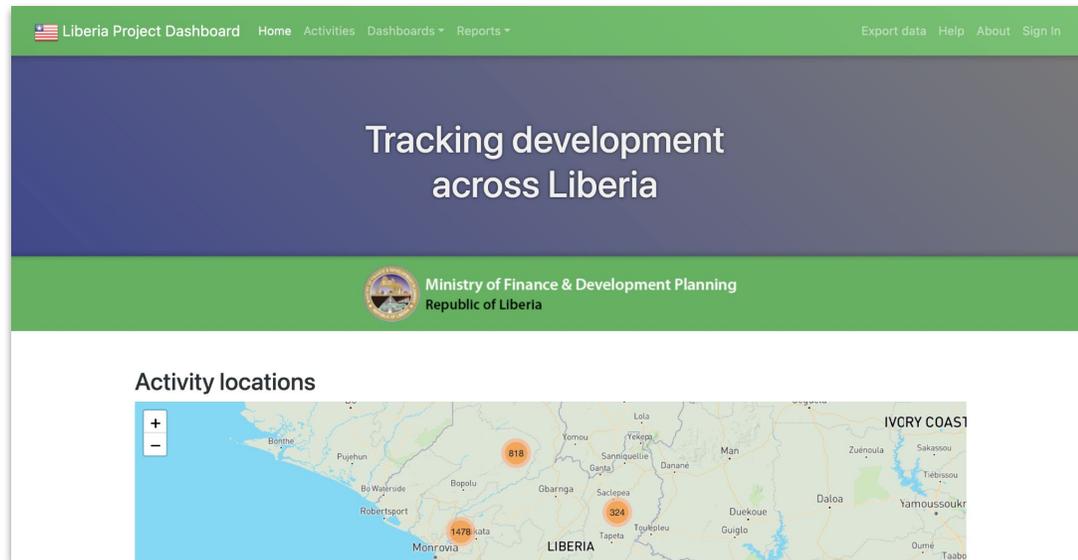


Ministry of Finance & Development Planning
Republic of Liberia

Activity locations



Liberia Project Dashboard



<https://liberiaprojects.org>

- Developed since 2019, for the Government of Liberia
- Made public in December 2020
- Since 2021: IATI import launched
- Financed by Sweden
- Continual development

Simplifying manual data collection

- Fast and user-friendly interface
 - Upload data using Excel templates
 - Monitoring data quality
- ... but also: IATI import

The screenshot displays the Liberia Project Dashboard interface. At the top, there is a green header with the text "Liberia Project Dashboard" and a hamburger menu icon. Below the header, the main content area is titled "Data quality" and includes a "Display as:" dropdown menu with options for "Checklist" and "Value". A sub-header "Excel reporting templates" is visible, followed by a descriptive paragraph. Below this, there is a "Download template" section with a sub-header "Download a template. Then, send it to the donor, as an email attachment." This section contains a "Select template type" section with two radio button options: "Disbursements (quarterly)" and "MTEF projections (annually)", with the latter selected. Below this is a "Selected template: Annual MTEF forward projections template" label. The "Select donor" section features a dropdown menu currently set to "All donors". Below that is a "Select currency" section with a dropdown menu set to "USD - U.S. Dollars". At the bottom of the form, there is a "Customise columns" button with a gear icon and a "Download template" button with a download icon.

Context: the IATI Accra Statement

INTERNATIONAL AID TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE ACCRA STATEMENT

4th September 2008

We, representatives of developed countries responsible for promoting development and Heads of multilateral and bilateral development institutions, and representatives of philanthropic foundations, meeting in Accra on 4 September 2008:

- Welcome the commitments in the draft Accra Agenda for Action by all donors to “*publicly disclose regular, detailed and timely information on volume, allocation and when, available, results of development expenditure to enable more accurate budget, accounting and audit by developing countries*”, “*support information systems for managing aid*”; and “*provide full and timely information on annual commitments and actual disbursements*”

Why use IATI data?

- 1. Improve data quality**
 - More detailed data
 - Automatic currency conversion
- 2. Reduce the burden of data collection**
 - Automated daily updates
 - Overcoming issue of donor responsiveness
 - Clearer process for reconciliation
 - Overcoming manual data entry challenges
- 3. Discover new activities**
 - Import detailed project data

Our strategy for using IATI data

1. **Prioritisation**

- The largest Development Partners (75% of spend)

2. **Validation**

- Contacting DP country offices
- ... and those at HQ (responsible for IATI publication)

3. **Integration**

- Technical work, taking into account differences in the data, as well as the benefits and challenges of the data published by each DP

Progress

Liberia is the only country with an IATI integration currently in use, using the Project Dashboard.

Automatically importing data for:

- African Development Bank
- European Union
- World Bank (*from Client Connection, so not fully automated*)

Undertaking further discussions with DPs before importing data for Sweden, UK and USAID.

How IATI import works:

1/ Select a project

The screenshot shows the Liberia Project Dashboard interface. The main page is titled "Edit activity: Supervision of electrical Works Contract" Monrovia Consolidation Transmission and Distribution". It features a navigation menu with tabs for Basic, Sectors, Locations, Finances, Conditions, and Results. The "Basic data" section includes fields for Dashboard ID (1427), Donor project code (XI-IATI-EC_INTPA-2017/383-889), and GoL project code (If known). A green notification box indicates the activity is connected to IATI. A modal window titled "Connect to IATI" is overlaid, showing a search process for IATI activity. The search results table lists the activity with its IATI identifier and title, and a "Select activity" button is highlighted.

Edit activity: Supervision of electrical Works Contract" Monrovia Consolidation Transmission and Distribution"

Dashboard ID: 1427
Donor project code: XI-IATI-EC_INTPA-2017/383-889
GoL project code: If known

Connected to IATI
This activity is connected to IATI and will automatically be updated for disbursement.

Connect to IATI

1. Select activity / 2. Merge projects (optional) / 3. Review / 4. Import

Search for IATI activity

Donor project code: 2017/383-889
If you know the donor project code, enter it here.

Search results
Select an activity below to begin import.

IATI Identifier	Title	Select activity
XI-IATI-EC_INTPA-2017/383-889	Supervision of electrical Works Contract" Monrovia Consolidation Transmission and Distribution"	Select activity

- Search for a project using the project code
- Retrieve data from Datastore Classic
- Select the relevant activity

(Example of an EU project)

How IATI import works: 2/ Verification through preview



- Shows a simple summary of data in IATI and in the Dashboard.
- Possibility to import data selectively (e.g. only disbursements, and not commitments).



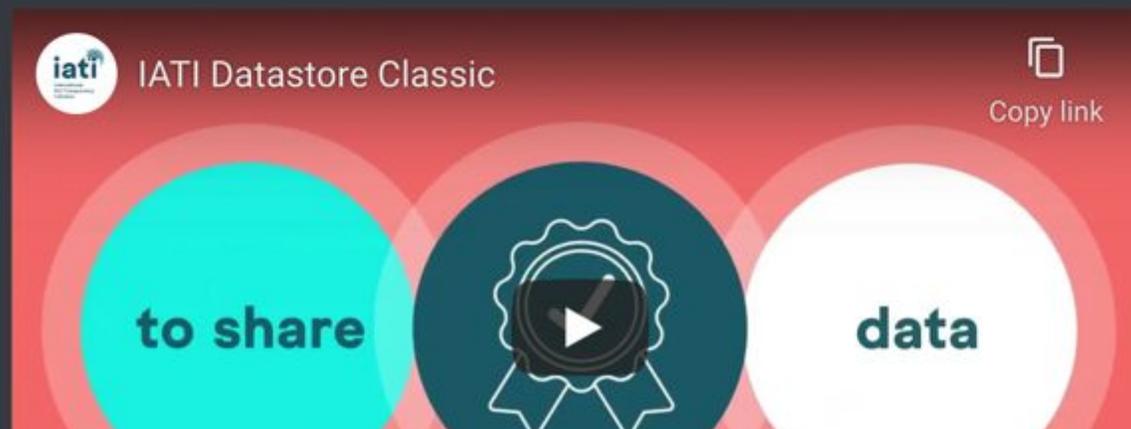
IATI Datastore Classic

The classic version of the IATI Datastore, reloaded.

Access **1,058,097** activities and **7,956,254** transactions.

Datastore fully operational

Last updated: 2 hours ago



Meeting our objectives



1. **Improve data quality**

- a. Avoid keying errors
- b. Handle currency conversion issues
- c. Obtain the full history of a project's transactions



2. **Reduce burden of data collection**

- a. Don't have to request quarterly disbursement data for imported projects
- b. Don't have to manually key in data, often for a large number of projects

3. **Discover new projects**

- a. Import detailed project data

Before import

Financial summary

Showing cumulative amounts over time.



**TSF component
(grant)**

Financial summary

Showing cumulative amounts over time.

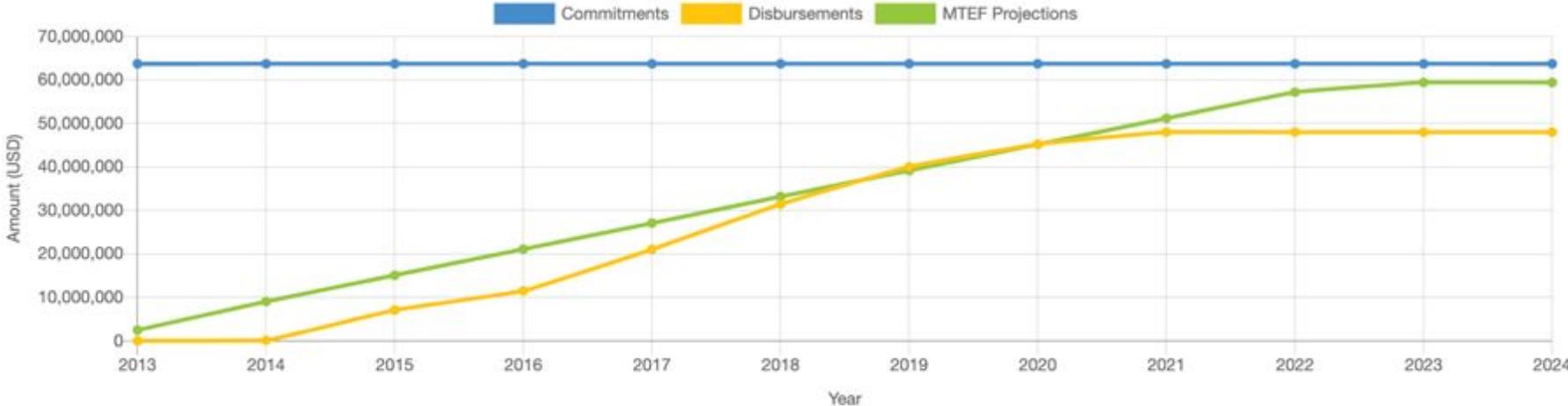


**ADF component
(loan)**

After import

Financial summary

Showing cumulative amounts over time.



Financial data

Display:

Summary **By Fund Source**

African Development Fund Loan 2100150029693



3. Turning attention back to development effectiveness

Using the Project Dashboard and IATI data



Counterpart funding

Are government and donor contributions well aligned?





Coordination

Do local health facilities have the medication they need?



African Development Bank

Planned / Actual Disbursements by Sector, over time

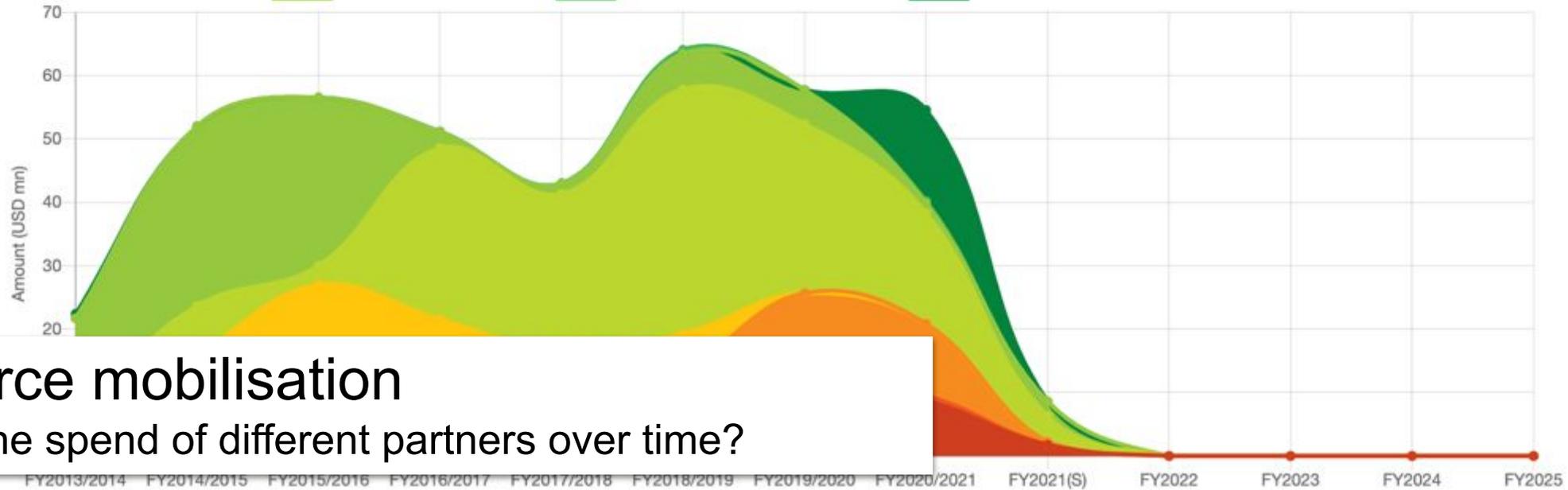
Planned Disbursements

Actual Disbursements

Area chart

Line chart

- AGRICULTURE
- EDUCATION
- ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
- HEALTH
- INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE
- INFRASTRUCTURE AND BASIC SERVICES
- PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
- SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
- TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY



Resource mobilisation
 What is the spend of different partners over time?



Sustainability

What happens at the end of donor financing?

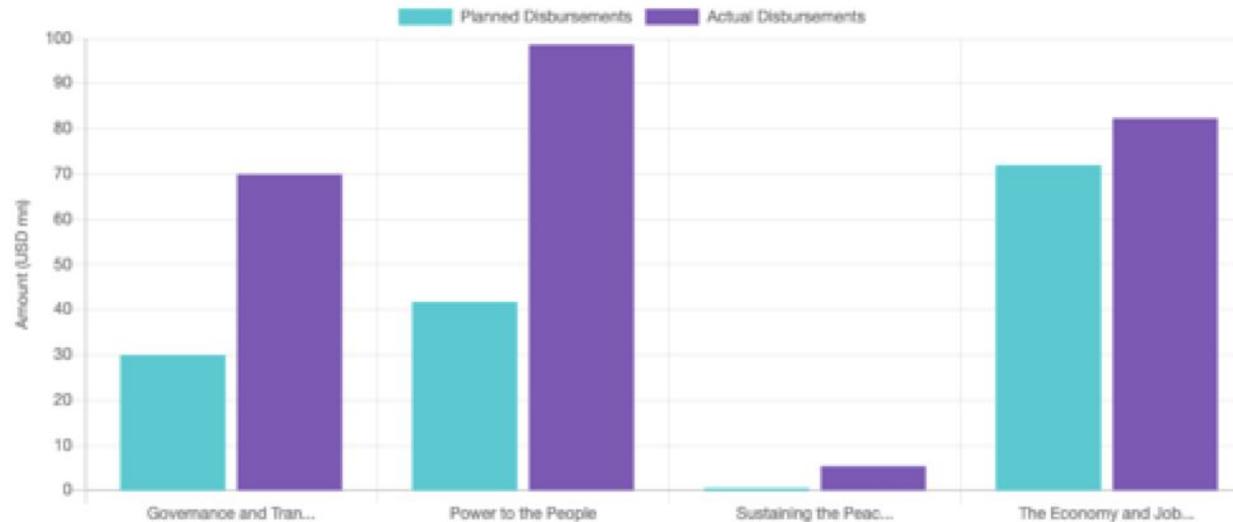
Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development

Planned and Actual Disbursement by PAPD Pillar

Fiscal year

Chart

Table



Planned / Actual Disbursements by PAPD Pillar, over time

Planned Disbursements

Actual Disbursements

Area Chart

Line Chart

Table

Alignment

Are projects aligned to the national development plan (PAPD)?



Results

Are projects delivering their intended benefits?

Results

These results were automatically captured from [this donor's IATI data](#).

Title	From	To	Target	Actual	%
Direct project beneficiaries	2011-09-01	2024-06-28	362905.00	330822.00	 91
Number of rural people with access to an all-season road	2011-09-01	2024-06-30	362905.00	288000.00	 79
Number of staff trained in road safety	2017-03-13	2024-06-30	50.00	0.00	
Number of women who have their livelihood and income restored	2017-03-13	2018-06-30	0.00	0.00	

Emergentally.

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