

Webinar Outcome Summary

“How can publishing to IATI be used in a meaningful way?”

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Topic Experts:

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IATI from a Charter's Perspective

To demonstrate and deepen its commitment to transparency as a necessary building block for accountability, the INGO Accountability Charter decided to become a member of the [International Aid Transparency Initiative \(IATI\)](#) as of January 2014. The Charter strongly supports the aim of greater transparency in aid flows as a means for improved coordination for governments and CSOs (civil society organisations). IATI membership commits the Charter to promote the IATI standard and allows it to participate in its further development to better suit the needs of CSOs.

What is IATI?

The IATI standard is a data protocol for publishing information on development cooperation activities in a timely, comparable and forward-looking manner; it is a voluntary, multi-stakeholder initiative that includes donors, partner countries and CSOs. IATI emerged from the transparency principles agreed as part of the [Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness](#) in 2005, finally being agreed in February 2011.

296 organisations currently publish to the IATI Registry, representing 95% of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (IATI figure); 217 of them are CSOs – the majority of them UK DFID grant holders (since DFID made IATI reporting mandatory for their grantees). This number is constantly growing with CSOs joining from the Netherlands and the US. Bilateral and multilateral donors as well as development banks and CSOs are requested to post information on current and planned aid flows to the IATI registry using the same data protocol. This makes data comparable and they can be aggregated easily by governments, CSOs and other actors in the field to determine optimal coordination.

The ease of use of the [IATI Registry](#) is less dependent on the size of an organisation than on optimal integration into existing clear processes. If implemented well it can reduce and streamline information sharing processes within an organisation – in particular with regard to financial flows. The biggest challenge remains the information flow in complex organisations. For further help on how to best use IATI as a CSO we have provided some links at the end of this document.

Why CSO Financial Transparency?

- CSO financial transparency fits into meeting broader commitments on the sector's transparency and accountability. These include the [Istanbul Principles](#) and the [INGO Accountability Charter](#).
- CSO financial transparency is needed to be accountable to stakeholders – including funders, partners, supporters and the broader public.
- CSO financial transparency helps
 - improving organisational governance;
 - preventing and flagging potential wastes;
 - improving public trust in organisation and its activities (walking the talk);
 - linking up with public disclosure, ethics and conflict of interest policies.

How do the Charter and IATI best complement each other?

[Transparency International](#) (TI) has been a Steering Committee member of IATI since its creation in 2008, as well as INGO Accountability Charter Member since 2009. TI adheres to both reporting frameworks, which are highly beneficial in their complementarity with each other and their common attempt to establish new and effective norms and standards in the fields of governance and sustainability. TI is one of many Charter Members, complying with both IATI and the Charter. While IATI is a protocol to enhance the transparency and comparability of funding data, the Charter looks at the quality of the organisations which are providing these funds i.e. their good governance, effective management and compliance with CSO values such as environmental sustainability or inclusiveness. As such, both instruments are complementary – one driving transparency and comparability and the other continuous quality improvements.

Charter Members have observed that their involvement with IATI can help them comply with their internal commitments to transparency, ethical fundraising, coordination with partners, accountability to governments and professional management – milestones of accountability promoted by the Charter. The Charter, in turn, supports IATI's objective to aggregate data across actors, national chapters and countries striving for comprehensiveness, timeliness, accessibility and comparability of aid data.

Publishing to IATI: User Support

Around 66% of the organisations publishing to IATI are UK-based organisations. [Bond](#) offers services such as training, consultancy and specialist workshops to organisations that either aspire to or are required to publish to IATI and to fund managers supporting grantees to publish. Sarah Johns has kindly offered the possibility of conducting a practical webinar on publishing to IATI for Charter Members. All interested parties are invited to drop an email to Kameliya Tomova at ktomova@icscentre.org. Please find some further useful links below:

- [IATI Registry](#)
- [IATI Standard](#)
- [AidStream](#)
- [Youtube Tutorials on Publishing to IATI](#)
- [Partos \(NL\) IATI Training Materials for Dutch NGOs](#)
- [InterAction \(USA\)](#)

The following ten Charter Members publish to IATI:

- ActionAid (International and UK)
- Article19
- BRAC International
- Cordaid
- Islamic Relief Worldwide
- Oxfam (GB, India and Novib)
- Plan International (UK and USA)
- Sightsavers
- Transparency International
- World Vision UK