Progress in improving data quality: Where are we now?

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Agenda

1. Importance of data quality
2. Progress in 2021: updates from IATI Secretariat
   a. Validator engagement & experience
   b. Systematic publisher analysis
   c. Role of publishing guidance
   d. Interoperability & work with other data standards
3. Your role in improving IATI data quality: interactive session looking at some known data quality challenges
4. Next steps
Importance of Data Quality

We strongly encourage IATI publishers to increase the quality of their data over time. This includes ensuring there are no technical errors in your data, checking against the IATI Validator for errors and warnings, as well as improving its key qualities, making it more timely, comprehensive and forward-looking.

“Publish Once, Use Often”

“Start small and improve over time”

Let’s start with a few Zoom poll questions now. There are no right or wrong answers!
IATI Validator

- **Engagement with IATI members:** all members have been contacted & support calls offered by IATI Secretariat: some great progress from publishers such as Oxfam Novib, USAID and others
- **Ongoing support** to all publishers via the IATI Helpdesk (support@iatistandard.org)
- **Improvements to the IATI Validator** (for technical users join session on plans for new IATI integrated platform to hear about validator API)

What have we learnt so far?

- Improvements take time & effort by organisations but they are possible!
- 1-1 support & guidance has been really helpful!
- Overall progress will be monitored in the IATI Results Framework

**Call to action:** Please use the IATI validator, improve your data and share your experience!
Beyond validation- systematic publisher analysis

What are some of the data quality challenges we are trying to address?

- Inconsistent or infrequent updates
- Linked data/traceability: provider and receiver organisations not included; lack of reference to organisation and identifiers
- Comprehensiveness: missing relevant elements such as locations, SDGs, results

What are we doing to address them? Reviewing a subset of publishers and specific data elements, including:

- Summary view (activities, files)
- Participating organisations (what types, roles)
- Financial data: transactions and budget data (which types, aggregation, dates, provider and receiver reference); finance, flow and aid types
- Country, region and sector data (activity and transaction level)
- Use of SDGs, policy markers & humanitarian data elements used
- Organisation file

Call to action: Commit to improvements in the quality of IATI data published to IATI to increase usability. As a user, sharing feedback about quality improvements needed to make the data more usable!
IATI Standard Publishing Guidance

- Read and follow over 20 guidance pages on our website to see recommendation on how to publish data on specific areas of the IATI standard
- If there are topics you’d like to see more guidance on, you can add to Connect in 2021
- **Call to action:** Join the IATI Traceability guidance consultation deadline for feedback is 21 April & join our webinar on 28 April
Interoperability and other data standards

Interoperability and alignment with other data standards is also important in improving the quality & usability of the data. IATI Secretariat is:

- Working with UN CEB on UN minimum data standards & joining UN transparency taskforce
- Working with OECD DAC alignment of codelist & use of IATI data for Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD)
- Financial Tracking Service (FTS) IATI pilots, import of IATI data into EDRIS pilot
- Grand Bargain Transparency workstream & improvements in humanitarian data reporting by signatories

Call to action: If there are projects related to interoperability that you are working on, please share on IATI Connect!
Questions
Interactive session & discussion

DATA QUALITY ZOOM POLL question time :)
NOW, let's look at two specific data quality issues/challenges.

- Missing provider and/or receiver organisations for transaction data
- Missing specific IATI elements, such as country or location data or tagging SDGs

How much money was spent by an organisation on a specific project, who provided the funding, which country /location it went to, which SDG it supported. Questions:

1. Do you agree that these issues need addressing? Are they important for you?
2. What would you do to help resolve some of these data quality issues?
3. Are there any other challenges you want to flag now that you think are critical for discussion?
Next Steps

1. Share your experience on IATI Connect:
   - What are the IATI data quality challenges you have faced?
   - What improvements have you made already to your organisation’s data? Are there any success stories you want to share? We want to hear from you!

2. Join IATI Connect’s Communities of Practice & IATI Consultations

3. Any questions, you can also email IATI Helpdesk (support@iatistandard.org)

We all have a role to play in improving IATI data quality—publishers, data users, IATI secretariat!