Implementation update, Q1 2025
January - March 2025

1. Implementation update on 2025 Work plan

Introduction

This update is prepared ahead of the in-person Q1 2025 work plan taking place in The Hague, Netherlands on March 20-21. Updates cover the months of January - February 2025 and refer to the work plan approved on December 22nd, 2024, published here: #Revised IATI Work Plan 2025 MA Final with accompanying narrative here https://iatistandard.org/documents/10864/MA_Paper_3.1_ENG_-_IATI_2025_Work_Plan_and_Budget_Narrative-1.pdf

1. Governance, Accountability and Strategic Planning

Key areas of focus in 2025 are undertaking an independent evaluation of the 2020-25 Strategic Plan and development of a successor Strategic Plan for 2026-30, incorporating relevant findings, to be concluded in time for endorsement by members during IATI's in-person MA in the fourth quarter. A further essential focus is enhancing income and expenditure management, work led by UNOPS.

Q1 delivery:

A virtual **IATI Members' Assembly** was held on 16 January 2025 to bridge a lengthy period since in-person events in Bogota, Colombia in Q2 2024, until the planned Q4 MA in 2025. This event brought together IATI members to discuss key strategic and operational priorities and provided an opportunity to review progress, exchange insights, and strengthen collaboration among stakeholders. Key topics included updates on the Strategic Plan evaluation, financial sustainability, and upcoming initiatives for 2025. The final minutes of the meeting are available here: Members' Assembly Minutes – 16 January 2025.

The **IATI Financial Sustainability Working Group** was activated in Q1 2025 and has since convened four meetings, bringing together key stakeholders to explore long-term financial sustainability options for IATI. Discussions have focused on assessing potential funding models, improving financial resilience, and aligning resource mobilization efforts with IATI's strategic priorities. The Working Group has made significant progress in identifying viable approaches to diversify funding sources and ensure IATI's continued impact. The Board will receive a verbal update from the current chair of the working group (a rotating role), during its Q1 meeting, and further updates on key recommendations and next steps will be shared with the Governing Board as the work advances.

The **IATI South-South Cooperation (SSC) Working Group** convened on 7 February 2025, bringing together members to discuss progress in strengthening transparency and data sharing within SSC initiatives. Key topics included enhancing IATI's engagement with SSC actors, improving data usability, and aligning reporting practices with global development frameworks. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, 25 April 2025, where discussions will continue on advancing collaboration and practical steps to improve SSC data visibility within IATI.

During the reporting period, the **independent evaluation of IATI Strategic Plan** was conducted through a comprehensive and transparent process, incorporating diverse stakeholder perspectives. This included caucus focus groups, an independent survey, and individual

interviews to ensure a well-rounded assessment of IATI's progress and impact. A draft evaluation report, which includes key findings and recommendations, is now available for the Board's review. The evaluation team will present their findings and recommendations during the Q1 Board meeting to support discussions on IATI's strategic direction. For reference, the Terms of Reference for the evaluation can be accessed here. Additionally, the 2024 Annual Survey for the Strategic Plan Results Framework, which tracks performance against the Strategic Plan Results Framework, including user satisfaction with IATI tools, will be open to IATI Members, Publishers, and Data Users in mid-March. The deadline to complete the annual survey is April 30th.

Following the first phase of consultations in Q4 2024, the **development of the next IATI Strategic Plan 2026-2030** intensified in Q1 2025. Key activities included bilateral meetings between the IATI Executive DIrector and IATI Members as well as key external stakeholders, including non-member donors and other Member States, as well as international financial institutions, foundations and civil society organizations. In addition, the consultant leading the drafting of the next Strategic Plan conducted interviews with the IATI Board, as well as key stakeholders from the IATI Membership. IATI also commissioned a *Vision Paper*: IATI 2030, Transforming data, transforming lives' by the same SP consultant, based on the first phase of consultations, and as the basis for wider discussion. Volunteers from across the IATI community are moderating a second phase of the open online consultations to discuss the vision paper and potential new roles and functions of IATI, open until mid-March. The consultant prepared a 'Strategic Directions' proposal based on these consultations, with additional feedback received from internal Secretariat consultations to reflect its rich institutional knowledge. The Q1 Board will receive the Strategic Directions proposal for its review and approval before moving ahead with the full drafting phase.

During Q1, IATI also developed its series of 'deepdive' interviews to explore key issues that have arisen in the SP consultations with a diverse group of external stakeholders in the wider IATI ecosystem. This included government officials from recipient and donor organisations, civil society representatives and private sector data providers. The findings from this will also be published in a synthesis report and help shape the development of the initial drafts of the Strategic Plan.

In addition to these highlights, the Secretariat has continued to support the Governing Board through weekly calls between Executive Director and Chair, and organisation of a Q1 in-person Board meeting in the Hague, March 20-21 following on the heels of two other IATI events to realise cost savings. The first of these is an EU Transparency Seminar in Brussels hosted by the EC's INTPA on March 18th in Brussels. While many key focal points from the European region will be present in Brussels, the Secretariat has also planned a community-led event on 19th, starting out with a session discussing the IATI Strategic Plan and inviting inputs from this constituency, and moving on to a number of publishing and data quality-related topics, led by community members with support by the Secretariat.

2. Improving data quality for more effective development

The approved 2025 work plan set out a number of activities aimed towards making progress on data quality to be undertaken throughout the year. These included undertaking a detailed State of Data review, revitalising the IATI dashboard to become a comprehensive point of reference for all published data. The plan further included undertaking a pilot project with OECD focused on transparency in aid procurement. Further activities for the year include developing tailored and practical guides to support data publishers, and continuing to make improvements to the IATI Publisher tool to replicate all free-to-use AidStream features. Building on the maturity assessment paper on IATI tools reviewed by the Board in Q3/2024, work on rationalising core IATI infrastructure will continue in 2025. And finally, implementing recommendations of the Standard Stewardship Working Group in 2024 will see routine change control for the Standard to evaluate change requests and assessment of impact in a timely way.

Q1 delivery:

Following the recommendations of the Standard Stewardship Working Group, work has progressed through Q1 to prepare the processes and resources required to start making changes to the IATI Standard. This has involved analysis of known issues, and designing protocols and templates through which to assess and document any impact to known use cases. To move the dial forward, and avoid inertia, a rolling approach to updates to the standard will be trialed, with close collaboration and cooperation with community members.

The back-end development work for a **refreshed IATI Dashboard** was completed on the 12th March, to replace the dashboard that has existed for 10 years. The new Dashboard integrates the IATI Design System, to ensure it is clearly recognised as an IATI product. Behind-the-scenes, the Dashboard technology has been completely rewritten to provide a scalable foundation for future iterations. The Dashboard now also uses modern processes to build its pages, meaning it takes less time and resources to undertake the nightly update. The numbers and metrics presented on the dashboard are unchanged at this point, but the foundational back-end work means it is now possible to reflect new data, as and when this is consulted and agreed with the Board and Community.

In relation to the work delivered by Publish What You Fund under the agreement by which IATI funded the 2024 Aid Transparency Index (ATI), a set of ATI data tests have been written on the new Dashboard framework. These tests encompass the vast majority of organisation and activity level metrics from the ATI (as recommended by Publish What You Fund) and run on all IATI publishers, every day. The results of these tests are currently not yet publicly accessible via the IATI Dashboard.

Prototyping and testing on the dashboard continues, in order to make it the default and singular place to access and view data *about* published IATI datasets. As per the Technology Maturity Analysis, the duplication of this information between the Dashboard and the IATI Registry (that uses the CKAN software) causes confusion and inefficiencies. This work has laid the ground for the merging of these two interfaces and functions, so that stakeholders have a Single Source of Truth about the publication status and metadata of any IATI publication.

Continuing with the enhancement and alignment of key IATI technical infrastructure, the Bulk Data Service has been intensively trialed and monitored as data source for both the Unified Data Pipeline and the CDFD tool. The switchover to this (planned for late March) as a live data source is an important step to ensure data users access the same data from all IATI tools and services, in turn minimizing the confusion and support queries that can arise.

IATI Tables - a community-made tool popular with data analysts that provides SQL interfaces to IATI data - has been brought under maintenance (as per the Technology Maturity Matrix document) and now benefits from direct support and server resources that improve its reliability and discoverability within the IATI web estate. Many support queries benefit from use of IATI Tables, as it provides staff with a powerful analysis tool and enquirers with an interface that emphasises querying in common languages over prerequisite knowledge of XML.

The IATI Publisher tool continues to develop and be further enhanced. Several validation and data quality support measures have been integrated, alongside new support documentation (building on the documentation and translation protocols now in place) and integration of the IATI Design System. The community continues to be informed as incremental changes are made to the tool, based on a clear communications plan, ensuring users are aware of planned updates in good time.

Regular updates and maintenance of the IATI technical infrastructure have been applied, with no major outage or downtime experienced. Over the past two quarters, the cost of the main Azure servers that host the IATI Unified Pipeline have increased, although they remain within budget parameters. This can be read as a positive, if taken as a proxy for an increase in the requests for IATI data. To help further contextualise this change, the team has integrated an additional monitoring service (Matomo), which provides granular details on the types of data

queries being made on IATI tools. Alongside the established analytics service (Plausible), this will provide input and benchmarks to various activities, including the efficiency of IATI's technical infrastructure.

In terms of support for publishers, there was an upturn in support queries in January (queries from 81 organisations), February (85 organisations) and March (43, already as of 10th March). This included 17 new publishers.

In early March, a large number of NGOs based in Somalia requested support in order to establish publishing accounts with IATI. This was at the request of the country office of the UN International Office for Migration (IOM)'s Rapid Support Mechanism (RSM).

Another significant source of support queries were several UK government departments, who are being assessed under the UK Aid Review (funded by FCDO, delivered by Publish What You Fund). In total, 17 different departments (excluding FCDO) are preparing and updating their IATI data, and a variety of guidance and support queries are being directed to the secretariat, following advice directly given by PWYF. Attempts have been made to pool support mechanisms with PWYF, to ensure a smoother experience, but with little progress.

3. Enhancing Data Use, and Training and support for data users

This strategic priority area straddles policy and support workstreams. Following on from data use brainstorming sessions in 2024, 2025 calls for innovative IATI-led training, and production of new training materials. Additionally 2025 will see the development and roll-out of a new Data Use Strategy, following recommendations from the Standard Stewardship Working Group (SSWG) which highlighted the need for a "data use standard" to ensure that data users need not replicate or reinvent common processes when consuming IATI data. In addition, The concept note for the **IATI West Africa Regional Workshop**, developed in collaboration with the **African Development Bank**, is set to be finalized in March 2025, with the workshop planned for June 2025. This workshop will focus on enhancing aid transparency and data use among regional stakeholders, strengthening engagement with West African partners, and advancing the use of IATI data for development effectiveness. Moreover, a new data policy is also under development in 2025. On the side of the IATI Support desk, self-service mechanisms are being explored in 2025, together with peer support / collaboration where deeper dive assignments are called for. Later in the year the team will undertake community consultation on a position paper on the use of AI in the domain of transparency.

Q1 delivery:

During the reporting period, IATI provided data use support as a member of the Advisory Board for the "Tracking Research Funding Flows in the Global South for More Transparent and Inclusive Science" project, which held its first meeting on 26 February 2025. The project, funded by Canada's IDRC, aims to improve transparency and equity in research funding for the Global South. IATI advised on the use of IATI data in mapping funding flows and identifying key trends to support more inclusive funding policies. The project will continue through 2026, with upcoming phases focused on data analysis, visualization tools, and policy recommendations.

The Secretariat also provided data use support to Inflection Finance, the technical provider assisting the UNDP Country Office in Sao Tome and Principe, in accessing IATI data to track international/public flows in the country. This analysis will contribute to the development of the country's Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) and Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under Block 3, helping to map external financing sources and enhance alignment with the NDC. In addition, the Secretariat provided data use support to the UNDP Country Office in Lebanon, engaging with the Senior Advisor embedded within the Office of the Prime Minister and efforts to establish an aid coordination unit and conduct a stocktake of internationally funded projects in the country. IATI advised on identifying data requirements,

shared country-level Aid Information Management System (AIMS) examples from Liberia, Nigeria, and Nepal, and recommended approaches for engaging short-term expertise to strengthen aid information management and coordination efforts.

During the reporting period, IATI engaged with Accountability Lab to introduce IATI tools as a resource for real-time tracking of USAID funding flows amid the Global Aid Freeze Tracker initiative. This engagement explored how IATI data could enhance transparency and analysis of funding disruptions, supporting evidence-based responses to the impacts of the U.S. foreign aid realignment. Secretariat engagement with data users seeking support with accessing and using IATI data published by USAID has highlighted the value of using tools such as Deepnote which are built on standard and common platforms. This has shown the importance of ensuring IATI can be relevant and useful in environments that analysts already work in, a matter to be addressed through the data policy.

New and updated documentation has been released for the IATI Datastore and d-portal, using the IATI Design System and translation processes.

In line with the consolidation of IATI tools d-portal now has integration with the IATI Design System, to ensure it is unambiguous in terms of being an IATI-housed service. This integration is currently not the default view of d-portal, as community outreach and communications is planned, to ensure any change to tool that has long existed in the IATI portfolio, can be staged with care.

Functional alignment of IATI tools has also progressed, such as work on d-portal to make clearer use of *both* the IATI activity status and date fields, when declaring whether an IATI activity is active or current. This has revealed that many publishers do not keep these data points in sync, further illustrating how actions on data quality, review, guidance, tools and outreach are often intertwined.

4. Advocacy, engagement and online presence

2025 is the year of expanding engagement at global, regional and national levels to build visibility and maintain relevance in the face of new and rapidly evolving challenges. Key global processes for engagement will be the Financing for Development 4 and bilateral meeting opportunities during the different preparatory meetings leading up to it. Maintaining close engagement with IATI's existing members will be as important as bringing new members in 2025, and this will be done both online through formal working groups and in-person with different thematic communities of data users, and when external opportunities arise. A new communications strategy will underpin work to strengthen IATI's online presence across all our websites to better support members and those seeking data for research and advocacy.

Q1 delivery:

As a key Q1 Work Plan deliverable, a draft communications strategy for the initiative has been written for review by the Board in its Q1 meeting. This strategy is designed to strengthen IATI's visibility, credibility, and influence, ensuring communications play a central role in driving change over the next three years. As IATI's first communications strategy, it sets objectives, measurables, messaging, and a clear approach to content and managing IATI communications channels.

Planning began on creating the IATI Annual Report 2024, another key Work Plan activity under Q1 and Q2. The report's statistics were pulled and analysed in February including on budgets, spending, SDG, climate, humanitarian and gender data, and the draft narrative for the statistics section has been drafted in March. The delivery of the Annual Report is planned for the first week of May.

In terms of technical advancement for IATI's online presence, prototyping continues around the Single Sign On (SSO) service integration, which will eventually sit across all IATI services. This

is closely coupled with how the secretariat manages data on all stakeholders, which in turn underpins how communications and advocacy efforts can be targeted and delivered. A data mapping has been completed, to ensure that all relevant data fields can be stored and captured, and a project communications schedule has been developed to ensure that the IATI community will be well informed and engaged as services change in Q2 and Q3.

To also streamline and simplify how organisations interact with IATI, various parts of the website and guidance materials have been consolidated, to ensure that the "user journey" for publishers is efficient and meets needs. An "IATI Support portal" with common queries and signposting has been integrated. This lays the foundation for the SSO integration, as "Register with IATI" will need to be an unambiguous call to action.

Other notable communications activities included the launch of the IATI report in: *Powering Transparency: IATI's Role in Enhancing Accountability and Driving Impact* (launched with one-pager, summary report, casestudies report). The report was launched at the Members' Assembly in January and distributed in person at the FfD4 side-event (see below). The IATI Events calendar 2025 was populated and published via IATI's Google calendar and IATI Connect. Regular communications during Q1 continued including 19 newsletters and e-communications (e.g. event invitations), 5 news stories (including Gambia joins as a new member), 20 LinkedIn posts and content on IATI's other Social Channels and reactive media requests i.e., in response to the Aid Transparency Index 2026 Announcement.

Following the news of the closure of USAID, the secretariat prepared an analysis notebook on the IATI data published by the agency, including month-by-month and receiver organisation breakdowns. Several stakeholders have reached out to the Secretariat for guidance on accessing and this valuable data, including the World Bank, UNICEF, the Centre for Humanitarian Data and TOSSD.

IATI and TOSSD are jointly developing a high-level policy brief entitled ***"Bridging Transparency Gaps in Development Finance,"*** which highlights critical challenges and opportunities in enhancing data interoperability between the two frameworks. As part of this effort, a technical mapping is underway to align IATI and TOSSD reporting structures, improving the coherence and accessibility of development finance data. The policy brief, to be co-published by IATI and TOSSD, will serve as a key input for the upcoming EU Transparency Dialogues in March, where discussions will focus on strengthening transparency and data harmonization across global development finance systems. This joint work will also serve to dispel a common misunderstanding that TOSSD and IATI are competitive, but rather to demonstrate the ways in which they are complementary.

IATI continued implementing its Engagement Strategy & Action Plan (September 2024 – December 2025). On 30 January 2025, IATI engaged with the **Pacific Islands Forum** (PIF), delivering a presentation to PIF heads, hosted by the Permanent Mission of New Zealand, on strengthening collaboration with PIF members, with a focus on advancing aid transparency, data interoperability, and financing for climate-vulnerable LDC SIDS in the Pacific. This engagement, aligned with key themes from IATI's concept note, underscored the importance of high-quality, accessible data to enhance climate resilience and development financing, serving as a critical step toward the Financing for Development (FfD) preparatory committee meeting in February.

In Q1 2025, IATI engaged in high-level discussions with a delegation from Malawi in New York on leveraging open data and transparency to enhance tracking and coordination of development financing. The discussion highlighted how countries like Nigeria, Liberia, Somalia, and Nepal use IATI data to improve aid allocation and monitoring, offering insights relevant to Malawi's efforts.

IATI joined the steering committee of the Research Funding Flows initiative, which analyses funding for research funding in development contexts. Researchers from universities in Argentina and the Netherlands are now supported to use IATI data alongside other sources.

Engagement also continues with researchers from Cambridge University as part of the 'Development Consultants and Contractors'. The focus of cooperation with this team has been around optimal ways that IATI can "package" data for academic research.

The team has also engaged with the University of Korea jointly with UNDP Korea, who presented a detailed report and analysis of their experience in using IATI data. We are examining this closely as a valuable source of data use feedback, and exploring opportunities for further collaboration with the authors.

On February 11, IATI hosted a successful side event convening over 100 stakeholders from government, international organisations, and the development finance community to join discussions on how transparent, open data enhances financing for development (FfD) outcomes, in a full-capacity UN Conference Room. The event was co-organised with the Governments of Australia, Germany, Liberia, the Open Contracting Partnership (OCP), and the World Bank's Global Alliance for Food Security (GAFS), in the margins of the third preparatory committee for the fourth international conference on Finance for Development. The event reinforced the role data can play beyond reporting – as a powerful communications tool, and an enabler of smarter decision-making, stronger accountability, and more effective development cooperation.

The impact of coordinated FfD advocacy across the IATI Secretariat and Membership led to reinforcing messages from donors and recipients, including from the governments of Australia, the UK, Germany, Nigeria, Somalia and Lesotho, as well as the EU during the Preparatory Committee and in correspondence to the FfD4 Outcome Document co-facilitators. This work will continue in Q2 leading to Seville in June with active involvement of IATI members.

The IATI Secretariat is actively reengaging across UNDP's teams and bureaus, exploring potential for new areas of collaboration and synergy. This includes through the Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy, including teams leading on philanthropic engagement, and with key public partners and Member States. There has been productive engagement with the UNDP Chief Digital Office, the UNDP Climate and Nature Hubs and other thematic teams in the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support.

5. Coordination, efficiency and impact of aid

IATI continues working to meet one of its key objectives, namely to support data users to enhance the coordination of aid and humanitarian resources. In 2025 this means working with UNOCHA and the Financial Tracking Service, systematically supporting different thematic communities of IATI data users, and gaining clear insights around mutual delivery networks, as well as, and enhanced downstream partner mapping and localization of development effectiveness.

Q1 delivery:

The **IATI-OCHA FTS pilot** coordination meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Denmark advanced efforts to automate the transformation of Danish IATI data into an FTS-compatible format using the Deepnote pipeline tool. Progress includes refining transformation rules and ensuring replicability for other Member States, such as the Netherlands. With EDRIS deprecation on 31 March 2025, the pilot presents an opportunity to showcase IATI-published data as a direct reporting mechanism for FTS, particularly during the EU Transparency Day consultations in March.

A new "view" of IATI data[1] has been developed via d-portal, which creates and visualises how IATI activities link and network together. This has leveraged traceability mechanisms inherent in the IATI Standard to enable any activity to be situated in a graph in relevance to others. The

[1] This view is available on all IATI activities. A useful example is this activity from UNHCR (who have given very favourable feedback).

data can appear “untidy” on first view, and community input will be valuable to maximise the value to be gained from this significant step forward.

The Secretariat has continued to work closely with the Global Alliance for Food Security (GAFS) and collaborated on developing a GAFS guidance note for partners as part of the triggering or a country Preparedness Plan. This details and supports how those publishing and using IATI data can annotate and locate it, in relation to the specific food security need. In the context of this work the GAFS Secretariat has prepared a list of their “tags”, which will underpin a proposal (in line with SSWG related work) for a new vocabulary in the IATI Standard.

The Secretariat has continued its support to the Education Cannot Wait (ECW) “Data Observatory” project in UNICEF, which has been using IATI, OECD and FTS data to build analysis on funding to education in Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crises (EiEPC) settings. A key outcome of this partnership has been analysis to understand whether and how IATI reporting organisations change transactions that have already been published (which is one facet of the State of Data Review). This research has indicated that this is a common behaviour, which in turn can hinder those that attempt to use IATI data for financial tracking.

Further to the direct and indirect financial impacts resulting from USAID’s shuttering, there has been a sharp and welcome uptick in requests to the team for data analysis and reporting, with recognition that IATI data published by the US is an invaluable source for those seeking to understand where the gaps are in support previously provided. This includes from the TOSSD Secretariat seeking to utilise IATI publication by USAID for its 2024 dataset.

6. Finance and operation

Q1 delivery:

PROCUREMENT:

UNDP procured meeting support services for the Financing for Development IATI side event, along with print materials for distribution at the event and future meetings. A similar procurement exercise for meeting support services will be carried out for the EU Seminar/IATI Community Engagement event in Brussels in March 2025. Consultancy contracts for the following services have been extended: engagement specialist support, two strategic plan evaluators, and the graphic designer.

UNDP also continues to manage the Long-Term Agreement with Open Data Services (ODS) for technology service support to IATI. This includes engaging ODS personnel and procuring various IT tools and applications for the implementation of technology work under scopes 2 – 4 of the work plan, which also covers travel for ODS staff supporting the IATI work plan, such as for the March EU Aid Transparency Seminar/IATI Community Engagement Event.

The hosting and maintenance of the IATI Connect platform is in the process of being extended for an additional year, with services provided by Open Social. UNDP continues to procure monthly subscription services for the IT tools and applications required to carry out activities outlined in the work plan (e.g., MailChimp, GoDaddy and Adobe licenses).

UNOPS has procured interpretation services for both the MA virtual meeting in January 2025 and the IATI Partner Country Focus Group meeting in February 2025. Additionally, it has made travel arrangements for GB members’ attendance in the EU Transparency Seminar in Brussels and in-presence GB meeting in The Hague. Also,the venue for a media event scheduled to take place in The Hague on May 26th, 2025, has been secured.

FINANCE:

As an opening remark, UNDP has collaborated with UNOPS to prepare documents and financial information for the Financial Sustainability Working Group (FSWG), which was tasked by the Governing Board with commissioning a thorough review of financial arrangements to

ensure IATI's medium- and long-term sustainability. The FSWG is expected to deliver a set of proposals for members' consideration and approval through a written procedure in Q2 2025.

UNDP is also finalizing the 2024 Switzerland agreement with the aim of reporting full utilization of the donor's two-year contribution. Reports have been prepared, and requests for disbursement of the 2025 contribution fees have been sent to Germany and Canada. As of 31 January, the deposit from Canada has already been received by UNDP.

The UN-to-UN Agreement Amendment between UNDP and UNOPS has been signed, and the first tranche of USD 1,250,000 has been transferred to UNDP as part of the funding for the implementation of the 2025 work plan. The total agreement amounts to USD 3,155,505.71, with two additional tranches to follow.

UNOPS has intensified efforts to collect membership contributions from members with signed multi-year agreements who have yet to pay for 2025. In parallel, UNOPS is urging members who have only signed up until 2024 to sign contribution agreements for 2025 and beyond as soon as possible. In order to expedite the process, UNOPS has carried out a thorough revision of agreement templates to reflect inputs received from members throughout 2024.

Additionally, in response to the recent funding pause by USAID and cuts in Official Development Assistance (ODA) by major donors, UNOPS has prepared a paper on the potential impacts on IATI, as requested by the Board. The IATI team at UNOPS is also coordinating with the organization's Legal team and Senior Management to ensure compliance with USAID's determination and mitigate risks as much as possible.

As of the issuance of this paper, 46 out of 64[2] paying members have signed contribution agreements covering the year 2025 or beyond, and of those 31 have already paid their 2025 contributions, totaling USD 1,975,715.

As of 31 March 2025, IATI expenditures totaled USD 864,199. The tables below provide a breakdown of expenditures by scopes, priorities and cost categories.

Table 1

IATI Secretariat Finances for 2025 Q1 by Scope	
Expenditure by Scope	**Expenditure**
Scope: 1. Accountability Structure	81,818
Scope: 2. Stewardship of the IATI Standard	69,282
Scope: 3. Technical Infrastructure	169,205
Scope: 4. Publisher and User Support	119,549
Scope: 5. Advocacy, Community and Communications	122,791
Scope: 6. Policy and Planning Services	120,358
Scope: 7. Operational and Financial management	84,831
Scope: 8. Procurement and Contracts Management	36,740
Sub-Total	**804,574**
GMS - UNDP 8%	55,001
Management fees - UNOPS 3.95%	4,624
Grand Total	**864,199**

[2] Including members who did not pay their 2024 contributions and have not responded to UNOPS' outreach.

Table 2

IATI Secretariat Finances for 2025 Q1 by Strategic Priorty and Cost Category

Strategic Priority	Cost category	Expenditure
1. Governance, Accountability and Strategic Planning (2025 Priority)	Consultancy (UNDP)	-
	LTA Service Contracts	5,789
	IT Applications/Subscriptions	1,278
	Personnel (UNDP)	158,100
	Personnel (UNOPS)	91,900
	Print / publications	-
	Travel	26,339
1. Governance, Accountability and Strategic Planning (2025 Priority) Total		**283,406**
2. Improving data quality for more effective development (SP Objective 1)	IT Applications/Subscriptions	43,371
	Service Contracts (ODS)	174,285
	Travel	7,035
2. Improving data quality for more effective development (SP Objective 1) Total		**224,690**
3. Training and support for data users (SP Objective 2)	IT Applications/Subscriptions	1,721
	Personnel (UNDP)	11,594
	Service Contracts (ODS)	110,115
3. Training and support for data users (SP Objective 2) Total		**123,430**
4. Advocacy, engagement and online presence (2025 Priority)	Consultancy (UNDP)	22,825
	Consultancy (UNOPS)	-
	IT Applications/Subscriptions	1,495
	Others	3,701
	Personnel (UNDP)	109,925
	Print / publications	-
	Travel	-
4. Advocacy, engagement and online presence (2025 Priority) Total		**137,946**
5. Coordination, efficiency and impact of aid (SP Objective 3)	Consultancy (UNDP)	-
	Personnel (UNDP)	35,102
	Travel	-
5. Coordination, efficiency and impact of aid (SP Objective 3) Total		**35,102**
Sub-Total		**804,574**
GMS - UNDP 8%		55,001
Management fees - UNOPS 3.95%		4,624
Grand Total		**864,199**

Table 3

IATI Secretariat Finances for 2025 Q1 by Cost Category (USD)

Cost Category	Budget	Expenditure Q1	Delivery Rate
Personnel	**1,771,584**	**406,622**	**22.95%**
Labour Cost - GS Staff		14,086	
Labour Cost - IP Staff		260,574	
Labour Cost - International Personnel Services Agreement (IPSA)		131,962	
Labour Cost - IP Staff on Temporary Appointment		-	
Consultancy / Service Contracts	**1,479,100**	**313,014**	**21.16%**
International Consultants - Short Term Support Contractor		-	
International Consultants - Short Term Technical Contractor		307,225	
Service Contract Holders		-	
Long Term Contractual Service Contracts		5,789	
General Insurance - Consultancy		-	
Service to Projects - General Opex		-	
IT Applications / Subscriptions	**296,300**	**47,865**	**16.15%**
Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Supplies		-	
Email Subscription		-	
Computer Software		47,865	
Maintenance Cost - Software Licenses		-	
Print and Publications		-	
Other Media Costs		-	
Travel	**276,835**	**37,101**	**13.40%**
Travel Tickets - International/Local		10,470	
Daily Subsistnce Allowance - International/Local		15,402	
Travel Cost - Other		2,617	
Learning/workshop/training costs		8,612	
Grants		**-**	
Publish What You Fund (PWYF)		-	
Others	**10,000**	**(27)**	**-0.27%**
Foreign Exchange Losses		-	
Unrealized Foreign Exchange Gain		(27)	
Print / publication /workshop	**72,000**	**-**	**0.00%**
Facilities and Administration - Implementation	**288,102**	**59,625**	**20.70%**
Facilities and Administration - Implementation		59,625	
Grand Total	**4,193,921**	**864,199**	**20.61%**

As shown in the last table above, the Q1 delivery rate compared to the total 2025 budget is 20.61%. When measured against the Q1 budget (USD 983,946), the rate is 88%.

When deducted from the total current income for 2025 (USD 3,234,053), the total expenditures of USD 864,199 leave IATI with a cash balance of USD 2,369,854, as shown below:

Table 4

IATI Secretariat Finances for 2025 Q1-Income Vs Expenditure

2025	
Income Received from Membership Contribution*	1,860,065
Income from Voluntary Contribution	115,650
Carry over from previous year	1,258,338
Total Income including MC, VC and Cash from previous years	3,234,053
Expenditures	864,199
Current Balance	**2,369,854**

* USD 86,806 received by UNDP

In this regard, it should be highlighted that the following members are yet to pay their 2024 contributions:

1. Bond (agreement not signed)
2. Centre for Democracy and Development (agreement not signed)
3. Government of Chad
4. Government of Malawi (to be paid by the UNDP Country Office)
5. Media Foundation for West Africa (agreement not signed)
6. Oxfam Novib

As a final note, UNOPS is providing financial reports and holding meetings with an independent auditing firm hired by the European Union to verify expenditures related to the voluntary contribution of USD 171,931, which funded the MA and Community Exchange meetings held in Bogotá in April 2024. The process is running smoothly, and no issues are anticipated.

Implementation Challenges

Delivery during the first quarter has been largely on target. One key activity moved to Q2 is the planned West Africa Regional Workshop slated for Q1, which is postponed to Q2 to accommodate the hosting partner AfDB, and in view of the contract ending of IATI's Data Use Specialist in the region. The drafting of the data policy has been similarly delayed, for lack of available capacity, and will be taken up in Q2/Q3. Thirdly, the citizens poll which was planned to be implemented in Q1 is delayed due to inadequate budget and staffing situation of the Secretariat.

As discussed in the paper prepared by UNOPS for the Board, the termination of USAID's contributions could have both immediate and long-term financial consequences for IATI. In addition to withdrawing its USD 340,000 contribution for 2025–2028, USAID's exit could impact other donors, as many rely on U.S. funds to operate. The extent of this impact remains to be assessed, but, based on members' overall response so far, most are expected to maintain their commitment. While adjustments may be necessary to accommodate the funding loss, proactive engagement with existing donors, outreach to new partners, and financial contingency planning should help ensure stability.

Secretariat remained understaffed during the first quarter as two positions were vacant and continued health challenges of two staff members. This has put key members of the team under pressure and in some instances, slight delay in implementation of the activities.

Conclusion and considerations for Board

IATI Secretariat is on track to deliver planned results, despite disruptions in the development context. However, setbacks in funding put enormous stress on the initiative. The Secretariat acknowledges and appreciates the continued engagement and support of the Board, and members, despite facing difficult times. With the uncertainties facing future development cooperation, IATI is reflecting on its business model within the framework of the Financial Sustainability Working Group. Based on the recommendation of the working group, IATI Board and Secretariat will further look into the business models to steer initiative-wide discussion towards sustainable financing within the framework of the next strategic plan. Efforts for resource mobilization have been intensified with targeted outreach activities.

On the basis of the above, we hereby request the Board to approve the first quarter report.