IATI network data: why and how?

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The Netherlands MFA’s network of partners
The full picture
Why do the Netherlands consider IATI vital?

### Pragmatic

- 80% of our funding is indirect
- To properly inform our parliament and the public, we need information from our partners in data format

### Accountability for the sector

Donors like MFA should ask questions like:
- Are we doing the right things?
- Are we working in the right locations?
- If we follow the money, where does it end up?

Others in the network may ask:
- What happens in my area?
- Are those the things we need?
- Did NGOs and donors learn from past mistakes?
Data quality is vital

If links are not made correctly, the network is incomplete
How we support our partners

“Guided Implementation”

Helpdesk website

Email support

IATI Connect

Question Hours on Thursdays

Newsletter
Our #1 article on the website:

**HELPDESK OPEN DATA**

**TECHNICAL TIP**

How To Link To The Donor

This is our very first Technical Tip for IATI publishers, and we might as well start with the big one. The number one issue in IATI files of our partners by far, is not correctly referring back to the ministry’s activity. This is both very common and an issue with grave consequences. Luckily, it’s easily fixed. Let’s see why linking back is so important and how to do it.
September 2020

Now
What works?

Feedback
Support
Use
But: this way of support is labour intensive
Automated feedback

Automated feedback of data quality after publication of IATI data

• Immediate feedback
• Easily scaled up
The IATI data quality cycle
Automated feedback using IATI tools (in **beta** now on opt-in basis)

To opt-in for this service please e-mail helpdesk-opendata@minbuza.nl
Example

IATI data quality feedback

Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs IATI team <nmfa-
To : nmfa-

Publisherfeedback-womankindworld.pdf
38 KB

Dear IATI publisher, many thanks for the latest publication of your activities. The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs has processed your data and has performed a data quality check via the IATI Validator, which is maintained by the international IATI Secretariat. The attached report is what the Validator found. You can always perform this check yourself as well, on https://iativalidator.iatistandard.org/. If you have questions on how to fix your data, please let us know with an email to helpdesk-
opendata@minbuza.nl. Please be aware that the Validator does not find all errors, so you may receive other feedback from the ministry that does not appear in the Validator.

Message date: 2022/07/14 08:33:48.978
Example

IATI publisher feedback report

**iati-activities**

https://www.oxfamnovib.nl/redactie/Downloads/XML/iati.xml

Thu Feb 23 14:54:34 CET 2023

**NMFA-2 error:** Non existing provider organisation activity identifier used. All references must be to existing valid IATI identifiers.


**1.8.13 warning:** The receiver-org identifier must not contain any of the symbols /, &, | or ?. (1 activities)

For /iati-activities/iati-activity/participating-org/@ref = 'N/A' at line: 64563, column: 323

Invalid reference to an IATI activity

Partner activity id

Invalid character in identifier

Generated by the feedback process

Generated by the IATI data validator
Example: monitoring direct & indirect activities in Bangladesh
Example: monitoring the locations of activities in Bangladesh
Example: monitoring the results of 42 partnerships & 4 Funds
The Strengthening Civil Society (SCS) IATI dashboard is the latest addition to the series of IATI dashboards, providing insights in policy, grant instrument and partnership level, including information about which partnerships works where, which topics they focus on, the targets, progress and baseline situation of each partnership and the structure of the consortia.

The dashboard is an all-in-one window to ease monitoring, reporting, and policy dialogue.
SCS IATI indicator guidelines -> SCS IATI dashboard

Information asked

- Information at country/regional level
- Quantitative and qualitative information
- Indicator periods
- Indicators codes

This enabled us to build the SCS IATI dashboard

Disclaimer on the dashboard

- Do no harm -> some partners received permission to publish anonymized data, aggregated data (instead of country-based data) or not publish at all.

- The SCS IATI dashboard is therefore not 100% complete, but it gives interesting insights into the partnerships publishing information.
What can we (= the MFA) use the data for?

To inform programming & policy:
- Progress: compared to baseline, over years, budgets, potential risks?
- Dialogue: with CSO partners, national authorities, multilateral and other stakeholders
Thank you!

All info:
www.helpdesk-opendata-minbuza.nl