

IATI Strategic Plan Results Monitoring Report 2021

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1. Executive Summary

This report outlines results from the second annual monitoring of the [2020-2025 IATI Strategic Plan](#), considering progress made and challenges encountered in implementing the Strategic Plan throughout 2021. It is not meant to be an exhaustive list of activities carried out by IATI in 2021, however this report should be considered as a performance monitoring and evaluation tool useful in assessing where progress has been made toward achieving goals as set out in the Strategic Plan, and where additional efforts are needed. Based on the analysis and preliminary recommendations provided from this report, the IATI Results Working Group (RWG) will develop a proposal of recommendations for the Governing Board and members on refinements to the [Strategic Plan Results Framework](#) while advising on the scope of the Mid-Term-Review to ensure the Results Framework Methodology remains measurable, and fit-for-purpose towards achieving the Initiative's core objectives.

2. Key findings

Improving the quality of IATI data

- Assessed by current data quality metrics (via the [IATI Dashboard](#)), data quality results regressed “overall” in 2021 when aggregating performance across publisher groups¹, with 20.7% of publishers demonstrating overall progress (compared with the 2021 target of 36%). Publishers among the >1B spend category made progress overall, and in the comprehensive and forward-looking nature of their data; however, overall progress in all other spend categories regressed in 2021. Consistent forward-looking and the timeliness of data remains a challenge across publisher groups.
- In 2021, only 20.1% of active publishers published at least quarterly or more, compared with a slightly higher performance in 2020 (26.3%) --- the aspirational 2021 target of 52.8% was not met. All sizes of publishers published less frequently in 2021, which could potentially be explained by competing priorities which may still be owed to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Assessed by data quality metrics (via the [IATI Validator](#))² the percentage of publishers reducing ‘Error Types’ improved across all spend categories compared to baseline performance in 2020, with 43.6% of publishers reducing Error Types; however, this falls short of the 2021 target set at 48.3%. In addition, there was a regression in the overall percentage of publishers decreasing ‘warning types’ when comparing 2020 baseline performance to 2021.
- When looking at total annual spend as a proxy for the size of the publishing organisation and volume of data published to IATI, publishers spending between 1 million and 1 billion USD on development cooperation annually are making more progress towards publishing data in all [mandatory elements](#) than those spending more than 1 billion USD annually.
- In gauging user satisfaction of IATI publishing tools, 73% of 52 publisher respondents expressed satisfaction with the functionality of the IATI Registry in terms of ease of registering their organisation and linking their data. This is a major improvement from the preceding reporting period of 52% and meeting the 2021 target set at 72%. For the IATI Validator, 83% of respondents indicated a level of satisfaction in the ability of the IATI Validator to help improve the quality of publishing their data overall; an improvement from the previous year (56%), and surpassing the 2021 satisfaction target for the Validator (77%).

Improving the systematic use of IATI data

- Interest in accessing data, the first step toward data use, increased in 2021. Unique visits to d-portal increased from over 43,000 visitors in 2020 to over 53,000 in 2021, compared with the 2021 goal of 30,000. While the Country Development Finance Data (CDFD) tool was only launched at the end of Q1 2021, there were over 1,600 visitors to CDFD. Moreover, the number of IATI partner country governments systematically using IATI data for decision-making increased to six (Nigeria, Chad, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, Lesotho, and Liberia) exceeding the 2021 target for Outcome Indicator 2.2.
- During 2021 efforts to increase the systematic use of IATI data are having a positive impact. The burgeoning interest in using IATI tools is demonstrated through the consistent gains in the numbers of visitors accessing the d-portal and the Country Development Finance Data (CDFD) tool. Moreover, there

¹ For analytical purposes, publishers have been grouped as follows, based on total annual spend publishers to IATI: >1B USD; > 100M & <= 1B USD; > 10M & <= 100M USD; > 1M & <= 10M USD; <= 1M USD.

² Introduced in September 2020, the IATI Validator is an online tool for checking if data aligns with the rules and guidance of IATI Standard. It allows users to check and improve the quality of IATI data to ensure it is accessible and useful to anyone working with data on development and humanitarian resources and results.

is increasing demand from the community to receive trainings in how to use the tools; this is reflected in the growing number of trainings the IATI Secretariat is providing for Publishers, partner country governments, and CSOs and other organisations (Output Indicators 2.b.i/ii/iii).

- 2021 Annual Survey: There was a significant improvement in the number of respondents overall with over 120 responses in total, that's almost doubled from the previous survey. While the Members/Publisher survey received 100 responses, the response rate for the Data Use survey continued to lag behind with only 25 respondents. When aggregating responses from both surveys, for d-Portal, 43 out of 56 responses expressed they were "Satisfied or "Somewhat Satisfied with the tool --- That's a 77% satisfaction rating for the d-Portal, the most popular tool among IATI data users; an improvement from performance in 2020 (65.7%) and surpassing the 2021 target set at 72%. For CDFD, 75% out of the 40 responses received indicated that they were "Satisfied" or "Somewhat Satisfied" in the ability of CDFD to find the data they were looking for. If we look at the constituency of 'partner country governments' as a proxy of user satisfaction, 66% of partner countries expressed a level of satisfaction with finding the data they were looking for.

Strengthening the IATI community

- [IATI Connect](#), which was launched in November 2020, continued to demonstrate progress, with the number of people who created accounts (150 new accounts) meeting the 2021 target, and the number of contributing users (50 users) (i.e. people who engaged with Connect content), also meeting the target set.
- In 2021, nearly 100,000 unique visitors navigated the [IATI website](#), almost double the 2020 result of nearly 58,000 visitors; however, this falls short of the 2021 target of 115,000 visitors. Community engagement on Twitter increased only slightly (only about half of the expected number of impressions were achieved in 2021: 300,100 versus the target of 458,590) and less than half of the expected number of mentions - 331 versus the goal of 812). This represents a continued drop in online engagement and outreach from 2019. However, measures of engagement with other social media channels including through LinkedIn, Facebook and Whatsapp are not yet measured in the IATI Results Framework.
- Membership of the initiative rose in 2021, including two new "providers of development cooperation," and one new member in both the "partner country governments" and "CSOs and others" constituency groups. Nonetheless, the growth target for establishing new partnerships was not achieved for the second consecutive year.
- Membership attendance at the annual Members' Assembly (Outcome Indicator 3.2) increased among the "CSOs and others" constituency group with 62.9% of the group attending the event in December 2021, compared with 56% in 2020; this also surpasses the 2021 target for CSOs set at 61%. However, the overall attendance to the IATI Members' Assembly decreased in 2021. This may partly be attributed to the virtual format of the meeting; nonetheless, membership attendance at the annual Members Assembly has trended downwards over the last few years. For the latest Assembly meeting held in December 2021, 55.6% of members attended the event virtually -- slightly less than the 59% of membership attending in 2020, and even less than the 63% attending in 2019. There were fewer in attendance for the Members' Assembly in 2021 with 103, compared to 2020 with 155 attending.

3. Introduction

The International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) [Strategic Plan \(2020-2025\)](#) sets out a clear direction for the initiative's next five years, aimed at capitalising on its strengths, addressing its weaknesses, and maximising its contribution towards achieving sustainable development outcomes. The Strategic Plan was

drafted and approved following [broad consultation with the IATI community](#) and later with its membership, and sets out four mutually reinforcing objectives. These are:

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

To ensure that measurable objectives are kept in sight during implementation of the Strategic Plan, IATI has also developed a complementary [Results Framework](#), which translates the Strategic Plan's goals into a set of measurable targets that demonstrate how the IATI membership, Secretariat, and Governing Board will prioritise efforts to deliver on the agreed mandate and vision through 2025.

Beginning in 2019, the IATI governance structure engaged in a wide-ranging and consultative process to ensure that the Results Framework includes input from its diverse set of members. The process involved consultations with members at the Members' Assembly in Brussels; input from a Working Group composed of IATI members; and a round of written comments from the IATI membership, which were accepted where they were technically feasible and in line with the Results Framework's strategic objectives. The outcomes and indicators were endorsed by the IATI Governing Board in mid-2019 and the Results Framework's comprehensive [methodology](#) was subsequently drafted by the IATI Secretariat.

Contextualising Results

IATI's Strategic Plan (2020-2025) sets out a clear direction for the initiative's next five years, aimed at capitalising on its strengths, addressing its weaknesses, and maximising its contribution towards achieving sustainable development outcomes. A five-year framework of priorities, internally developed by the Secretariat and approved by the membership community, sequences work and related activities that need to be accomplished to ensure the aims of the Strategic Plan are met by 2025. Approaching the mid-point, progress made in Year 2 of implementation of the Strategic Plan (2021) should begin to be used as a barometer to ensure work is on-track to improve systematic data use, improve the quality of IATI data, strengthen the IATI technical core, and engage the IATI community by 2025. For a complete picture of activities conducted in 2021 in support of meeting the Strategic Plan aims, see the [IATI 2021 Annual Report](#).

The Results Framework should be considered as adaptive, subject to revision and reassessment by the membership on the basis of its utility for decision-making and learning over time. To this end, the objective of this monitoring report is to provide objective analysis and observations based on 2021 findings, and to inform the Governing Board and IATI members on the performance of the Initiative. Moreover, this provides the IATI Results Working Group with preliminary observations to assess the adequacy of the indicators and possible changes to the Framework for further consideration by the IATI Governing Board and membership post-2022.

IATI Results Working Group

Following the endorsement by the 2021 Members' Assembly to establish an official IATI Results Working Group (RWG),³ the RWG was constituted in March 2022, in line with IATI's [Standard Operating Procedures \(SOP\)](#) for working groups, to steward key actions as outlined in the [Terms of Reference \(ToR\)](#) for this group,

³ Henceforth referred to as 'RWG.' In line with IATI Standard Operating Procedures, the selection of RWG members followed a transparent process whereby the following were recorded: expressions of interest, criteria for selection (region, expertise, constituency, gender balance, etc.). The RWG is constituted of only IATI members who possess extensive technical expertise critical for measuring the implementation progress of the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan Results Framework; areas of expertise among the candidates include monitoring and evaluation theories of change, change management processes, programme/project management, and stakeholder engagement. Moreover, the RWG represents a balanced constituency among the IATI Community, with members among Providers of Development Cooperation, Civil-Society Organisations, and Partner Country Governments.

and propose recommendations to the Governing Board on the scope of the Mid-term Review work of the Strategic Plan and Results Framework. Based on the analysis and preliminary recommendations presented in this 2021 monitoring report, the RWG will develop recommendations for the Governing Board and members to consider on refinements for the Strategic Plan Results Framework, while advising on the scope of the Mid-Term Review to ensure the Results Framework Methodology remains measurable, and fit-for-purpose towards achieving the Initiative’s core objectives.

4. Data Collection

Overall monitoring approach

In principle, the Results Framework is based on priorities identified by IATI members in order to be able to evaluate progress in implementing the IATI Strategic Plan. The Results Framework [methodology](#) follows a mixed-methods approach to performance monitoring and evaluation of the Strategic Plan, utilising a combination of surveys to members, publishers, and data users; data collection from IATI systems and tools; third-party tools including Google and Twitter analytics. Moreover, Tableau visualisations and interactive dashboards were developed this year to expand the visualisation of indicator results where feasible.

As outlined in the methodology, the data source for some of the Results Framework indicators is a set of two annual surveys, which aim to collect data and assess progress against the Results Framework by gathering information from members of the IATI community. Given that IATI is an open data standard decentralised by nature, it is often difficult to understand where and by whom the data is being used and where progress is being made. For the 2021 round of monitoring, the IATI Secretariat launched two online surveys: one dedicated for IATI members and / or publishers; and, the second for data users. Both surveys remained open from 18 March to 26 May 2022 and followed a proactive engagement approach, publicising the surveys through multiple communications channels. As a result of extending the response window for the surveys and consistent follow-up with the community, the response rate vastly improved for the second round of monitoring, with the aggregated total of responses almost doubling the responses received for the 2020 survey.

Monitoring has been limited by what can be measured and what data is available, both challenges linked to the fact that IATI is an open data standard and dependent to a large extent on self-reporting of progress by stakeholders. A “Reflections and Learning” segment has been included in this report to examine where measuring impact can be improved in subsequent monitoring exercises.

The final segment of this report also provides an “Overview of recommendations for the Results Framework” for the RWG to consider for refining indicators and methodology to enhance subsequent monitoring exercises. Moreover, to capture stories of progress and results, as well as the impact that IATI data is having on the ground, [Annex 1](#) showcases an overview of impact stories recorded from the annual survey, and 4 case studies are provided demonstrating the impact IATI data is having for different stakeholders. In addition, a complete monitoring table matrix is provided in [Annex 2](#), providing a snapshot picture of progress achieved in 2021. To also build on the lessons learned derived from the first round of annual monitoring, [Annex 3](#) provides an overview of the minor adjustments approved by the RWG in March 2022 which were applied for monitoring 2021 results.

5. 2021 Results

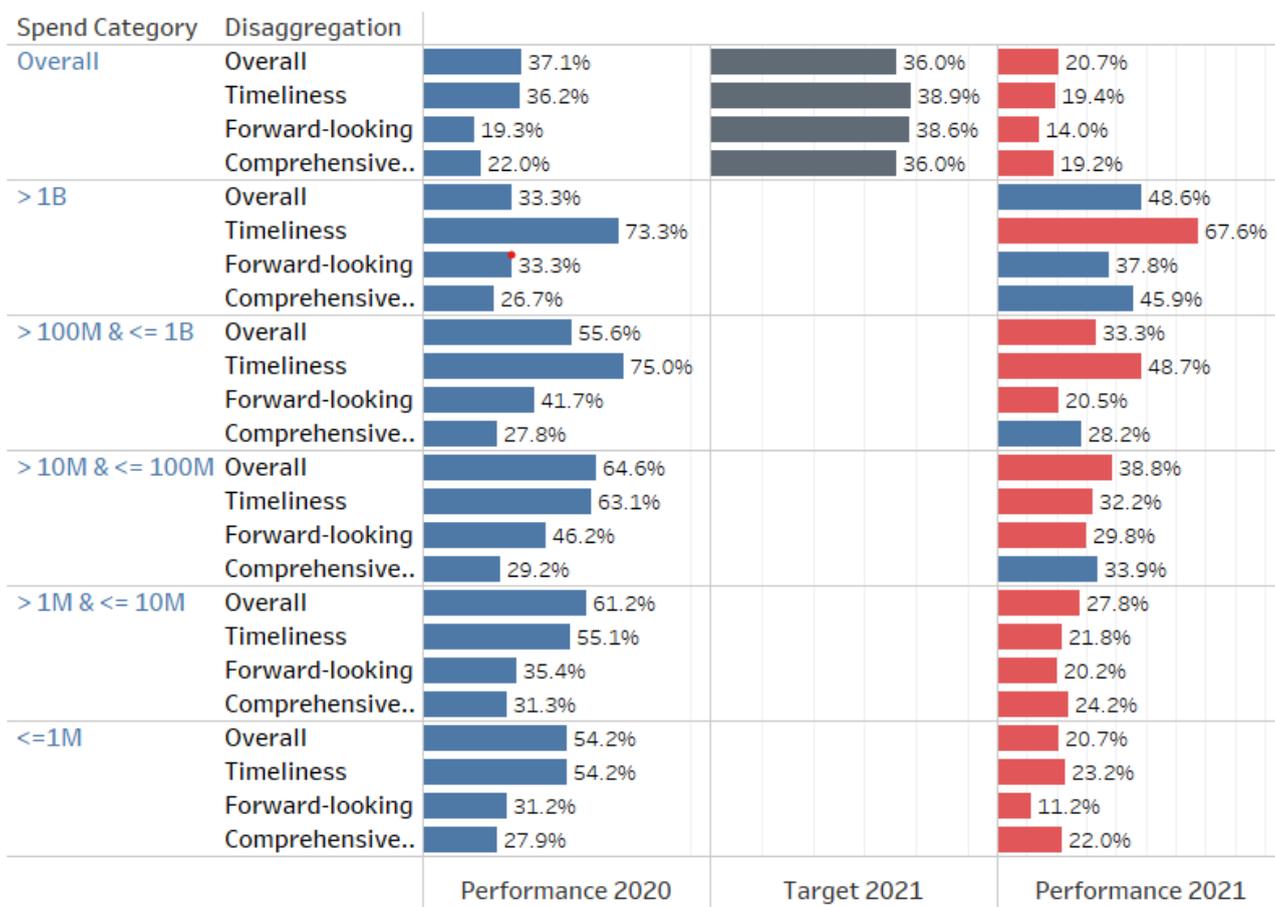
A. Strategic Plan Objective 1: Significant improvement in the quality of data published to IATI

Publishing to IATI is voluntary, and quality of IATI data, as with all other open data, lies in the commitment of publishers to publish open, comprehensive, and timely data. Gains were achieved in the percentage of publishers reducing ‘Error Types’ when comparing the 2020 baseline performance to 2021. Nonetheless, the overall performance in data quality as measured by the IATI Dashboard regressed, along with the timeliness of data published to IATI. Consistent forward-looking and the timeliness of data remain a challenge across publisher groups.

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

At the outcome level (Indicator 1.2), the overall improvement of IATI data quality is currently assessed through changes to publishers’ scores (via the [IATI Dashboard](#)), which outline progress in achieving better timeliness, comprehensiveness, and forward-looking data, and attempt to incentivise publishers to make necessary changes to their internal practices. As reflected in Graphic 1 provided below, progress towards improving data quality slowed overall with 20.7% of publishers demonstrating overall progress (compared with the 2021 target of 36%). Publishers among the >1B spend category made progress overall, and in the comprehensiveness and forward-looking nature of their data; however, progress in all other spend categories regressed overall in 2021. Consistent forward-looking and timely data remains a challenge for the majority of publisher groups.

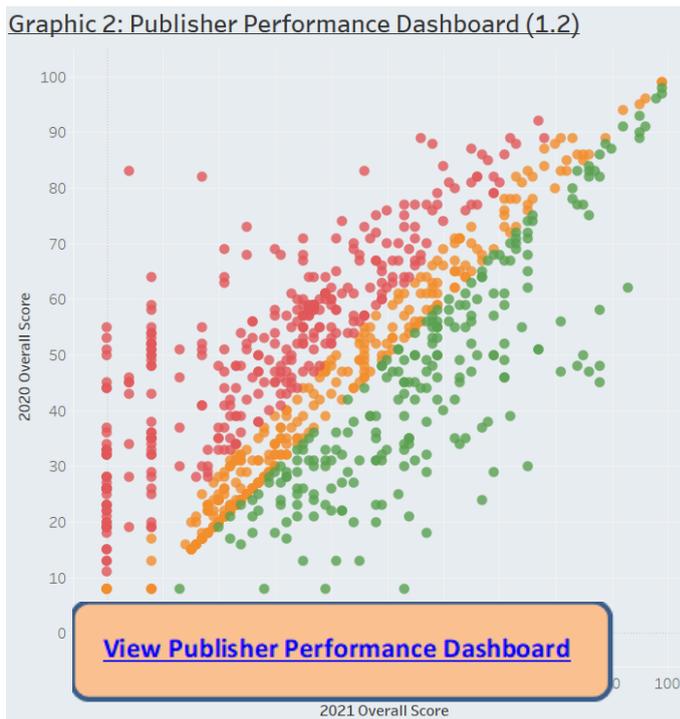
Graphic 1: % of publishers with score increase, or 100% maintained



When looking at total annual spend as a proxy for the size of the publishing organisation and volume of data published to IATI in 2021, publishers spending over 1 billion USD made the greatest improvements in the overall quality of their publishing according to IATI Dashboard metrics. This differs from 2020 where publishers spending between 1 million and 1 billion USD had made the greatest improvement, outperforming publishers over the 1 billion USD annual spend.

To further compare individual publisher performance from 2020 to 2021, view the [IATI Results Framework Dashboard - Outcome Indicator 1.2](#), Graphic 2 to discover how publishers are ranked (as measured by the [IATI Dashboard](#)).

The online dashboard provides further drill-down capability of this indicator, where publishers are ranked and compared across spend categories. Filters are built into the dashboard to further disaggregate by spend categories and publisher organisation type.



Outcome Indicator 1.1 Percentage of publishers whose Data Quality Index score increases above baseline

In the future, the goal is for data quality, at the outcome indicator level, be measured by a new Data Quality Index (Outcome Indicator 1.1), at which time Outcome Indicator 1.2 will be phased out. The new Data Quality Index was a recommendation of the initial Results Framework Working Group and is intended to be a strong political catalyst for publishers, driving them towards better publishing practices and closer adherence to the IATI Standard to improve the usability of the data. Consultations with the IATI community are currently ongoing to further develop the Data Quality Index into 2022.

OVERVIEW OF OUTPUTS TOWARDS OUTCOME 1	
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 types⁴ • Output Indicator 1.a.iv Percentage of users satisfied with IATI technical tools (including IATI Registry, Datastore / Query Builder, Validator, d-Portal or successor tool)

⁴ Or maintain 0 errors or warnings once achieved.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Output Indicator 1.a.v Percentage of publishers publishing every quarter or more
Output 1.b IATI Standard strengthened to improve data quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Output Indicator 1.b.i “Standardised” Standard⁵ 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 Guidelines⁶ that specify how data <i>must</i> and <i>should</i> be reported

At the output level, results on the improvement of IATI data quality are underscored by **improved tools and guidance** and the **strengthening of the IATI Standard**. As the collection of performance data on these output indicators continues to progress, baseline values established in 2020 can now be comparatively assessed with the performance results gathered in 2021.⁷ Nevertheless, three out of the eight output indicators have no value for year 2021⁸ with data collection processes and baselines to be developed in 2022 and later in the Strategic Plan period. Therefore, for 2021, there are five output indicators to help analyse performance and progress in improving IATI data quality. These indicators monitor:

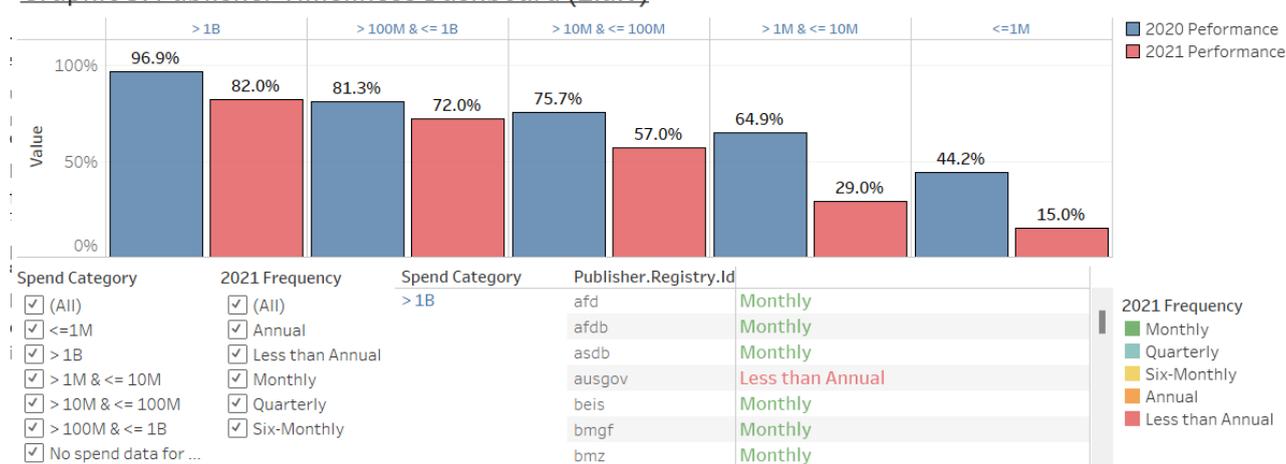
- The percentage of publishers publishing every quarter or more (**Output Indicator 1.a.v**);
- The percentage of publishers who reduce their number of validation errors and warning types as assessed by the IATI Validator (**Output Indicator 1.a.iii**).
- The percentage of publishers publishing data 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, Datastore / Query Builder, Validator, d-Portal, and the Country Development Finance Data tool (CDFD) (**Output Indicator 1.a.iv**);

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

For IATI data to be most useful for data users, timeliness of data and regular updates to publishers’ datasets are crucial. As such, availability of data that is kept up to date at least quarterly (the IATI best practice) contributes to an improvement in the overall quality of IATI data. In 2021, only 20.1% of publishers published at least quarterly or more, compared with a slightly higher performance in 2020 (26.3%) --- the aspirational 2021 target of 52.8% was not met. All sizes of publishers published less frequently in 2021.

To identify individual publisher performance in the timeliness of their reporting, the interactive dashboard provided below ([Graphic 3](#)) can be accessed [here](#). The dashboard denotes individual publisher progress in the frequency of their reporting. Filters are built into the visual to further disaggregate by spend categories and frequency of reporting in 2021.

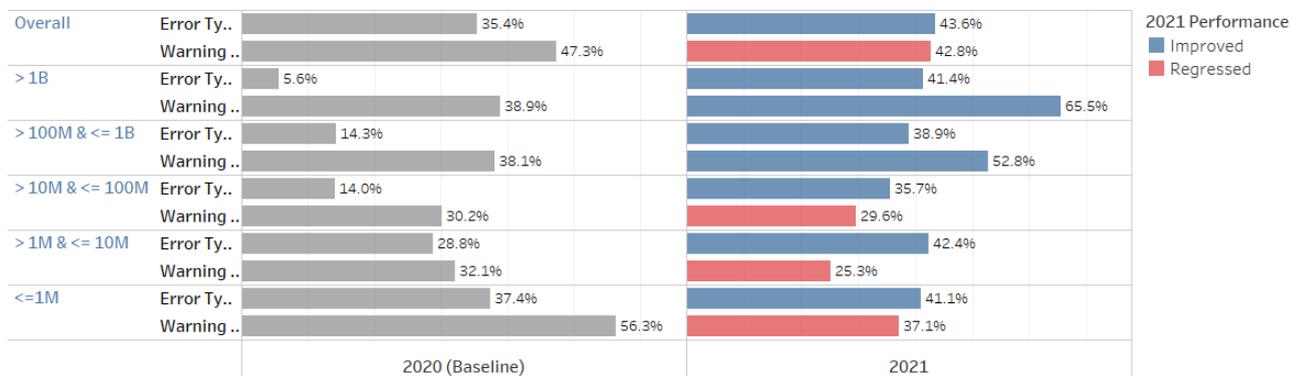
Graphic 3: Publisher Timeliness Dashboard (1.a.v)



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 launch of the IATI Validator, first introduced in September 2020 to support publishers in checking the quality of their data against IATI Standard, underpins ongoing data quality efforts. This indicator assesses the proportion of IATI publishers who reduced the number of types of validation errors and warnings that are generated when their datafiles are checked by the IATI Validator for each year. The percentage of publishers reducing 'Error Types' improved across all spend categories compared to the baseline performance in 2020, with 43.6% of publishers reducing Error Types; however, this did not meet the 2021 target of 48.3%. There was, however, a reduction in the overall percentage of publishers decreasing 'warning types' when comparing 2020 baseline performance to 2021.

Graphic 4: % of Publishers reducing Validation Error/Warning Types (1.a.iii Snapshot)



While errors are more common for larger publishers, 41% of publishers with more than \$1 billion reduced Error Types in 2021; a significant improvement compared with the 2020 baseline with 94% of the same category having errors. As the above figure illustrates, when comparing results across spend categories, larger publishers spending at least \$100 million and over \$1 billion outperformed the smaller publishers spending less than \$100 million.

To allow for further comparability of individual publisher performance from 2020 to 2021, view the online dashboard provided [here](#) in [Graphic 5](#) to drill-down the indicator and examine how individual publishers are

Graphic 5: Publisher performance drill-down (1.a.iii)

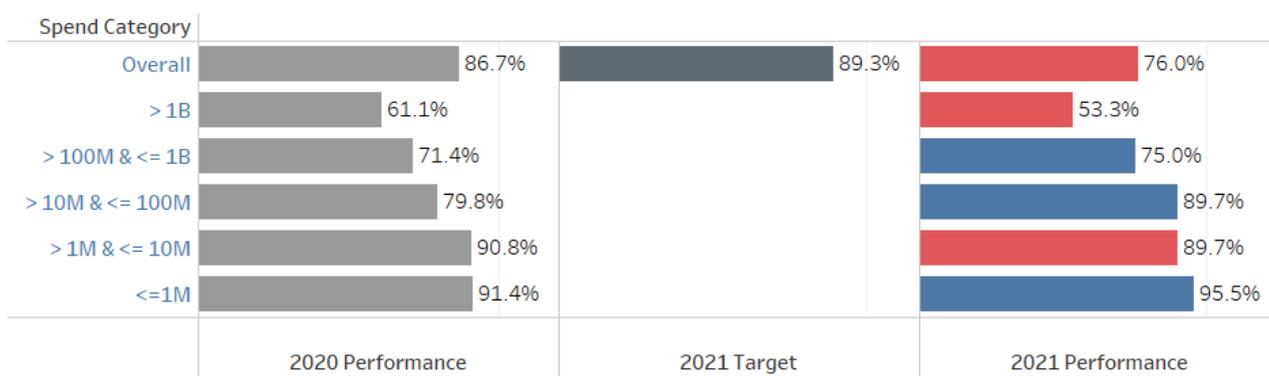


ranking in terms of reducing both Validation error types and warning types, as measured by the IATI Validator. Filters are built in to further disaggregate by spend categories and publisher organisation type.

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

As assessed by the IATI Validator, this indicator measures the proportion of all IATI publishers who are publishing data for all of the mandatory fields of the Standard in both organisation and activity files. A publisher is assessed to be publishing data for all mandatory fields if they have not omitted this data in any of their organisation or activity files (i.e. 100% reporting of mandatory fields). Any missing mandatory elements will generate a critical validation error which indicates that the datafile is not schema compliant. The goal is for all publishers to publish data for all of the mandatory elements which will contribute to an improvement in IATI data quality.

Graphic 6: % of Publishers publishing in all Mandatory Fields (1.b.ii Snapshot)



When comparing results from 2020 to 2021, overall publisher performance regressed with 76% of publishers publishing data in all mandatory fields, compared to 2020 performance of 86.7%; therefore, the 2021 target of 89.3% was not achieved. When analysing spend category performance for this indicator, smaller publishers spending less than \$100 million outperformed the larger publishers spending at least \$100 million and over \$1 billion for the second year in-a-row.

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

This indicator assesses the proportion of publishing tools that integrate the IATI Validator. The new IATI Validator can be linked to IATI publishing tools and provides a stand-alone service offering API endpoints for both the IATI Schema and Ruleset validation. If the IATI Validator is integrated into a publishing tool, this will enable data quality checks and contribute to an improvement in data quality.

The results for this indicator are derived primarily from the self-reporting by publishers on whether their tools or systems integrate the IATI Validator. This self-reporting was done through the annual survey shared with IATI publishers.⁹ After analysing the responses among IATI publishers, 12% of 60 known publishing tools identified in the survey are integrating the IATI Validator; while 35% of publishers using “In-house” publishing tools systems, and 33% using “publishing services (e.g. Aidstream)” confirmed integration in the survey.

Given the low-response rate of the 2020 Annual survey from members and publishers, there exists no baseline to comparatively assess 2021 performance for this indicator. The performance achieved in 2021 will set the baseline for this indicator going forward. Reflecting on the data collection limitations for this indicator, full integration with the Validator would involve seamless, automatic use of the API within an

⁹ Given the low-response rate of the 2020 Annual survey from Members and Publishers, comparatively assessing 2020 vs 2021 performance of this indicator is limited. The performance achieved in 2021 should distinguish the baseline for this indicator going forward.

organisation's publishing workflow and tools; but some publishers utilise the Validator API in an ad-hoc fashion, while others simply view their validation reports on the Validator website. The baseline data collected for 2021 did not differentiate between these different use cases, and therefore it is difficult to ascertain exactly how publishers were utilising the Validator. The data shows several publishers have reported using the API to validate files, but this alone does not confirm full integration.

Graphic 7: % of Publishing Tools integrating the IATI Validator (1.a.ii)

Disaggregation	2020 Performance	2021 Performance
Overall	N/A	11.7%
"In house" publisher tools and systems	N/A	35.3%
Publishing services	N/A	33.3%

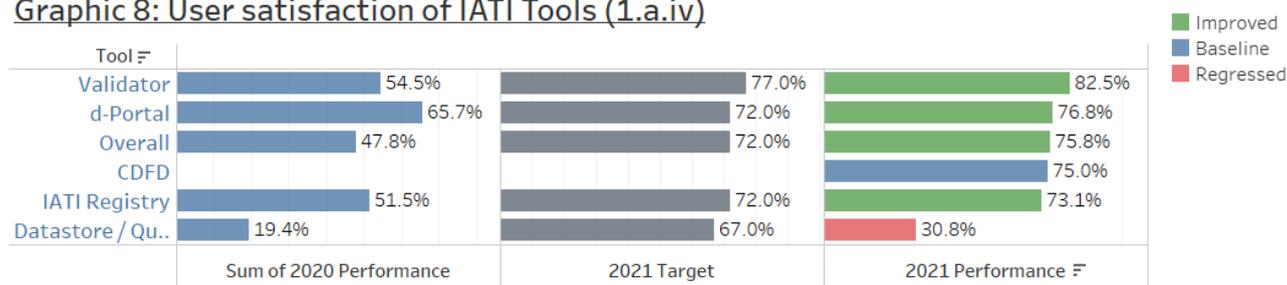
Percentage of users satisfied with IATI technical tools including the IATI Registry, Datastore / Query Builder, Validator, d-Portal, and the Country Development Finance Data (CDFD) tool (Output Indicator 1.a.iv)

IATI's technical tools are designed to meet the key needs and demands of data publishers and users, and include a tool to publish data (Registry), a tool to verify that published data complies with the IATI Standard (Validator), a tool to allow users to do custom queries of raw IATI data (the IATI Datastore), and a data search tool (d-portal). The Country Development Finance Data (CDFD) tool, launched in March 2021, is a tool that provides access to Excel-formatted data on projections and spending by country; CDFD is now included in the monitoring of the indicator for which baseline performance will be established in this year of reporting.

To ensure that these tools are fit-for-purpose and support improvements in data quality, responses from users on the usefulness of each tool are assessed via the annual survey of the IATI community. Tracking user satisfaction with the technical tools should allow the IATI Secretariat to identify any barriers or assets to improving the quality of data and inform strategic decisions on each tool to increase their utility for intended beneficiaries.

There was significant improvement in the number of respondents to this year's Annual Survey as compared to the previous year. The annual survey methodology, which encompasses the distribution of two separate surveys,¹⁰ both remained open from 18 March to 25 May, receiving an aggregate total of 125 responses, almost double the response rate of the previous year. Nonetheless, while the Members/Publishers survey received 100 responses, the Data Use survey continued to struggle with only 25 respondents. Additional

Graphic 8: User satisfaction of IATI Tools (1.a.iv)



information on how to better assess data user satisfaction (outside of the IATI membership community) for subsequent monitoring rounds is included in the "Reflections and Learning" section.

¹⁰ Following the same survey methodology applied during the 2020 monitoring with distribution of two separate surveys targeting a.) Members/Publishers; and, b.) Data Users.

d-Portal: Out of 56 responses, 43 expressed they were “Satisfied or “Somewhat Satisfied with the tool¹¹ --- That’s a 77% satisfaction rating for the D-Portal, the most popular tool among IATI data users; an improvement from performance in 2020 (65.7%) and surpassing the 2021 target set at 72%. Over 70% of users expressed a degree of satisfaction with how easy d-Portal is to use in terms of its user-interface; and 72% thought the graphs and visualisations provided by d-Portal were easy to understand. In addition, 56% of respondents were satisfied with the available guidance on how to use d-Portal. Respondent feedback was substantial, providing recommendations in which to improve the user’s experience in d-Portal:

- *“Improve on Guidance, Geo-location data, quarterly breakdown of data, make the graphs and visualisations to be flexible according to filtering criteria used.”*
- *“Train the partner country participants.”*
- *“Add ability to provide feedback to data publishers in D-portal, even if as simple as thumbs up or down.”*
- *“I feel the options in the “explore filters” and “more filters” could be reviewed. I get the impression that many are simply there because it was technically easy to add them, however aren’t particularly useful. Other filters could be useful to add such as ability to filter on a specific SDG or humanitarian sector (vocab 10). Also - it would be good to build multi-currency support into the charts. I think the d-portal should either automatically convert all amounts to USD (or maybe a choice of USD or EUR?) and the charts should use that conversion. Otherwise, it might be a good idea to add a new attribute (or attributes) allowing publishers to give the amount in both original currency of the transaction and in their reporting currency (USD/EUR).”*
- *“Would like more drill-down options or a tree view to show the entire data by country in a visualised format. Also in order to view our data correctly, we have to go through a number of clicks and formatting to find what we’re looking for.”*
- *“The aggregated data on d-Portal is often misleading due to data deficiencies. Portal should focus on relative strength of activity level data, but make it easier to search for activities by ID or name. Also find a new way to display data like locations and transactions other than long lists.”*
- *“d-portal is the most common tool I use for visualising IATI data and I find it straightforward as someone familiar with the Standard. We know non-technical people use it too. One improvement is around visualisation of linked activities (the selling point of IATI) - this is so important, so the site could make linked upstream and downstream activities more obvious to help people link data correctly. Visually, the number of filters on the landing page could be overwhelming to new users, so some work on simplifying/improving intuitiveness of search functionality important.”*
- *“The interface should be available in other languages, like the CDFD, starting with French which would be easy given the code-lists are already translated.”*
- *“Mini-videos would help, with different simulation scenarios. But overall, a complete rethink of the portal is urgently needed; as mentioned above, it needs to be structured around the users’ needs, not the data published.”*

Country Development Finance Data (CDFD): When aggregating responses from both member/publisher and Data User surveys, 75% out of the 40 responses received indicated that they were “Satisfied” or “Somewhat Satisfied” in the ability of CDFD to find the data they were looking for. If we look at the constituency of ‘partner country governments’ as a proxy of user satisfaction, 66% of Partner countries expressed a level of satisfaction with finding the data they were looking for. While the user satisfaction score only counts those respondents who have used the tool, it is worth noting that almost 49 respondents indicated that they “Do not use” the tool. While the initial conception and implementation of CDFD was designed to improve the ability of partner countries to perform landscape analysis of development aid flows at country-level, it is evident that CDFD advocacy and outreach efforts should be considered for other IATI constituency groups to reduce the majority of users who “Do not use” the tool. Expanding CDFD data user support and advocacy efforts to other constituencies will be assessed going forward into 2022. Requests for more advocacy/awareness of trainings on CDFD were evidenced in the user feedback:

- *“Need more sessions on CDFD.”*
- *“Did not know this existed. More communications around what it is and what it does.”*
- *“Data input from all stakeholders (100%).”*
- *“I found the methodology page of the CDFD tool very helpful to think through what data cleaning /prep steps are needed prior to analysis.”*
- *“Should be integrated in IATI platform/data portal.”*
- *“I’ve just been playing with it now. Looks very interesting and I was able to use pivot in Excel to get interesting data very quickly. Nice tool! It could also be helpful to humanitarian workers located in the country. I’ll mention it to colleagues.”*

Datastore / Query Builder: The Datastore API and its user interface – the Query Builder (version 2) were [launched in 2020](#) (with initial versions [released for testing in 2019](#)). In 2021 the API/Query Builder was operational from 1 January to 30 June 2021. There after it was taken down whilst the IATI Technical Team

¹¹ Respondents answered based on a rated scale of 1-5: (5) Satisfied; (4) Somewhat satisfied; (3) Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied; (2) Somewhat dissatisfied; (1) Dissatisfied. Users are considered to be satisfied with the tool if they score it a 4 or 5 on the satisfaction scale. Note that users who do not respond to the survey or who indicate that they do not use the tool or are “unsure” are not included in the final calculation of this indicator. No assumption is made as to whether a non-response counted as a positive or negative satisfaction rating.

worked to fulfil a commitment ([IATI Technical Stocktake 2020](#)) to bringing the Datastore in-house and onto IATI's Unified Single Platform.

During the interim period, users who tried to access the Datastore / Query Builder were redirected to Datastore Classic, a third-party hosting arrangement until the newly improved Datastore API version 3 and new user interface, Datastore Search was launched in quarter 1 in 2022. The baseline performance for measuring user satisfaction in [Datastore Search](#) will be collected in 2022. Nonetheless, in gaging the responses from user of the Datastore / Query Builder service before its decommissioning, 31% out of a total 57 responses expressed a degree of satisfaction with the tool. Moreover, user's expressed dissatisfaction in the disruption caused by the decommissioning of Datastore API / Query Builder to the wider community:

- *"It is confusing initially to understand the different IATI data sources available (e.g. Datastore vs. iati.cloud) and maintaining pages - as on the IATI website - to address this is important. I did use the Datastore for an analysis project until it went down in summer 2021 (which caused disruption while programming scripts were updated)."*
- *"The whole datastore debacle is a huge disappointment. I was never really able to use it in a way I had hoped and I gave up early."*
- *"The functionality of the datastore did not lend itself to easy extraction of bulk data. Customisable filters of data with schema errors would be helpful."*
- *"The datastore in the period January 2021 until June 2021 was too flawed to use in a production situation. Therefore no tooling has been developed making use of this old version of the datastore. The current datastore is much better. More examples could be added to the documentation of the new datastore to highlight all the possibilities of the datastore."*

IATI Registry: Overall, 73% of 52 publisher respondents expressed a degree of satisfaction with the functionality of the IATI Registry in terms of ease of registering their organisation and linking their data. A major improvement from the preceding reporting period of 52% and meeting the 2021 target set at 72%. About half of the publishers (49%) found the IATI Registry easy/intuitive in terms of navigation and user interface, registering their organisation's account; while 52% of respondents were satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the guidance provided on how to use the IATI Registry. Publisher feedback received to improve the user experience of the IATI Registry included:

- *"The initial registration is rather complex. Although a staff is assigned to help out with registration, it is still quite a task."*
- *"A video to guide the process would be helpful to first timers."*
- *"To have regular learning and training sessions to ensure that we know the IATI System very well and have a pleasant experience."*
- *"It would be nice to get back the filter on the Registry page for the org. file. This was there once but now it has gone."*
- *"Might be relevant to review the data model, ensuring that it is the unique org-id that serves as primary key to all data - also in web-services. We experience instability that might be caused by the use of org-names instead of org-id's."*
- *"I honestly struggled quite a bit with selecting a data licence. That was the most difficult. Making an informed decision among all the different types of licences, understanding the differences (and implications of choosing one option over another), and justifying this decision internally. We have limited visibility over how IATI data is used and by whom (I know, can be accessed by anyone) and a licence type has to be chosen before having a full understanding what type of data needs to be disclosed. A formal recommendation from IATI would help, as well as more detailed guidance, as I did not find the help pages on this topic sufficiently informative."*

IATI Validator: Out of a total of 40 publisher respondents, 83% indicated a level of satisfaction in the ability of the IATI Validator to help improve the quality of publishing their data overall. This is an improvement from the previous year (56%), and exceeding the 2021 target at 77%. Moreover, 68% of publishers indicated satisfaction with the error and/or warning messages displayed by the IATI Validator for identifying issues the publisher's data – while the available guidance on how to use the IATI Validator received a satisfaction rating of 70%. In terms of asking publishers 'what else would be useful or improve your experience with using the IATI Validator,' publishers feedback included the following:

- *"The data validator is lacking functionality to check the validity and existence of references to IATI identifiers. This is important functionality to support traceability. Also the error and warning messages are quite technical and difficult to understand for non-IATI savvy users."*
- *"Many of the terms related to the IATI Schema are still very technical and difficult to understand as a user, more guiding support on how to resolve errors would be a good addition, also more help to understand where to find a specific error in your data (not just the line on the xml)."*
- *"Translation of the tool in French."*
- *"Would be great to hear how other publishers have integrated it."*
- *"Computer generated auto-responses of errors/warnings are not always clear."*
- *"More consultation sessions with the IATI team to improve on my publishing experience."*

Conclusion

Judging by the outcome indicators on data quality, more work is still needed to fully meet all data quality targets and put measures in place to raise the level of quality generally. Progress on improving the quality of IATI data is slowly being made – publishers are using the IATI Validator to address errors and warnings in their datafiles. Highlighted later in the reflections and learning section of this report, attention should be focused on operationalising the Data Quality Index to upgrade the Results Framework measuring of data quality metrics (Outcome Indicator 1.1).

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

Outcome Indicator 2.1 Number of partner country governments referencing IATI data in national development policies and other government documents

Outcome Indicator 2.2 Number of IATI partner country governments systematically using IATI data for decision-making

At the outcome level, results on increasing the systematic use of IATI data are measured in terms of number of partner country governments referencing IATI data in national development / development cooperation policies and other relevant government documents (Outcome Indicator 2.1) and systematically using IATI data for decision-making (Outcome Indicator 2.2), particularly using IATI data to analyse resource flows to the country and using this information as an input to the national budget planning process (or other government planning / monitoring), to conduct analysis in a development cooperation report, etc.

Outcome Indicator 2.1 assesses whether IATI data is systematically used by considering references to IATI in these policy documents as a proxy for IATI data use. The logic is that if IATI data is used more by developing country governments for their strategic planning processes, then the references to IATI in relevant national policy documents should increase. Outcome Indicator 2.2 is a more direct measure, assessing whether the data has actually been used. In 2021, at least six partner country governments referenced IATI data in national development / development cooperation policies and other government documents (Outcome Indicator 2.1); and at least six governments¹² systematically used IATI data for decision-making, exceeding the 2021 target of 5 for Outcome Indicator 2.2.

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

¹² Nigeria, Chad, Burkina Faso, Lesotho, and Liberia reported to the IATI Secretariat that all use IATI data for systematic decision-making and supported through the survey mechanism. Sierra Leone also reported using IATI data, the former using it to support analysis in the Lesotho Development Cooperation Report 2020 / 2021.

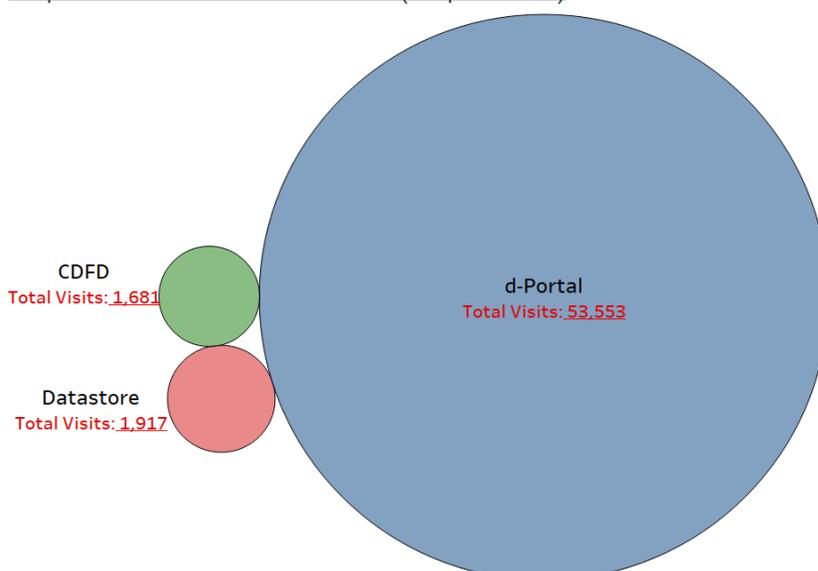
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Output Indicator 2.a.iii Number of IATI partner country members whose national aid information management systems include IATI data
<p>Output 2.b Data literacy and capacity for data use of partner countries, publishers, and CSOs is strengthened.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: 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 / Query Builder, and the Country Development Finance Data (CDFD) tool (Output Indicator 2.a.i)

Increased numbers of visitors to d-portal and the Country Development Finance Data (CDFD) tool reflect increased engagement with and access to IATI data. Theoretically, increasing access to the data will lead to more frequent and systematic use of IATI data by actors for development and humanitarian decision-making. According to Google Analytics, unique visits to d-Portal increased to over 53,000 visitors in 2021; surpassing the 2021 goal of 30,000. Moreover, while CDFD was only launched at the end of QTR 1 2021, there were already over 1,600 visitors to the CDFD page. As noted previously, the Datastore / Query Builder was only operational from 1 January to 30 June 2021 before the platform was taken down. Nonetheless, Google Analytics still recorded the number of unique visitors who tried to access the

[Graphic 9: Visits of IATI Tools in 2021 \(Snapshot 2.a.i\)](#)

Datastore / Query Builder were redirected to Datastore Classic, a third-party hosting arrangement. Datastore Search, launched in Q1 2022, will replace the Datastore / Query Builder going forward for monitoring the performance of this indicator.



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

Measuring the performance of Output Indicator 2.a.ii was not possible for this second round of

annual monitoring as the Datastore / Query Builder is no longer operational as of 30 June 2021. As referenced later in the ‘Overview of recommended changes to indicators and methodology,’ the methodology for this indicator should be updated to gage the number of active tools that access the new IATI Datastore Search for subsequent monitoring rounds post-2022.

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

This indicator assesses whether IATI data is being accessed regularly, by determining whether this data is helping to populate aid information management systems (AIMS). AIMS are country level systems used by

national governments to track and monitor external resource flows into their country. The availability of this data through existing country systems enables government officials to make better-informed decisions on domestic resource allocation and national development planning. The number of IATI partner country government members whose national aid information management systems include IATI data¹³ has increased to five in 2021 (Honduras, Liberia, Somalia, Myanmar, Madagascar), meeting the 2021 target of 5 countries.

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

Increasing the ability of publishers to use IATI data can have myriad impacts, including potentially improving the coordination of humanitarian and development activities on the ground or within organisations. Positive externalities could also include an increase in the quality of data published to IATI as publishers become more familiar with data quality issues. This indicator measures how many publishers are directly supported by the Secretariat or by one of their peers (i.e. fellow publishers) on how to use IATI data. For the purpose of this indicator, training provided to unique publishers (i.e. organisations), rather than individuals, has been assessed. For indicator 2.b.i, 10 publisher organisations were reported by the Secretariat to have received direct support¹⁴ on how to use IATI data, falling short of the target of 18 for 2021.

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

Partner countries are one of the primary intended beneficiaries of IATI data. Increasing the ability of partner countries to use IATI data can have myriad impacts, including potentially increasing the data available to governments to inform national budget planning which could improve the allocation of national resources or improving the coordination of humanitarian and development activities and enabling a better understanding of resource flows and actors operating within their country. As such, this indicator assesses how many partner country governments are directly supported by the Secretariat on how to use IATI data. Direct support could include one-on-one training or support, webinars, workshops, and calls. For the purpose of this indicator, training provided to country governments, rather than individuals, has been assessed; (e.g. if training is provided to two different ministries within the government of a single partner country, this is assessed as provision of support to one country. Overall, in 2021 the Secretariat directly supported 21 partner country governments on how to use IATI data, surpassing the target of 20 for 2021.

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

This indicator tracks how many organisations among the ‘CSOs and others’ constituency category were directly supported by the Secretariat on how to use IATI data. Direct support could include one-on-one training or support, webinars, workshops and calls. For the purpose of this indicator, training provided to unique CSOs and others (i.e. organisations), rather than individuals, will be assessed (e.g. if training is provided to a HQ level organisation as well as a country level office of that same organisation, only one organisation will be understood to have been supported). Moreover, to avoid the risk of double-counting trainings provided in 2.b.i (publishers), the results for this indicator only record ‘CSOs and Others’ organisations **not** publishing to IATI. CSOs have a key role to play in using IATI data to promote local accountability and transparency over the use of development resources. Increasing the ability of CSOs to use IATI data can also potentially improve the coordination of humanitarian and development activities

¹³ This measures whether IATI data is included in the AIMS rather than whether an AIMS is capable of importing IATI data. It is measured based on self-reporting which is confirmed through follow-up with respective governments.

¹⁴ Direct support could include one-on-one training or support, webinars, workshops and calls, etc.

undertaken by CSOs at the country level. Overall, in 2021 the Secretariat directly supported 19 organisations categorised as CSOs and others, forming the baseline for this indicator for subsequent monitoring rounds.

Graphic 10: # of Data Use trainings by the IATI Secretariat (2.b.i/ii/iii Snapshot)

Disaggregation	Sum of 2020 Performance	Sum of 2021 Target	2021 Performance
# of publishers directly supported	16	18	10
# of partner country governments directly supported	15	20	21
# of CSOs/Others directly supported			19

Conclusion

The section above demonstrates that efforts to increase the systematic use of IATI data are having a positive impact. The burgeoning interest in using IATI tools is demonstrated through the consistent gains in the numbers of visitors accessing d-portal and the Country Development Finance Data (CDFD) tool. Moreover, increasing demand by the community in understanding how to use the tools are reflected in the growing number of trainings spearheaded by the IATI Secretariat for publishers, partner country governments, and CSOs and other organisations. Nonetheless, there are areas for improvement including whether the indicators are properly measuring *how often* IATI tools are accessed, and whether the data accessed was *useful or relevant or easy to use and understand*.

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

Successive updates to the IATI Standard have made it richer and more complex. The addition of new fields and code lists to support the particular needs of diverse new user groups such as humanitarian stakeholders, Development Finance Institutions, and UN System entities, has expanded publisher numbers and led to the recognition of the IATI Standard as one that is flexible for publishers. However, adding further fields has arguably also made it more complex, impacting the usefulness, relevance, and comparability of the data.

To this end, the Results Framework includes one indicator directly linked to management and / or strengthening of the IATI Standard (Output Indicator 1.b.i): “Standardised” Standard developed, agreed, and implemented. As agreed in the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, over the next several years, IATI will streamline the IATI Standard by working with an empowered community of experts to define a core set of data fields that meets the needs of all users. Standardising the Standard will help to streamline publisher reporting which will contribute to an improvement in IATI data quality and make IATI data more comparable across publishers. This process will begin formally into 2023, thus monitoring activities could not be undertaken in 2021.

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

Despite the residual challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, the IATI community continues to become increasingly diverse as new audiences engage virtually. IATI has transformed its knowledge-sharing structures to accommodate an increasing demand from its community of data publishers and users, transparency advocates, open data experts, and technical specialists across the globe. Building on the success of IATI Connect, dedicated spaces on a range of thematic areas have been established to foster learning and networking across different stakeholder groups. In addition, IATI held two Virtual Community Exchange (VCE) meetings for the first time, attracting the highest number of attendees of any previous IATI event. The increased engagement from IATI’s community contributed and strengthened discussions, consultations and collaboration between open data publishers and users. Moreover,

membership of the initiative rose in 2021, including two new “providers of development cooperation,” and one new member in both the “partner country governments” and “CSOs and others” constituency groups.

Outcome Indicator 3.1 Number of “logged in” and “contributing” members on IATI Connect – annual

At the Outcome level, Outcome Indicator 3.1 measures the number of community members that have been active on [IATI Connect](#), IATI’s digital community platform throughout 2021. As approved by the Results Working Group (RWG), this indicator is updated to measure annual user activity in terms of the number of unique logins (where a user has signed up for a Connect account and actively logged in) and contributing users. A user is considered active if they have contributed on the platform (e.g. created a comment or launched a Topic / Discussion) during the time period being monitored.

Graphic 11: IATI Connect Engagement in 2021 (3.1 Snapshot)

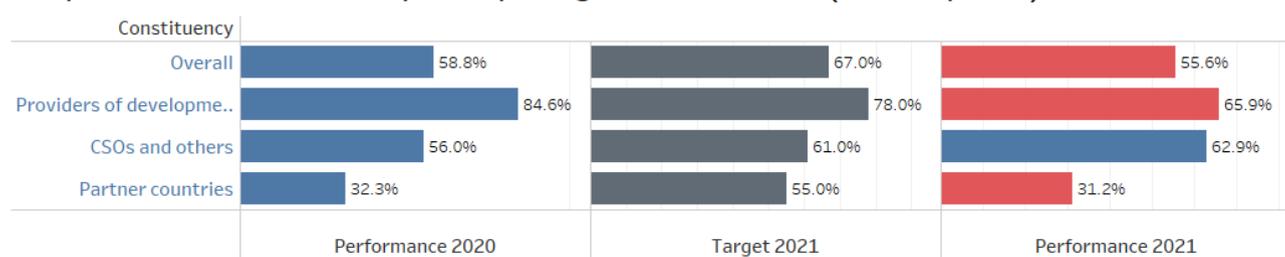
Category	2020 Performance	2021 Target	2021 Performance
# of People Logged-in	89	150	150
# of Contributing Users	23	50	50

IATI Connect, launched in November 2020, demonstrated continued growth in 2021 with the number of new accounts at 150, compared to the performance in 2020 set at 89; the 2021 target of 150 new accounts was met exactly. As illustrated in Graphic 12 above, the 50 new contributing users in 2021 also doubles the results achieved in 2020 and meets the 2021 target exactly.

Outcome Indicator 3.2 Percentage of members attending the annual Members’ Assembly (in-person or virtually)

In regard to Outcome Indicator 3.2 which measures the percentage of IATI members attending the Members’ Assembly,¹⁵ overall progress fell short of expected targets. In December 2021, attendance at the annual Members Assembly dropped overall with 56% of IATI member organisations who attended last year. As Graphic 12 illustrates, this is a regression from the results achieved for the 2020 Members Assembly whereby 60% of members had attended. For the Partner Country constituency, only 31% of members were present at the meeting, which is a slight regression from the performance of the previous Members Assembly (32%). The constituency category of "CSOs and others" increased their participation during the MA 2021, surpassing the 2021 attendance target set at 61%; nonetheless, there was a significant drop in the participation of “Providers of development cooperation” who attended the 2021 Members Assembly, with a 20% drop in attendance when comparing performance in 2020 to 2021.

Graphic 12: % of Members participating in the 2021 MA (3.2 Snapshot)



In terms of regional representation at the Members Assembly, most of the attendants were predominantly

¹⁵ The annual gathering of the IATI membership where members set the strategic direction for the initiative for the coming year.

from Europe and Central Asia which is expected given the majority of IATI members are providers of development cooperation from this region; in addition, there was a strong turnout of attendees from the Sub-Saharan Africa region making up 22% in attendance.

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

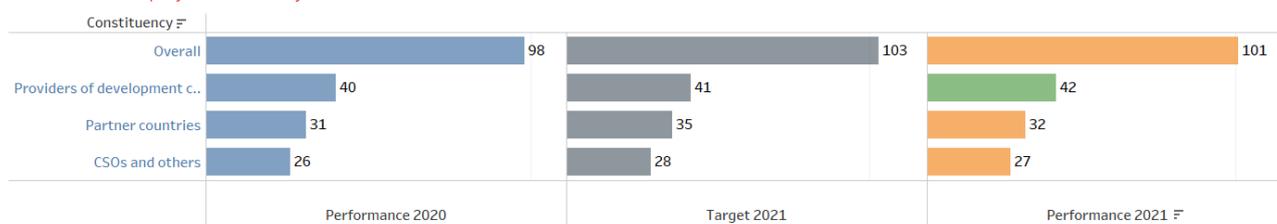
Number of IATI members (Output Indicator 3.a.i)

This indicator is a measure of how many organisations are members of IATI, demonstrating their commitment to IATI as an initiative and to transparency more generally. An increasing membership base signals the continued relevance of IATI for its key demographics – publishers and users of IATI data – who wish to further support and expand the initiative by becoming members.

As of 31 December 2021, Membership of the initiative rose including two new “providers of development cooperation,” and one new member in both the “partner country governments” and “CSOs and others” constituency groups. Nonetheless, the growth target for establishing new partnerships was not achieved for the second consecutive year.

Graphic 13: Number of IATI Members (3.a.i Snapshot)

IATI Membership by Constituency



IATI Membership by Region



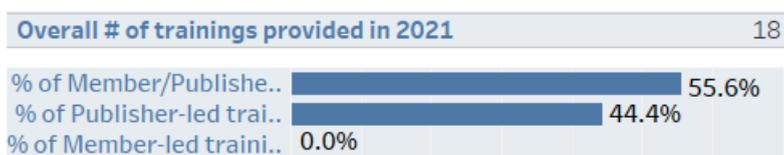
Providers of development cooperation continue to be the most well-represented constituency in the IATI membership base, meeting the growth target for 2021. Partner country membership grew by one more with the addition of the Government of Chad, whilst falling short of the 2021 target. When assessing the overall performance of the indicator, there were 101 IATI members as of 31 December 2021, an increase from the previous year; however, the target for creating new IATI partnerships through membership was missed.

In terms of regional representation, the majority of IATI members are predominantly from Europe and Central Asia which correlates logically to the fact that most members of IATI are providers of development cooperation with headquarters based in this region.

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 training within their own organisation on how to use or publish IATI data. In essence, this indicator is meant to gage the level of commitment to raising awareness about IATI data through members’ and publishers’ internal resources/ trainings on IATI. To ensure scalability of the IATI Standard, and with respect to data use, staff of organisations who are IATI members and publishers should be familiar with the IATI Standard and its technical estate to expand the awareness around and utility of the data and provide training to staff on how to publish and/or use data beyond those directly responsible for transparency.

Graphic 14: Number of community-led trainings (3.b.i Snapshot)

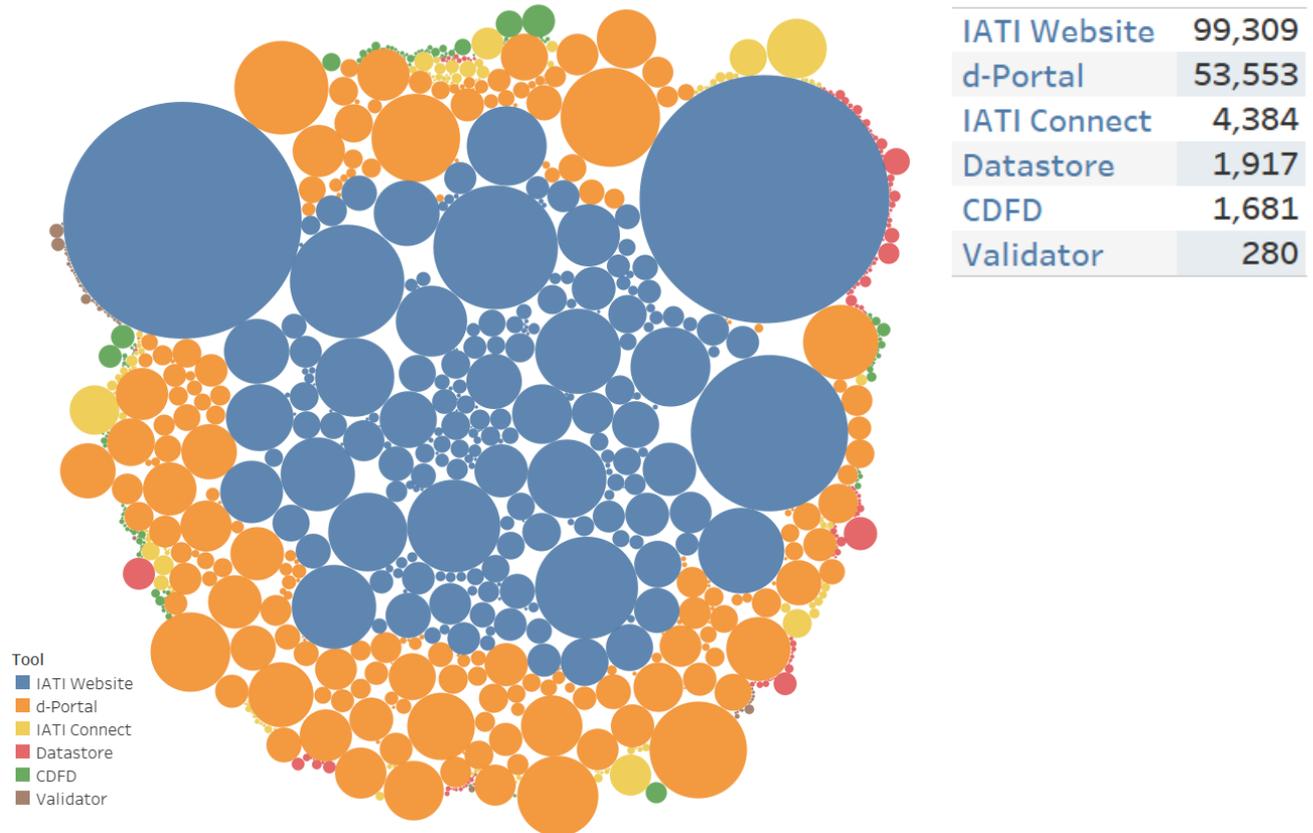


Results were collected through the annual survey to IATI members and publishers to report on the trainings provided over the course of 2021. According to the results gathered from the annual survey, 18 internal trainings were led by the IATI community during 2021; whereby organisations which are

both members and publishers provided 10 of the trainings (56%), and non-member publishers providing the remaining 8 trainings (44%). Data collection for this indicator is heavily determined by the responses collected from the annual survey, and organisations listed as only members may have provided additional trainings; however, the survey could not confirm whether any IATI members (not a publisher) provided internal trainings to staff. Moreover, the 2021 results will inform the baseline for this indicator going forward as baseline data could not be verified with the low-response rate for the previous 2020 annual survey to members and publishers.

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

Graphic 15: Proportion of visitor traffic to IATI Website

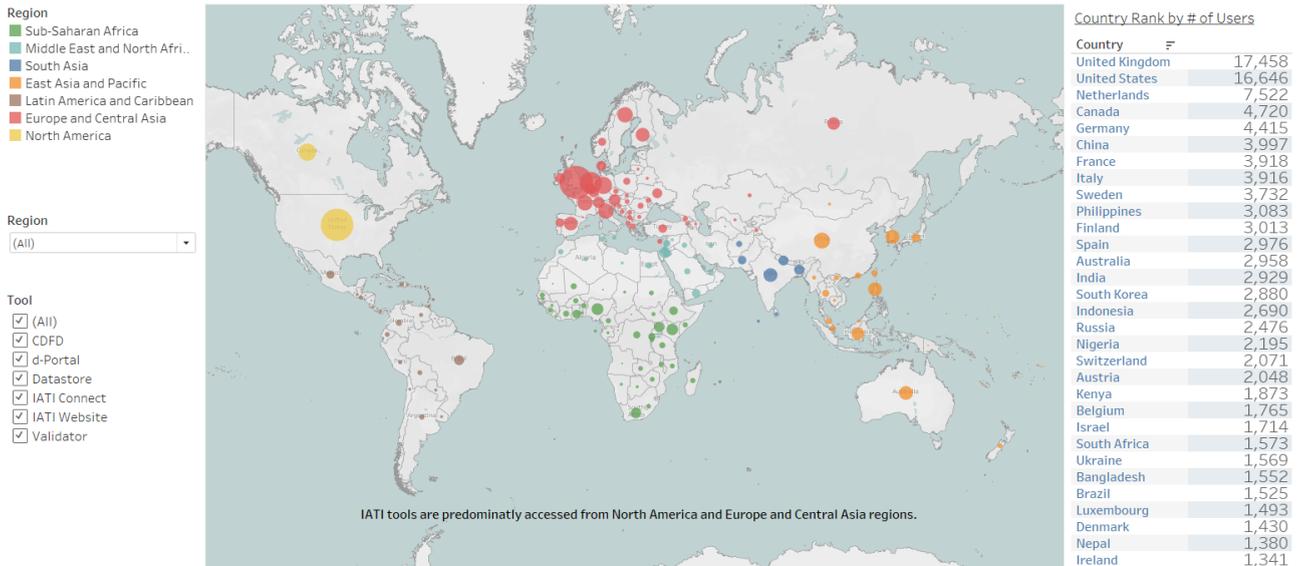


This indicator measures how many unique visitors visit the external IATI website on an annual basis. An increased number of visitors to the IATI website indicates an increased interest, awareness, and engagement of the visitor with IATI.

In 2021, 99,309 unique visitors navigated the IATI website which is almost double the amount from the previous year (57,354 unique visitors); however, the 2021 results fell short of the target set at 115,000 results. Nonetheless, if we look at Graphic 15 (countries are represented by the bubbles), the IATI website is by far the most accessed IATI platform, dwarfing traffic of other categories.

The 2021 results underscore the global reach of not only the IATI website but of all IATI tools as represented in the global landscape dashboard provided below in Graphic 16. [View](#) the global map online to rank visitor traffic by country for each IATI tool.

Graphic 16: Global reach of IATI Tools



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

Community engagement on Twitter increased to 300,100 from the previous year in 2020; however, the number of impressions achieved in 2021 fell below expectations: 300,100 versus the 2021 target of 458,590). The number of mentions on Twitter fell during 2021 to 331, versus the 2020 performance of 372. While the increase in Twitter mentions last year reverses the overall negative trend in online engagement since 2019, actual results are underperforming when weighed against the set targets. However, measures of engagement with other social media channels including through LinkedIn, Facebook and Whatsapp are not yet measured in the IATI Results Framework.

Ways to improve online engagement should continue to be further investigated into 2022 as part of a review of IATI’s suite of communications tools.

Conclusion

IATI Connect continued to demonstrate strong performance in community engagement meeting the growth targets consistently for two years consecutively. At the same time, IATI’s partnership and outreach with its core community of engaged members and stakeholders demonstrated mixed results in 2021, skewing progress toward engagement with development cooperation providers and those stakeholders already active within the IATI community. While membership of the initiative increased, establishing partnerships with new members in the Provider category was the sole target achieved, while incremental growth was also achieved amongst partner country governments. Moreover, the Members Assembly is a critical annual gathering of the IATI membership community where members set the strategic direction for the initiative for the coming year. The 2021 results indicate a downward trend of outreach and engagement in this regard. While measures to improve the participation of members across constituency categories will be taken forward by the IATI Secretariat into 2022, the 20% regression of providers of development cooperation should be reassessed in the Secretariat’s engagement approach for planning the 2022 Members Assembly. IATI should make a concerted effort in 2022 / 2023 to revisit its external communications and engagement in order to dive deeper into why some areas have made significant progress, while others seem to have backtracked.

6. Reflections and Lessons Learned

2021 monitoring in the context of the Mid-Term-Review

As the IATI Strategic Plan Results Framework enters the midpoint of its operational lifecycle, the opportunities and lessons learned identified from the second annual monitoring round are meant to reflect on progress and propose areas of strategic adjustment for the IATI community to drive forward. It is also an opportunity for the RWG to review execution of the strategy (progress, challenges, lessons, and adjustments), and advise the Governing Board and membership community whether the Results Framework and Methodology remains measurable, fit-for-purpose and/or propose course corrections as part of the Strategic Plan's Mid-Term-Review.

Based on the amalgamation of results collected over two years into the Strategic Plan's implementation, the below section provides an overview of monitoring/methodological refinements and strategic recommendations for the IATI community to consider in subsequent monitoring exercises of the Results Framework going into its mid-term life cycle.

Monitoring and methodological refinements

Annual survey approach

Building on the lessons learned derived from the first round of annual monitoring, the RWG approved a set of immediate adjustments for the Secretariat to implement during the 2021 monitoring process (appended as Annex 3 to this report). The 2021 monitoring adjustments did yield improvements in certain areas of data collection, particularly in relation to the annual survey. By significantly extending the survey window (18 March to 26 May), the total number of responses received for this year (125 responses) almost doubled in comparison to the previous year of monitoring (75 responses). While the means of verification for some indicators are derived from static data collection from IATI tools or Secretariat tracking logs, many of the indicators are heavily dependent, and limited, on the nature of responses gathered from the survey. As a result, the array of responses received this year enriched the quality of reporting for certain indicators, particularly in gaging user satisfaction of IATI tools (Output Indicator 1.a.iv). In addition, increased responses to the annual survey allowed the establishment of baseline data for indicators that could not be verified from the previous year due to the low-response rate. For example, baseline performance to gauge the IATI membership community's commitment to raise awareness of IATI data through record of internal trainings provided could now be recorded (Output Indicator 3.b.i).

While increased survey responses (in total) improved the quality of performance monitoring this year, in retrospect, the member/publisher survey encompassed the lion's share of this gain, with 100 responses received in comparison to the data user survey (25 responses). This would entail a vast improvement of survey engagement from IATI's membership and publisher base; however, low responses to the data user survey underscore a consistent challenge in monitoring the Results Framework. Successive low response rates to the data user survey require revisiting the Results Framework methodology in terms of improving data user feedback, outside the member/publisher community, and how to better measure data user learning and capacity-building more broadly.

Incentivising improvements in Data Quality

The Results Framework's intention is to track progress of the Initiative as a whole (members, the wider community, and the Secretariat); nonetheless, the mechanics for tracking the Framework in terms of data quality is static and limited to overall performance disaggregation by spend categories collected once per year. While overall scores are necessary to evaluate programmatic objectives in implementing the IATI

Strategic Plan, achieving Outcome 1 (significant improvement in the quality of data published to IATI), for example, is contingent on performance at the level of the individual publisher organisation improving the quality of their data. High-level overall/spend category scores and the absence of a public facing reference point makes it difficult for the IATI community to further assess, disaggregate, and/or compare how publishers are performing in relation to improving the quality of their data; which may further inhibit feedback loops between data users/publishers and incentives to improve respective data quality scores. Establishing an interactive visualisation platform for Outcome 1 indicators, where feasible, could reduce the feedback gap and incentivise publisher performance. To supplement the 2021 results, the data visualisations and interactive dashboards provided in this report are meant to exemplify how performance towards Outcome 1 could be drilled-down further to compare, disaggregate, and rank at the level of the individual publishers.

Overview of recommendations for the Results Framework

While the previous section highlighted key areas of reflection and lessons learned, below offers an overview of the recommended adjustments for subsequent monitoring exercises going into the Mid-Term Review of the Strategic Plan Results Framework.

- The annual monitoring survey should remain open for 6-8 weeks. To allow enough lead time to follow-up on Track 2 monitoring for extracting case studies identified through the survey responses, the annual survey should be circulated in the month of January to report on progress of the previous year. An earlier launch of the survey would also allow for follow-up interviews with the IATI membership community to further contextualise the results of the monitoring process and further delve into the “why” of the outcomes.
- Successive low response rates to the data user survey require revisiting the Results Framework methodology in terms of improving data user feedback, outside the member/publisher community, and how to better measure data user learning and capacity-building more broadly. As an immediate measure, through the Secretariat trainings delivered as part of Output Indicator(s) (2.b.i/ii/iii), satisfaction surveys could be shared immediately following each data user training to gauge whether the trainings were useful, or relevant, or easy to understand.
- Publicly available visualisation platform/dashboard that publishers/data users can use to track data quality performance of individual publishers.

The table provided below is a snapshot overview of recommended changes to indicators and methodology that should be considered by the RWG as the group puts forward recommendations to the Governing Board and IATI community on refinements to the Strategic Plan Results Framework.

Overview of recommended changes to indicators and methodology		
Current Indicator Name / Number	Proposed Change	Rationale
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 – annual	Indicator methodology should be revisited by the RWG on the feasibility of measuring the indicator in its current form.	Baseline data could not be verified for 2021 monitoring specific to measuring publisher performance in responding to data use queries reporting issues with data. The IATI Secretariat’s Technical team did not receive specific requests relating to the indicator.

<p>Output Indicator 1.a.ii Percentage of known publishing tools integrating the IATI Validator</p>	<p>Indicator methodology limitation in assessing levels of 'integration' with the IATI Validator</p>	<p>Full integration with the Validator would involve seamless, automatic use of the API within an organisation's publishing workflow and tools; but some publishers utilise the Validator API in an ad-hoc fashion, while others simply view their validation reports on the Validator website. The baseline data collected for 2021 did not differentiate between these different use cases, and therefore it is difficult to ascertain exactly how publishers were utilising the Validator. The data shows several publishers have reported using the API to validate files, but this alone does not confirm full integration.</p>
<p>Output Indicator 1.a.iv. Percentage of users satisfied with IATI technical tools (including IATI Registry, Datastore/Query Builder, Validator, d-Portal, CDFD)</p>	<p>Baseline data for Datastore Search TBD in 2022</p> <p>Pop-up survey to capture user-satisfaction throughout the year (2022 Monitoring)</p>	<p>Datastore Search was launched in Q1 2022 replacing Datastore/Query Builder.</p> <p>In supplement to community surveying, pop-up survey windows for each tool would enable better tracking of user satisfaction with the technical tools throughout the year.</p>
<p>Output Indicator 2.a.ii Number of active tools that access IATI data via the Datastore.</p>	<p>Indicator to be removed or revised to measure tools that access the IATI Datastore Search</p>	<p>The Datastore is no longer operational; if feasible, the indicator should be repurposed to measure tools that access IATI data through the new IATI Datastore API.</p>
<p>Output Indicator 2.a.iii Number of IATI partner country members whose national aid information management systems include IATI data – annual.</p>	<p>Indicator methodology review</p>	<p>Data collection is dependent on self-reporting by Partner Countries through the annual survey. Moreover, actual import of IATI data vs capability to import are very different and it should be determined if both should be assessed for recording accurate results.</p>
<p>Output Indicator(s) 2.b.i/ii/iii Number of Publishers, Partner Country Governments, and CSOs directly supported by the Secretariat on how to use IATI data – annual.</p>	<p>Add additional detail in methodology for counting CSOs</p> <p>Supplementing training results through data user satisfaction survey</p>	<p>2.b.iii: To avoid double-counting organisations, the methodology for Output 2.b.iii should count only organisations that are 'CSOs and Others' and not 'publishers.'</p> <p>At present, the indicator is verified through a static number count of Secretariat trainings recorded through internal loggings; The indicators, however, do not provide qualitative metrics to verify whether the trainings were useful, or relevant, or easy to understand. Incorporation of automated</p>

		feedback surveys to trainees may provide additional insight on Data User needs and literacy of the tools.
Output Indicator 3.a.i Number of IATI members – annual.	Indicator to be reformulated to make it more clear to count the # of contributing members, and membership closures. Tracking membership closures	Enhancing performance monitoring in scalability and sustainability of IATI member partnerships by the addition of related indicators to record the number of contributing members while tracking membership closures.
Outcome Indicator 3.b.iii Level of interaction with IATI content on Twitter	Target setting should be revised Expand metrics to include IATI platforms on LinkedIn and Facebook	Progress has fallen short of targets for 2020 and 2021. Baseline metrics for IATI social media platforms on LinkedIn and Facebook could not be verified in 2021.

Strategic review for establishing timelines and target-setting

The Results Framework should be seen as an adaptive tool, subject to revisions as necessary. As part of ensuring the Framework continues to track progress towards key objectives of the Strategic Plan, the timelines and the setting of targets for implementing the Initiative’s core objectives should be reviewed to ensure they are able to be achieved within the Framework’s implementation lifecycle (2020-2025). In this vein, the Mid-Term Review of the Strategic Plan should take into consideration the continued feasibility of objectives and targets where progress is delayed and assess whether active IATI Consortium workplan arrangements are on track to deliver key flagship activities as set out in the Strategic Plan.

Moreover, the establishment of timelines and target-setting for delivering IATI’s core objectives are strategic policy decisions at its core. Thus, the decision to adjust the timelines and target-setting for strategic objectives should be assessed by the Governing Board as part of the Mid-Term Review work.

Data Quality Index (DQI): Revised timeline for achieving Outcome Indicator 1.1

As a key commitment of the IATI Strategic Plan, IATI launched consultations to inform the development of a new Data Quality Index (DQI) in 2021. In September 2021, the Secretariat published proposals for a new index to measure the components of IATI data that matter most to the IATI community. The first phase of the consultation was undertaken between September and November 2021, attracting a wide range of engagement on IATI Connect. Two virtual consultations were also held to facilitate discussion within the community. In response, the IATI Secretariat published a [summary paper](#) on the feedback received on each component of data quality that had been discussed. While progress into 2022 is being made to deliver the second phase of the consultation, operationalising the DQI is not expected until 2023, which subsequently

delays the upgrade of measuring data quality metrics through the DQI (i.e. Outcome Indicator 1.1: measuring the percentage of publishers whose Data Quality Index score increases above baseline).¹⁶ Improving both data quality (Outcome 1) while improving the systematic use of IATI data (Outcome 2) are not mutually exclusive objectives. To increase data users' level of trust in published data, the rollout of the DQI is imperative as a flagship activity towards achievement of the Strategic Plan; and the Governing Board should reassess the timeline for delivering the DQI as part of the Mid-Term Review work.

Standardising the Standard (Objective 3)¹⁷

As agreed in the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, IATI will undertake a rigorous exercise to streamline the Standard so that it contains “core” fields which are universally relevant for all data users and publishers. In the process of arriving at these changes, during 2021, the Secretariat conducted a systematic review of how 100 organisations are currently using the IATI Standard to publish data. The research was undertaken to better understand how to support organisations to improve their data quality. As part of the review, the Secretariat held webinars with the 100 publishers reviewed and shared a [summary report](#) of their findings in September. Findings from this review, together with insights from data users, will inform the development of the strategy to bridge the gap between current publisher practices and data users' needs. While the process of “standardising” the Standard was originally intended to be completed in 2021, subsequent work to upgrade the Standard has not started, and is expected to commence going in 2023/24, consequently re-shifting the timeline for monitoring Output Indicator 1.b.i & 1.b.ii.¹⁸

¹⁶ Once the Data Quality Index (Outcome Indicator 1.1) is in place, which will contain revised methodologies for timeliness, comprehensiveness and forward-looking nature, this indicator will no longer be viable and will be phased out in favour of using the Data Quality Index to assess publishers' progress in improving data quality

¹⁷As set out in the 5 year Strategic Plan, By 2025, IATI will standardise the Standard by working with an empowered community of experts to define a core set of data fields that meets the needs of all users.

¹⁸ Output 1.b.i: “Standardised” Standard developed, agreed, and implemented; and, 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 Guidelines that specify how data must and should be reported – cumulative.

7. Annex 1: Track 2 Case Studies – Stories of Progress and Impact

As set out through the IATI Strategic Plan Results Framework Methodology, a twin-track approach is adopted to monitoring and reporting to capture the IATI Strategic Plan's overall impact and contribution to development effectiveness. This connects monitoring the quantitative results and contributions of the Strategic Plan (Track 1) to monitoring the overall long-term IATI outcomes (Track 2), which are often qualitative or narrative-based. Track 1 is monitored through the indicators in the RF (discussed in the sections above in this document), while Track 2 is monitored through the application of the Most Significant Change (MSC) methodology. The MSC approach involves generating and analysing personal accounts of change and deciding which of these accounts is the most significant – and why. MSC is not just about collecting and reporting stories but about having processes to learn from these stories – in particular, to learn about the similarities and differences in what different groups and individuals value. It provides some information about impact and unintended impact but is primarily about clarifying the values held by different stakeholders.

In 2021, the surveys for Members / Publishers and Data Users included a question specifically linked to Track 2 indicators to capture stories of progress and results, as well as the impact that IATI data is having on the ground in improving the effectiveness of development cooperation. The following question from the survey shows positive progress: *“Did using or publishing IATI data have an impact on the effectiveness of your organisation / institution’s development efforts (e.g. in planning, coordination, budgeting, sharing results, etc.) in 2021?”*

- *“We used IATI data to monitor progress on activity implementation of our partners (<https://bit.ly/METIS2-PRD>). We also used IATI data to monitor the results of the Dialog & Dissent alliance (<https://bit.ly/DDresults>). Our own NMFA IATI data are also used as a data source for our website <https://www.nlontwikkelingssamenwerking.nl>. IATI data of our partners were used to support evaluations and to estimate the share of our activities channeled through intermediate organisations going to specific countries.”*
- *“My organisation, in collaboration with the UK Collaborative on Development Research, used IATI data published by our funded partners to map UK ODA research and innovation activities. Information on the project and an interactive map can be found here: <https://www.ukcdr.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work/data-on-uk-funded-research-and-innovation/> This presents a joined up view of projects across UK government departments and delivery partners, allowing easier searches by country, organisation and topic. It has particularly helped inform country-based development staff of activities going on relevant to their country.”*
- *“The review of data prior to publication highlights errors and issues with data that help provide examples when justifying process or policy changes. We’ve also been able to leverage internal tools originally used for IATI for other reporting needs.”*
- *“IATI data is used to visualise project- and program info on our transparency website <https://aiddata.rvo.nl>. This leads to 'Insight by Overview' for internal and external use.”*
- *“Oxfam Novib's internal data quality improved due to multiple effects caused by IATI publication: the validator points out to data quality issues that can be easily fixed.”*
- *“WHO uses its published IATI data to feed its Transparency portal <http://open.who.int/2022-23/home>.”*
- *“Improvements to project-descriptions, published in IATI-format and displayed in <https://openaid.um.dk/>”*
- *“Yes I found more information from IATI in planing and coordination and institution's development effectiveness report.”*
- *“The USG has a portal from USAID that uses IATI data to show the cooperation landscape when planning assistance.”*

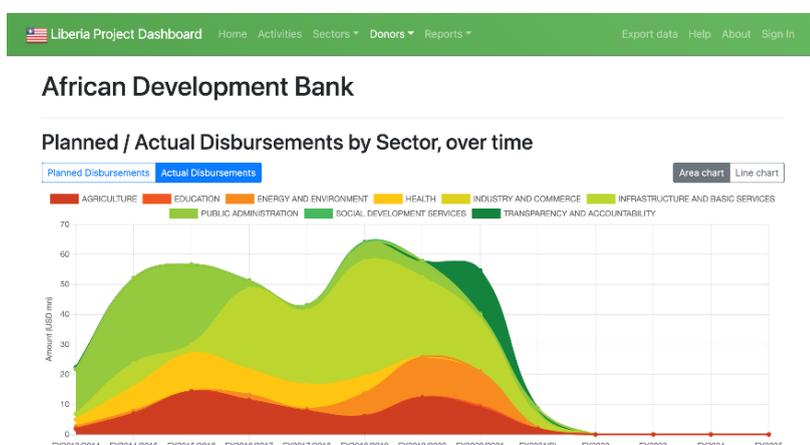
Case Study: The Government of Liberia

Liberia Project Dashboard: Tracking development across Liberia

In 2021, the Government of Liberia began importing IATI data into the [Liberia Project Dashboard \(LPD\)](#), the national aid information system (AIMS) used to input, analyse and publish information about development projects across the country.

A flagship example for a new era of partner country government innovation in the arena of national aid management, the LPD is increasing transparency and accountability both in the management of public sector investment projects and development assistance programmes in the country.

During the 2022 AIMS workshop held in Kigali, Rwanda on May 19 – 20, **Nathan Lloyd, Data Analyst for Liberia’s Ministry of Finance and Development Planning** presented how the LPD currently uses IATI data to provide more detailed and accurate analysis on projects funded by the African Development (AfDB);



By the end of 2021, the import of AfDB data had significantly expanded the data available in the Dashboard on AfDB activities. In particular, data on AfDB projects’ planned and actual disbursements by sector over time, as well as a breakdown of loan instruments from data in IATI are all now available. And this data is now displayed in a simple summary in the dashboard.

While the rollout of the Liberia Project Dashboard is a concrete example towards improving the systematic use of IATI data (Strategic Plan Objective 2), successful AIMS integration of IATI data is contingent on data quality. Some key challenges identified for the LPD include ensuring Development Providers increase the quality and timeliness of their data published to IATI, while reducing the burden of partner country governments to manually collect and reconcile data from multiple sources. Going forward the best practices and lessons learned identified from importing AfDB projects over 1 year, the Government of Liberia plans to scale up and improve the import of IATI data over the next year by importing data for additional major Development Partners funding projects in the country.

Case Study: Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Realising the potential of IATI’s new Validator API

The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA) uses IATI as a useful means of communication with development and humanitarian partners, who publish data on how they spend NMFA funds. To ensure this data is useful, the Ministry strives to support their development and humanitarian partners publish good quality IATI data.

Every year, the NMFA’s Open Data Helpdesk answers more than a thousand questions on how to correctly publish IATI data from approximately 400 partners. In 2020, IATI launched the Validator tool to enable organisations to run checks on their IATI data for errors. During 2021, the NMFA found the IATI Validator very useful when responding to requests for support.

Herman van Loon, Technical lead for IATI at the NMFA said “A lot of these questions are about the correct usage of the IATI Standard and its rules. This is where the new IATI Validator proves invaluable. It gives our partners the functionality to easily check the quality of their IATI publication and by doing so making their data more fit for use”.

In 2021, IATI launched a public API enabling organisations, like the NMFA to integrate IATI validation into their internal data systems and external tools. The Validator API will be a gamechanger for how the NMFA provides support to their partners, as they plan to use it to build an automatic data quality feedback service. This new service will enable the NMFA to automatically check their partners’ data and provide feedback to them in clearly formatted e-mails.

Herman van Loon said: “The identification of data quality problems should be as lightweight and easy as possible. Preferably it should not be dependent on a publisher’s action and therefore we are now piloting an automatic data quality feedback service for our partners. The cornerstone for this service is the new IATI Validator application program interface (API).

“We anticipate that this feedback will reduce the workload on our support team because all common mistakes will be identified automatically without human intervention. That will leave room to spend more energy on the more complex publishing issues”.

Going forward, the NMFA is keen for the IATI Validator to perform additional checks, particularly on data required to trace funding as it is transferred through organisations and activities. By gaining good quality IATI data from their partners, the NMFA will better understand how their aid is being spent and better monitor the results being achieved. This information is vital to improve the effectiveness of their development and humanitarian efforts across the world.

Case Study: UNHCR

Increasing the usefulness of IATI data on humanitarian assistance

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, started publishing data to IATI in 2018 as part of implementing their commitment to the Grand Bargain Agreement. This agreement involved some of the largest donors and humanitarian organisations signing up to a range of actions, including publishing open data on their humanitarian financing.

In 2018, UNHCR started publishing IATI data on all their operations, donor contributions, disbursements, expenditures and results. Since then UNHCR has strived to improve the usefulness of their information by investing in a new internal publishing system and receiving one-to-one support from IATI’s Technical Team to make use of IATI tools.

Justin Senn, Donor Relations Officer at UNHCR said: “The IATI Technical Team has been super helpful over the years by providing guidance on data quality, and helping us with new tools such as the IATI Validator.”

By the end of 2021, UNHCR had significantly expanded the data they provided on their financing of humanitarian activities including:

- more data on which sectors that their activities are working in
- data for tracing funds transferred across organisations and activities, resulting in over half of their activities being marked as “traceable” on humportal.org
- providing the earmarking level of donor contributions and giving monthly (rather than annual) summaries for the private-sector

- adding data on which humanitarian emergencies their activities are responding to by using internationally recognised HRP and GLIDE codes. and also how UNHCR are contributing to specific appeals and response plans
- better presentation on what results they have achieved, including the targeted population as a dimension

This has increased the usefulness of UNHCR's IATI data to governments and other humanitarian partners who plan, coordinate, and implement humanitarian assistance. Over the next year UNHCR plans to continue investing in their internal systems, to deliver further improvements to the quality of their IATI data.

Justin Senn said: "Going forward, the data published by UNHCR should get even better thanks to the new planning system, COMPASS, which includes a mapping of activities to the SDGs and multi-year planning."

Case Study: Centre for Humanitarian Data's Covid-19 Dashboard

Following the World Health Organisation's declaration of a pandemic in March 2020, the IATI Secretariat issued guidance on how to publish Covid-19 development and humanitarian data. By the end of 2021, IATI data was published on over 10,000 activities by around 200 organisations.

The [OCHA Centre for Humanitarian Data](#) worked to understand IATI Covid-19 data and make it accessible to stakeholders. In October 2021 they released an [IATI COVID-19 Funding Dashboard](#) which visualises financial commitments and spending related to the pandemic. It displays the figures as aggregates, with breakdowns by country, sector and publisher, and also shows trends-over-time and flows between organisations. The work covered in this project was funded by the United States Agency for International Development.

Steven Flower, IATI Technical Specialist at the Centre for Humanitarian Data said: "We use data from any IATI publisher that follows the IATI Covid-19 guidelines. The dashboard automatically updates every night, meaning that if an organisation adds or annotates their IATI data with Covid-19 information, then it will be included without the need to tell us!"

To reach audiences not familiar with IATI, the Centre created a data story that highlights specific insights, including:

- How quickly IATI publishers began sharing Covid-19-related data
- The major sectors targeted with Covid-19-related funding
- The uneven distribution of gaps between money committed and money spent for different countries
- The distribution of funding for the health sector over time
- Gaps in organisation-to-organisation funding flows

The Centre released a [report](#) with insights gleaned from working with IATI data, including where improvements are needed to meet the goal of aid transparency. The Centre identified four high-level issues from using the data: 1) a high barrier to entry to using the standard; 2) not enough feedback loops; 3) little dialogue between and among publishers; and 4) that the standard was at times too rigid. The report includes recommendations to address these issues, such as integrating user feedback into IATI governance and updating IATI guidance to include examples of best practice.

The Centre also noted that dashboard users value seeing IATI Covid-19 data over time. Steven Flower said: "A great thing about IATI data is that it is published over many years, and offers granularity. Even though we launched the dashboard in October 2021, the actual data spans back to the onset of the pandemic in early 2020."

The Centre has said that IATI publishers also find the dashboard useful to spot errors in their data and quickly compare it with other organisations. “During the course of this project, the Centre has become a significant IATI data user, and we have involved many members of our team who previously had no exposure to the IATI Standard. Our experience has given us a strong appreciation of the value of the IATI Standard and its community of publishers. We believe that the international aid community has just begun to tap the potential of IATI as a data source”.

8. [Annex 2: 2021 Monitoring Results Matrix](#) (access the monitoring table [here](#))

9. [Annex 3: Overview of adjustments implemented for 2021 Performance Monitoring and Evaluation](#) (access the Annex [here](#))