

IATI State of the Data Review 2025

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Executive Summary

This IATI State of the Data Review 2025 reports on the six months of analysis and community engagement carried out under the State of the Data (SotD) programme, which examines the usefulness of IATI data by focusing on specific themes.

Key Programme Successes

The 2025 State of the Data series ran three focused activities, each consisting of an analytical Briefing, Community Dialogues, and follow-up. The series generated strong engagement, with average participation exceeding 60 stakeholders per dialogue.

The three themes explored were:

- 1. IATI & document links:** This analysis investigated the publication of over 440,000 unique document links. A key finding was that only 57% of documents were accessible to the analysis tool. The activity highlighted the potential of IATI data for AI tooling and led to the idea of an "IATI Document Store" and a draft publishing guide.
- 2. IATI & Organisations:** This theme addressed the long-standing challenge of identifying and networking organisations. The analysis mapped over 17,000 organisations and created a daily-updated reference list. As a result of this work, a new function was introduced to the d-portal tool.
- 3. Timeliness:** This analysis found that, while relatively few organisations publish monthly or weekly, they account for the majority of reported activities. It highlighted the inconsistent use of `@last-updated-datetime`, and resulted in two draft IATI Standard update proposals.

Reflections and Recommendations

The programme confirmed the current usefulness of IATI data while providing suggestions for improvement.

The review notes a mixed success in follow-up. While the community showed strong engagement in data quality improvements and Standard change proposals were drafted, systematic capacity for follow-up on data quality across the ecosystem remains a challenge.

Moving Forward in 2026

The Secretariat proposes to treat SotD as an established product in 2026. To ensure continuous development and shared ownership, the following actions are recommended:

- Building in more community consultation and input;
- Prioritize follow-up activities by including them in the detailed work plan over 2026
- Integrate changes to the IATI Standard into the change control process

By adopting these recommendations, the IATI State of the Data programme can become a product that supports the sustained, collaborative improvement of IATI data.

Introduction

The IATI State of the Data Review 2025 compiles six months of learning, analysis, and engagement through the IATI State of the Data programme.

It draws from a series of briefings, community dialogues, and practical guidance to chart the performance and potential of IATI data, particularly in its role as a [Digital Public Good \(DPG\)](#).

IATI State of the Data programme

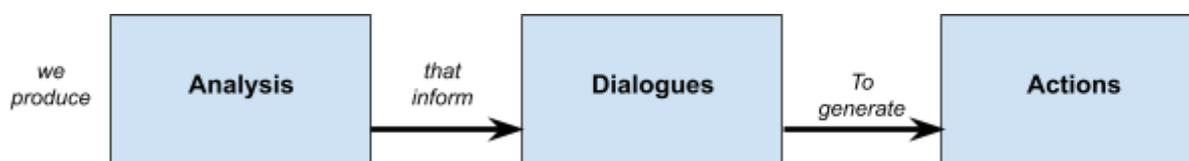
The IATI State of the Data programme is a body of work which focuses on specific, well-defined aspects of IATI data that directly impact its usefulness. It aims to understand the qualities and challenges of IATI data, presented in the context of use cases and policy considerations.

In 2025, we spent the first half of the year refining both the concept and the practicalities of the programme. This included analysis of USAID and European Union (EU) Member States' data, and engagement with community members to garner feedback and understand user needs.

From July 2025 onwards, we ran our first series of public State of the Data activities, with each one focusing on a particular aspect of IATI data. There were over 600 registrations for the five online dialogues. 84 people attended in person at the 2025 Community Exchange in Nairobi, with a further 31 registering online.

Methodology

Although the initial run of activities varied in structure, we established the following methodology for each State of the Data activity.



Analysis

State of the Data activities begin with an analysis briefing to the IATI community, deep diving into a specific theme.

These briefings are based on an interactive analysis of IATI data, presented in an online "notebook". Each of these contain background information, a methodology, and various pieces of analysis which can be explored. In some cases, this can be queried and presented for

specific IATI reporting organisations. The scripts and code that form each analysis are also openly available via a GitHub repository, making the work freely accessible to a technical audience.

The briefing is delivered in an online session, which introduces the theme and findings from the analysis. Community members are encouraged to engage with the briefing and discuss findings.

Dialogues

Following the briefing, a second session is dedicated to discussions among members of the IATI community. This is an opportunity to share their work and experience in the context of the topic, and to continue to build engagement. Specifically, the Dialogues aim to highlight relevant use cases and users of IATI data connected to the theme of the SotD activity.

The Dialogues also garners feedback from the audience: raising issues, adding understanding, and suggesting possible future developments in this area. It is an opportunity for both the IATI community and Secretariat to collaborate and share learnings from real-world experience.

Actions

To round off each State of the Data activity, we publish a summary of the key findings, discussion points, and potential actions. This may include guidance material for publishers and users of IATI data, or resources that will benefit the community. We also aim to highlight possibilities for larger follow-up work, for example changes to the IATI Standard, or the potential development of tooling.

The structure and delivery of these activities have been designed to surface challenges, highlight use cases, and inform standards and practice. They encourage openness, collaboration, and shared ownership of the IATI data ecosystem.

2025 State of the Data (SotD) series

SotD #1: IATI & document links

- **Announcement:** [Explore IATI State of the Data Analysis: How can half a million documents enhance aid transparency?](#)
- **Briefing:** [Document Links in an AI Era](#)
- **Briefing webinar:** Document Links in an AI Era, 8th July
- **Dialogue 2:** How AI is unlocking IATI data, 15th July
- **Post dialogue wrap up:** [What happened at IATI's First 'State of the Data' Dialogues?](#)

As data users increasingly engage with AI tooling, IATI represents a valuable data source. This deep dive investigated the use of links to published documents by users of the IATI Standard, and engaged with projects which already work with AI and IATI data.

Highlights

- Over 441,986 unique document links are published, by 929 reporting organisations.
- The most commonly linked documents are budgets, results, and objectives.
- The most common format of documents is PDF.
- Our analysis tool was blocked from accessing almost a quarter of documents.
- Live demonstrations from three organisations using IATI data in AI tooling.

Follow Up

The IATI Secretariat has maintained contact with the United Kingdom's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (through their Frontier Tech Hub) and their technology partners, Baobab. This has included a discussion about a potential new tool: the IATI Document Store. Document links from UNDP and other IATI publishers have also been ingested into the DevExplorer tool, for further community testing and discussion.

Building on this theme, Open Data Services have produced and published a report, looking specifically at the potential for [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) in the context of IATI](#).

Outputs

A set of **recommendations** (last page of the [streamlit](#)).

A **draft publishing guide** - see [Recommendations tab in IATI State of the Data: Document Links in an AI Era](#)

A draft **IATI Standard update proposal**, to remove the document-link sub-elements from the results element. For possible circulation following the launch of the [IATI Standard Change Process Pilot](#).

The **"IATI Document Store"** Concept (in development)

SotD #2: IATI & Organisations

- **Announcement:** [Interactive Analysis: 17,000 organisations across the delivery chain](#)
- **Analysis notebook:** [Aid In Motion](#)
- **Briefing webinar:** Aid in Motion, 17th September
- **Dialogue 2:** Aid in Motion, 30th September
- **Post dialogue recap:** [Aid in Motion: What We Learned About Making Organisations Visible](#)

A long-standing challenge in IATI data is the identification and networking of organisations engaged in aid and humanitarian efforts. This theme aimed to surface challenges and successes in the use of organisation references, and the potential to improve network-level insights.

Highlights

- Mapping of ~17,000 organisations involved in development and humanitarian efforts.
- A lookup tool to find existing reported references for a given organisation.
- Analysis showing the network of shared organisation identifiers between reporting organisations.
- Input from a peer initiative (360Giving) in terms of how they work with this challenge.

Follow Up

As the analysis runs daily, reporting organisations can proactively update their data and see improvements in real time. For example, following the first dialogue, we received the following message:

"I have noticed a bug in our machine: In 243 instances, we are currently not publishing the name of organisations even if we do publish the unique id. This is being taken care of asap."

Within the week, this error was corrected and resolved within the data, and reflected in the live analysis. This publisher also highlighted a small bug in the analysis which was quickly resolved, showing the power of collaborating with experts in the IATI community.

Outputs

An organisation reference list, consisting of all "valid" organisation identifiers in the IATI corpus, and a validated or most commonly used narrative (organisation name).

Updated daily, this resource is being used to drive updates to **participating organisation networking in d-portal**¹.

¹ [New d-portal features Enhance Traceability and Data Quality - iatistandard.org](#)

SotD #3: Timeliness

- **Announcement:** [Interactive Analysis: Nearly 900,000 Activities Reveal the Need for Timely Data](#)
- **Analysis notebook:** [Timely Data](#)
- **Dialogue 1:** Timeliness, 17th November
- **Dialogue 2:** State of the Data, Community Exchange, 27th November

A key strength of IATI data is its timeliness, enabling stakeholders to monitor development activities, make informed decisions and maintain trust in published data. This analysis investigated the various aspects of timeliness within IATI data, and how publishing patterns vary across reporting organisations.

The second dialogue for this theme was expanded to an in person session at the 2025 Community Exchange in Nairobi ([see recording](#)). Wider topics include the strategic direction for data quality in IATI and reflections from donor organisations and a partner government.

Highlights

- Twelve publishers are publishing weekly, covering a significant share of all IATI activities.
- While relatively few organisations publish at least monthly (53), they are responsible for the majority (51.57%) of reported activities.
- The IATI Dashboard metric for frequency and time lag is based solely on the use of transaction dates. There are other ways to explore, visualise and understand how IATI data relates to timeliness, by using the range of activity, budget and transaction dates.

Follow Up

A highlight of the Timeliness analysis is the ability of reporting organisations to access specific analytics regarding their organisation. Immediately following the first dialogue, we received outreach from reporting organisations regarding ruleset errors and how to resolve them.

Outputs

The use of **@last-updated-datetime** element was highlighted, as this is not in line with the original purpose of this data field. Currently, many organisations appear to be updating this for all activities every time they update their IATI publication, instead of updating it when a specific activity is updated.

Two draft **IATI Standard update proposals**, to clarify/add rules around use of the activity-date/@iso-date and the activity-status/@code attributes. For possible circulation following the launch of the IATI Standard Change Process Pilot.

A potential **update to the IATI dashboard timeliness metrics**, which could also impact the use of this measure in PWYF's Aid Transparency Index. Deeper analysis, discussion with the community, some of which will be part of the data quality consultation process, and consideration of the existing measures, will be needed before taking any steps on this.

State of the Data: Reflections

Each briefing and dialogue has demonstrated the current usefulness of IATI data, while also exploring areas where improvements can be made, meeting the intention of the State of the Data Programme to understand both the qualities *and* challenges of IATI data.

The decision to focus on specific, well-defined aspects of IATI data has enabled us to perform analysis in greater detail, providing analysis and insight that has not been previously available to the IATI community through the Secretariat.

Two rounds of consultations per topic enabled both technical and non-technical stakeholders to discuss issues and propose improvements. Average participation across these dialogues exceeded 60 stakeholders per session, reflecting strong engagement from the IATI community.

The challenge to maintain follow-ups

Each briefing and its dialogues have also surfaced fresh questions that could be investigated within the specific aspect examined, whether that be document-links, organisation networking or timeliness.

Similarly, each briefing and dialogue has led to discussions about:

- data quality follow-up,
- changes to the IATI Standard, and
- potential new tools and services.

We have had some success following up on data quality with engaged organisations, but have not found capacity for a systematic approach. Considering the range of actions:

- The relevant changes to the IATI Standard have been proposed/drafted;
- The organisation list is available, updated daily and integrated into d-portal;
- The IATI Document Store is currently no more than an idea.

This represents a mixed success in achieving all the possible benefits from the State of the Data Programme. Some of this can be attributed to the need to produce three briefings in the final six months of the year, but not all. Moving to a possible Minimum Viable Service Product in 2026 will present us with additional challenges to make the most of this work.

Building in greater community co-design

We took the first half of 2025 to trial analyses and define the components of the State of the Data Programme. This led to us following a methodology for the three briefings and dialogues in the second half of the year that has proven to be a successful model.

The results of our work have been made openly available, and we have purposefully sought out community involvement to support the dialogues. The development of the programme was done solely by the IATI Secretariat.

Recommendations and Next Steps

The State of the Data programme will continue in the 2026 work plan. To ensure this continues to contribute inputs to the initiative, the following next steps are considered:

- For the first SotD focus of 2026 (sub-national location data) we will begin with a lightweight briefing (rather than a full analysis) to help stimulate discussion and use cases from the outset;
- We will further solicit ideas and suggestions for the SotD programme through IATI community fora and dedicated surveys
- We will seek more communications support to highlight possible actions and follow-ups to any SotD activity (rather than publicly ending the cycle with the last dialogue)
- We will tightly plan the resources needed for each SotD activity, in accordance with budget constraints of the 2026 work plan

In 2026, we will treat the State of the Data as a product that we will continue to develop and that will create further briefings and dialogues.

Alignment with the Strategic Plan 2026–2030

From 2026 onwards, the State of the Data programme will be aligned with delivery under the [Strategic Plan 2026–2030](#), particularly Action Area B on *strengthening IATI's infrastructure and data quality*.

Evidence and insights generated through State of the Data will feed directly into the “*Reimagining Data Quality – A User-Centric Approach*” launched in Quarter 1 of 2026. This work will consult with distinct stakeholder groups on how to improve data quality based on real user needs and decision-making contexts. The findings will support the development of clearer data-quality baselines, improved diagnostics and enhancements to IATI tools including the IATI Dashboard.

Findings from State of the Data analyses will also help inform refinements to the Standard, or adjustments to supporting tools may be needed. This includes input into the work of IATI's **Standard Oversight Committee** (launched in 2026) which will guide improvements and oversight of the Standard.

In this way, State of the Data will not operate as a standalone analytical series, but as a structured evidence mechanism informing governance decisions, standard updates and practical infrastructure improvements across the initiative.