International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) Developer

JOB OVERVIEW

Globally, over $120 billion in development assistance is allocated to poverty reduction and international development each year. On top of this, tens of billions of dollars flow to developing countries from a range of other sources. However, information on exactly how these substantial resources are allocated and whether they reach the poorest if often difficult for many people to access and understand.

[Development Initiatives](#) works to enable people to access and use information about aid and other poverty reduction resources. We believe that supporting efforts to hold governments, donors and service providers to account, and improving the availability of information to support intelligent planning, will increase the effectiveness of aid, and so accelerate poverty reduction. Our vision is that this information should be easily available to people across developing and developed countries. It should be presented in an easy to understand, comparable, and accessible format, in ways that are relevant to users' unique perspectives.

That is why we have been instrumental in establishing and managing the [International Aid Transparency Initiative](#) (IATI), currently serving as technical lead on the IATI [Secretariat](#). IATI is an open data standard, allowing detailed information on who is spending what, where and with what results to be shared in a common digital format. This is an exciting time for IATI: with almost 300 [publishers](#), it is reaching critical mass in providing detailed and timely open data on financial flows coming from a wide range of aid and development actors.

These publishers are the tip of the iceberg. We need to support more organisations to publish open data, and drive up the quality of the data being published so it can more easily be used by those who need it.

That's where you come in.

We are looking to recruit a talented Developer to help us manage and write code that supports publishers and consumers of IATI data. We store all of our code on GitHub at https://github.com/IATI/, and the main products are the [IATI Standard website](#) (data-driven from the Single Source of Truth), the [IATI Dashboard](#), the [IATI Datastore](#) and the [IATI Public Validator](#).

You will do this by:

- Supporting existing software that we have created, adapted or currently manage;
- Improving the quality of that software;
- Adding new features or creating new products;
- Communicating with users of our software, understanding and prioritising their user needs;
- Helping others understand IATI data through the products you maintain and support;

- Working with technical experts from donors, NGOs and developing country agencies to improve the range of tools and data available to end users; and
- Participating fully in the IATI Technical Advisory Group (TAG), including in technical working groups on APIs, data standards and other topics.

You will need to be prepared to take on a range of tasks, learning as you go, and working in a busy and varied environment. In any month you might find yourself:

- Creating routines to generate reports and dashboards on some or all of the published IATI data;
- Updating software to work with new versions of the IATI standard;
- Working with our Single Source of Truth to generate up to date documentation; and
- Working with the team to explain the nuances and implications of changes to code.

You will be working with a core UK-based team, but engaging with a wide network of practitioners around the world, including opportunities to travel. The DI technical team is multidisciplinary, consisting of Business and Data Analysts, the Technical Lead for IATI and Policy Advisers, and staffed by people passionate about and committed to IATI and its vision.

This is an exciting opportunity to make a real difference to the transparency and accountability of international aid and development, and play an important role in an international open data initiative. We have ambitious plans over the coming year and are looking for someone who can help us to deliver them as part of a multi-skilled team.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES

- Run daily data quality routines;
- Deploy the IATI Standard website;
- Track, analyse, fix and report software bugs and issues;
- Monitor usage of IATI software by users;
- Work collaboratively with the developer community, including the TAG;
- Participate in IATI upgrade processes;
- Write content for websites, blog posts and newsletters;
- Increase and improve communications about new data and data quality and engage with the IATI publisher community through online fora etc.;
- Work collaboratively with a variety of institutions and individuals across the IATI network;
- Identify and implement, wherever possible, efficiency and other improvements in day to day working practices.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

We are looking for someone who is passionate about supporting the potential of open data to provide a platform for greater accountability and citizen empowerment in the world of aid and development.

You will be comfortable with XML and a number of programing languages. You will be able to work to deadlines and contribute to software projects large and small. You will have experience

of working in development teams and be comfortable with version control, deployment of web applications, and upgrade cycles.

You will be a good communicator, able to explain complex issues to a variety of audiences and to problem solve as a group member.
You must be flexible and willing to learn on the job, working at the forefront of one of the highest profile global open data initiatives.

Experience and skills

Essential

- Managing large datasets
- Working collaboratively on software projects
- Experience of version control systems
- Basic understanding of open source
- Understanding of XML Schema
- Pros and cons of various software development processes
- Ability to manipulate XML
- Ability to program in Python
- Ability to administer Unix type OS (ideally Linux)
  - Bash scripting
- Ability to use GitHub
- SQL database skills
- Web application development

Desirable

- Experience of or demonstrable interest in International Development
- Working with a data standard
- Working with public web APIs
- Proving a versioned public API
- Python deployment
- Prior knowledge of the Open Data movement / community
- Contribution of code to open source communities.
- Understanding of software and content licensing
- Understanding of IATI
- PHP
- JavaScript
- Server administration
  - Preferably Debian derivative
  - Apache
- Generating documentation using Sphinx
  - Markdown/reStructuredText
- Managing a GitHub organisation
- Experience of and understanding of Unit Testing

- Communicating with software users about bugs, upgrades, changes to code, etc.
- Deployment and testing of software projects
- Generating statistics from large data sets
- Understanding of software development cycles and models

IATI Developer, January 2015

The post holder may be required to travel.

CONTRACTUAL DETAILS

Start date:	ASAP
Location:	Bristol, UK (but home-based (within the UK) will be considered)
Salary:	£30,000 to £35,000 gross per annum, depending on experience
Holiday:	33 days (includes UK bank and public holidays)
Hours:	35 hours a week
Contract:	Full time, open ended
Probation:	3 months
Pension:	5% of salary after 3 months service
Other:	Laptop (including extra RAM), Employee Assistance Programme, Cycle to Work Scheme, Childcare Vouchers, Flexi/Core Hours System, Homeworking

APPLICATION DETAILS

Your CV (no more than 3 sides of A4) and covering letter, detailing your skills and experience and how they relate to the job description, should be emailed to: HR@devinit.org quoting 'IATI Developer' in the email subject line.

Your letter should also include your available start date and your preferred location with details of your relocation plans should you not already be in that location.

Closing date: 5pm (GMT), Wednesday 11th February 2015

Interviews: Tuesday 17th February 2015

OTHER INFORMATION

We are unable to offer sponsorship for a work permit/visa application. Therefore, only applicants who have the right to work in the UK will be considered and evidence of this will be requested at interview stage.

We will be unable to acknowledge receipt of your application and if you do not hear from us by 8 December 2014, please assume that your application has been unsuccessful.

Development Initiatives is an equal opportunities employer and, in line with our policies, we aim to ensure that no job applicant receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of race, colour, nationality, religion, ethnic or national origin, age, gender, marital status, sexual orientation or disability.