



Frequently asked questions from webinar 1

An introduction to the IATI Standard within a humanitarian context

Thank you to everyone who participated and expressed interest in session 1 of our webinar series: *An introduction to the IATI Standard within a humanitarian context*.

This document provides responses to the questions we didn't have time to answer during the session.

If we want to contribute to your study on the use of IATI, how should we contact you?

In the next few months we will seek contributions from Grand Bargain signatories and the humanitarian community by:

- Conducting an online survey and key informant interviews in February and March 2017.
- Holding consultation workshops and bilateral meetings to develop a methodology and online dashboard; two multi-stakeholder workshops are currently planned in Geneva (March 2017) and in New York (April 2017).

Please contact Liz Steele (liz.steele@devinit.org) if you would like further information on how to get involved.

I have heard about a localisation marker to track funding flows to national and local actors. How does this relate to IATI?

In the Grand Bargain donors and aid organisations committed to achieve a global, aggregated target of at least 25% of humanitarian funding to local and national responders by 2020. They tasked the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) to develop a 'localisation' marker to measure this.



IATI already offers the potential to track funding through the implementation chain from one organisation to another to potentially identify the 'end recipient' of funding; recent amendments to the UN OCHA Financial Tracking Service similarly facilitate the traceability of financial flows through the implementation chain. If all actors publish the appropriate fields in the IATI Standard then systematic traceability of funds through the delivery chain is possible; however, the codelist of 'organisation types' currently available in the Standard need to be extended to provide the information required to track the Grand Bargain commitment to local and national responders.

Grand Bargain stakeholders and the humanitarian community are encouraged to engage with the upcoming consultation processes (via the IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team, our project monitoring the Grand Bargain's transparency commitment and IATI's Technical Advisory Group) to propose these or further changes to the IATI Standard.

How does the block chain (digital ledger) approach link to IATI (or not)?

Blockchain is a digital ledger in which transactions are made in bitcoin or another cryptocurrency and are recorded chronologically and publicly. This topic has previously been raised by the wider IATI community. You can follow a related discussion on our community forum at <http://discuss.iatistandard.org/t/iati-and-blockchain-technology/428>

Can you provide more details about the people and organisations in the IATI governing board and Technical Advisory Board?

IATI's governing board comprises six representatives, two from each of the constituency groupings (donors, partner countries and civil society organisations/others). These representatives are elected for a term of two years. The Chair of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) also sits on the board, representing the TAG community.

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is a multi-stakeholder community of publishers, developers, data users and transparency advocates who come together to support the development of the IATI Standard and collaborate on publication and use of data. John Adams, Head of Business Innovation at the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) is currently Chair of the TAG; however, a new Chair will be elected at the TAG meeting in March 2017. You can find out more about the TAG [here](#).

Current members of the board are: Global Affairs Canada (Chair) and UNICEF (donors); Bangladesh (Vice Chair) and Madagascar (partner countries); Bond and Publish What You Fund (civil society organisations/others); and John Adams from the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) (TAG Chair). You can find out more about how IATI is governed [here](#).



IATI's Secretariat is hosted by a multi-stakeholder consortium of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), Development Initiatives and the governments of Ghana and Sweden.

How are UN agencies engaged?

UNICEF is currently a member of IATI's governing board, and UNDP and UNOPS are members of the IATI Secretariat consortium. The majority of UN agencies are already publishing to the IATI Standard; please see the [IATI Registry](#) for a full list. The UN Development Group now has its own portal to visualise all their IATI data at <http://linkis.com/open.undg.org/4Bb6R>. This project seeks to build on this commitment and support.

What percentage of international aid is being reported through IATI?

Analysis of 2013 OECD DAC Creditor Reporting System (CRS) data showed that 80% of organisations that reported to the CRS also published to IATI. We anticipate that, with several key donors publishing to IATI since then (e.g. the International Finance Corporation, France and Japan), this figure will now be higher.

How can I become a member of IATI and what is the membership fee?

You do not need to be a member of IATI to publish to the Standard however IATI members have final approval on strategic decisions, including recommendations relating to the budget and work plan received from the Governing Board. Full membership is open to organisations who commit to the aims and objectives of the initiative and members meet annually at the Membership Assembly. IATI's membership fee varies according to the size of the organisation and the constituency grouping it belongs to. Information on fees can be found on pages 4 and 5 of the [IATI Standard Operating Procedures](#). If you are interested in becoming an IATI member, please contact info@iatistandard.org for more information.

Because both multi-bilateral donors and multilateral agencies publish their data to IATI, can double counting occur?

IATI is a publishing standard that encourages all actors in the development and humanitarian aid delivery chains to publish information on their activities and finances; as a result you can't simply add up all the numbers. This is an issue, and as such will be discussed at the next IATI TAG meeting in March 2017.



Do you have any plans to include small non-governmental organisations (NGOs) within the project monitoring the Grand Bargain commitment on transparency?

We welcome the involvement of NGOs in the project and will be reaching out to the “Grand Bargain workstream on local and national responders” which aims to provide more support and funding tools for local and national non-governmental organisations to be able to respond to humanitarian crises, as well as networks such as [NEAR](#) as part of the consultation process.

Many existing IATI publishers are civil society organisations (CSOs) ranging in scale from international NGOs to small local organisations. In many respects it is easier for a small or medium-scale CSO to publish to IATI as they are publishing less data and as free publishing tools, such as AidStream, are available.

Is training available in other languages?

Some limited information on IATI is available in Arabic in the IATI Speakers Kit.