

June 2020

# **Supporting Grand Bargain signatories in meeting commitments to greater transparency**

report

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# Executive summary

The Grand Bargain recognises that greater data-driven transparency is essential for building trust, improving visibility and accountability of donors and aid organisations, and for enabling a more coordinated and effective response towards affected populations. The global Covid-19 pandemic has refocused attention on the importance of transparency and open data. The transparency workstream, alongside Grand Bargain signatories and partner organisations, has responded faster than ever to get open, usable data in the public domain as a mechanism to support the overall humanitarian response to Covid-19, working towards putting accurate and timely data at the heart of decision-making. The response to the global crisis has evidenced what can be achieved through investment, prioritisation and collaboration in a very short time. It has reconfirmed a number of ongoing challenges that need to be overcome in the lead up to the five-year review of the Grand Bargain in 2021 so as to create lasting and impactful change in the way that data informs humanitarian decision-making.

Published before the Grand Bargain annual meeting in June 2020 and looking towards the five-year review, this report examines the work of the transparency workstream in achieving its mission to increase the availability and use of timely, transparent, harmonised and open high-quality data on humanitarian financing to enable evidence-informed decision-making, greater accountability and learning. It provides an analysis of progress on data publication and data use, documents lessons learnt from key workstream projects – in particular the pilot between the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) and Financial Tracking Service (FTS) and the development of a data visualisation prototype in response to the Covid-19 pandemic – and proposes recommendations for workstream and signatory action in the coming year.

Since the launch of the Grand Bargain in 2016, signatories have made marked progress on data publication and built strong partnerships to support their commitment to transparency. Progress on publication has been significant, with 87% of signatories now publishing to IATI and 93% of those publishing humanitarian data using at least v2.02 of the IATI Standard. However, there remains work to be done on the publication of more timely and granular data and improving the traceability of funds through the humanitarian system.

The workstream has advanced understanding of data use (its primary focus in the past 12 months) by hosting a data use workshop, surveying and analysing signatory data use, developing case studies, and prototyping data use tools to highlight the value of IATI data for monitoring other Grand Bargain commitments and in the response to Covid-19. These projects have been well received and have led to

improvements in data publication, with significant volumes of data being published in advance of the launch of the Covid-19 prototype. The 2020 signatory self-reports highlight that there remains some disconnect between data publication and data use for decision-making. Whilst many signatories are now using IATI data through tools that they and others have developed to provide public access to humanitarian funding data, few are yet to report using this data to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their response to current crises. There are a number of reasons for this. Firstly, the quality, granularity and timeliness of publication by a number of signatories needs to be addressed for data to be usable at the global level. Secondly, interoperability between platforms is a key incentive to data use, reducing the reporting burden on donors, increasing the quality of publication and enabling users to have a 'single source of truth' for humanitarian data. Thirdly, signatories are asking for more guidance and support to increase consistency of their IATI data publication to make data more usable between organisations. Finally, the linkages between data publication and use need more investigation, primarily around decision-making at headquarter (HQ) level and how the transparency agenda and IATI humanitarian data can better serve needs. These are the key areas of action for the Grand Bargain transparency workstream for the year ahead.

Reviewing both the challenges and opportunities, this report concludes that a political reaffirmation by signatories of their commitment to transparency broadly, and comprehensive, timely and high-quality open data on humanitarian financing specifically, is needed to accelerate progress of the workstream at the time of the Grand Bargain five-year review in 2021.

# Introduction

At the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016, donor governments, multilateral and UN agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the Red Cross Red Crescent movement (RCRC) agreed to a package of reforms called the 'Grand Bargain' to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian action in order to address the growing humanitarian financing gap. These reforms aimed to change the way that humanitarian organisations work together to respond to crises.

The Grand Bargain was originally conceived as an agreement between the five biggest donors and the six largest UN agencies, but has since expanded to 62 signatories (25 states, 11 UN agencies, 5 inter-governmental organisations and RCRC, and 21 NGOs).<sup>1</sup> In 2018, this represented 73% of all humanitarian contributions donated and 70% of aid received by agencies.<sup>2</sup>

Underpinning the Grand Bargain was a commitment to more transparent and useable funding data, which was identified by the High-Level Panel Report for Humanitarian Financing as a “prerequisite for increasing efficiency and effectiveness” of humanitarian action.<sup>3</sup>

Greater transparency is fundamental to improving the data and evidence available for better decision-making in humanitarian financing and delivery. If all Grand Bargain signatories published timely, high-quality data to IATI it would allow comparable information on humanitarian funding and activities to be exchanged and used by donors, agencies, NGOs and affected governments at international, national and local levels to coordinate their activities and direct resources efficiently and effectively to support crisis-affected people.

High-quality, timely and open data can also enable stakeholders to hold organisations to account for their humanitarian funding and support the monitoring of progress against other Grand Bargain commitments, such as the commitments to “increase the use and coordination of cash-based programming” or to “reduce the earmarking of donor contributions”.<sup>4</sup>

Finally, the Grand Bargain transparency commitment offers an opportunity for long-term efficiency savings. Publication using the IATI Standard provides an opportunity for the systematisation of reporting, supporting efforts to “harmonise and simplify reporting requirements”,<sup>5</sup> reducing the burden of organisations needing to publish data in multiple formats and on multiple platforms.

Since 2017, Development Initiatives (DI) has worked with the transparency workstream co-conveners the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the World Bank Group, alongside the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)'s Centre for Humanitarian Data, IATI, UN OCHA's FTS and Publish What You

Fund, to support Grand Bargain signatories to implement and monitor their commitments to greater transparency (Table 1).

Table 1: Grand Bargain transparency commitments<sup>6</sup>

Aid organisations and donors commit to:	
1.1	Publish timely, transparent, harmonised and open high-quality data on humanitarian funding within two years of the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul. It was agreed that IATI would provide a basis for the purpose of a common standard.
1.2	Make use of appropriate data analysis, explaining the distinctiveness of activities, organisations, environments and circumstances (e.g. protection, conflict zones).
1.3	Improve the digital platform and engage with the open-data-standard community to help ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Accountability of donors and responders with open data for retrieval and analysis</li><li>• Improvements in decision-making, based upon the best possible information</li><li>• A reduced workload over time as a result of donors accepting common standard data for some reporting purposes</li><li>• And traceability of donors' funding throughout the transaction chain as far as the final responders and, where feasible, affected people.</li></ul>
1.4	Support the capacity of all partners to access and publish data.

DI is supporting the Grand Bargain transparency workstream and co-conveners in three key areas:

- **Data publication:** Raising awareness of the commitment to publish to IATI, identifying the major incentives and challenges faced by publishing organisations, and signposting organisations looking for assistance to the support they need.
- **Data use:** Ensuring that signatories are aware of the published data's actual and potential uses (including through a 'prototyping' exercise) and how to access the data, sharing data use examples, and acting as a conduit between data platforms and service providers and publishers.
- **Monitoring and learning:** Developing the IATI Humanitarian Data Portal for monitoring publication and data use through our engagement and communications.

This report, funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, provides an overview of the progress of Grand Bargain signatories in meeting their core commitments on data publication and use since the publication of DI's baseline report in 2017. It identifies key barriers and enablers and highlights the work undertaken by the transparency workstream between May 2019 and May 2020 to support signatories.<sup>7</sup>

Following a review of progress in Chapter 1, the report provides an in-depth overview of two key areas identified as signatory priorities via the 2019 self-reporting process and engagement with signatories.<sup>8</sup> Chapter 2 assesses progress on the IATI-FTS pilot, aimed at incentivising progress by reducing the signatory reporting burden through the ingestion of IATI data into OCHA's FTS. Chapter 3 looks at the Covid-19 data visualisation prototype developed by the workstream over the period March-June 2020. The prototype has highlighted how data can be used to support the response to a global crisis and further focuses attention on what needs to be done to improve data availability, quality and timeliness to make data usable when it is needed most. Based on lessons learnt over the last 12 months, and in particular in response to Covid-19, this report provides recommendations for signatories and the workstream to consider in the lead up to the five-year review of the Grand Bargain in 2021 and in advance of the annual Grand Bargain meeting in June 2020.

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### **Box 1: What is the IATI Standard?<sup>9</sup>**

Launched in 2008, the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) is a voluntary, multi-stakeholder initiative and international open data standard that aims to improve the transparency and openness of both development and humanitarian activities. IATI provides a mechanism for the regular, automated publication of open data on financial flows. IATI also enables organisations to publish information on their project or programming activities, including information on monitoring, evaluation and results.

IATI aims to standardise and automate the exchange of data – it is not a system or platform. It does not curate data, nor does it provide statistics, aggregation or analysis. It is a format that publishers can use to publish and exchange their data with others. This creates a pool of open data, in machine-readable format, that others can contribute to, draw on and use, perhaps most notably via visualisations, dashboards, tools and platforms that read and display the data. The actual content and quality of data available through IATI depends on the data organisations are able or prepared to publish.

Overall, 1000+ humanitarian and development organisations, including government donors, multilateral and UN agencies and international and local NGOs currently use the IATI Standard to publish information on their funding and activities.

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# Chapter 1: Progress on the commitments to greater transparency

This chapter provides a summary of the overall progress that has been made on the Grand Bargain's transparency commitments to data use and data publication since the publication of DI's baseline monitoring report in 2017.

In September 2018 core commitment indicators and target results were identified for each Grand Bargain workstream in order to enhance and monitor progress.<sup>10</sup> The transparency workstream's core commitment indicators and target results (CCTRIIs) can be found in Annex 1.

## Publishing open data on humanitarian funding

The availability of open, high-quality and timely data on humanitarian funding is the cornerstone of the Grand Bargain transparency commitment, critical for supporting organisations' ability to use data for better analysis and improve the digital platform to ensure greater accountability, better decision-making, efficiency savings and greater traceability of activities through the financing system. In Phase 1 (2016 to 2018), the workstream directly supported signatories to publish their humanitarian data. Phase 2 (2019 to present) saw the workstream shift its primary focus from data publication to data use. However, in this time the workstream has continued to support progress in data publication through the development of the IATI Humanitarian Portal<sup>11</sup> and supporting the development and dissemination of IATI guidance.

## Publication progress

Since the baseline was established by DI in 2017, there has been significant progress in the publication of open humanitarian funding data to the IATI Standard by signatories (Table 2 and Figure 1). As of 1 May 2020, 87% of signatories (or one or more of their members or affiliates) were publishing to IATI, up from 73% in 2017. At the point of measurement, just 8 out of 62 signatories were not publishing to IATI. As of June 2020, this had fallen to 6.<sup>12</sup> Of those publishing to IATI, 93% were including some data on their humanitarian activities and using at least v2.02 of the IATI Standard, which enables signatories to publish specific humanitarian-related information; this is 19 more organisations than in June 2017.



**Table 2: Comparison of progress by Grand Bargain signatories in publishing their data to IATI from June 2017 to May 2020**

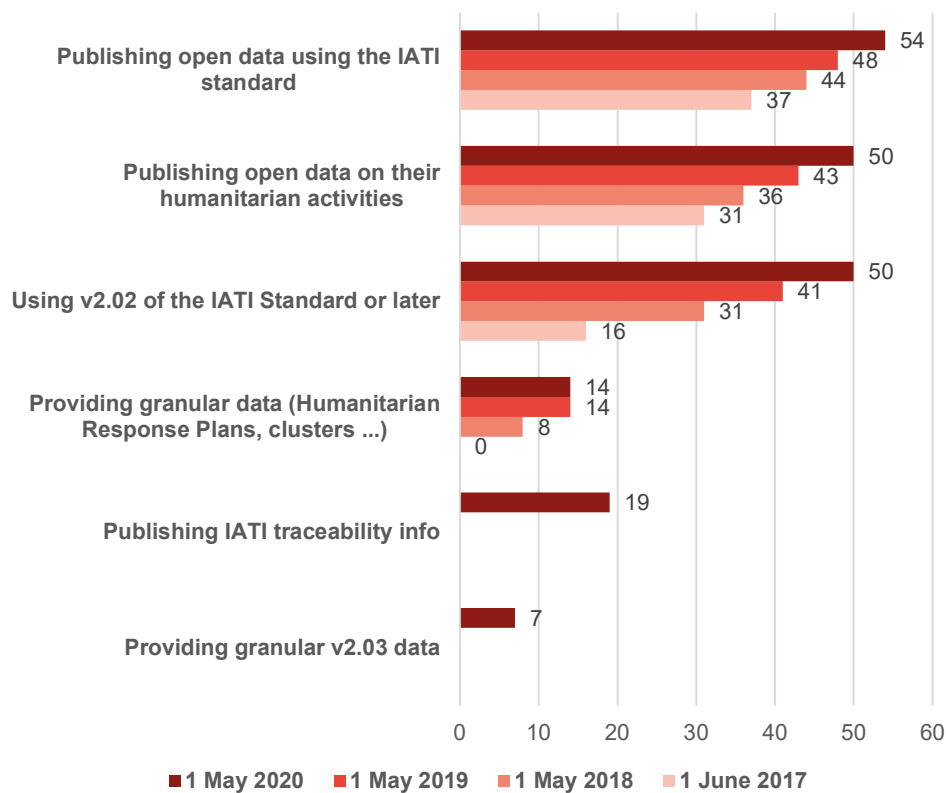
	<b>Baseline assessment: 1 June 2017 (51 signatories)</b>	<b>Assessment as of 1 May 2020 (62 signatories)</b>	<b>Change since baseline assessment</b>
<b>Publishing open data using the IATI Standard</b>	37 organisations or their members or affiliates (73%)	54 organisations or their members or affiliates (87%)	Additional 17 organisations
<b>Of these:</b>			
<b>Publishing open data on their humanitarian activities</b>	31 organisations or their members or affiliates (84%)	50 organisations or their members or affiliates (93%)	Additional 19 organisations
<b>Using v2.02, or later, of the IATI Standard</b>	16 organisations or their members or affiliates (43%)	50 organisations or their members or affiliates (93%)	Additional 34 organisations
<b>Providing more granular data (e.g. humanitarian response plans, cluster information)</b>	–	14 organisations or their members or affiliates (26%)	14 organisations
<b>Publishing IATI traceability information</b>	–	19 organisations or their members or affiliates (35%)	19 organisations
<b>Providing granular v2.03 data</b>	–	7 organisations or their members or affiliates (13%)	7 organisations

Source: IATI Humanitarian portal [www.humportal.org](http://www.humportal.org)

## Detailed and granular humanitarian IATI data

Organisations are also publishing more usable humanitarian data than previously. As of 1 May 2020, 26% of publishing organisations were providing more granular IATI data, such as humanitarian response plan codes and cluster information. No organisations were publishing this data when tracking started in 2017. In 2020, the workstream began tracking v.2.03 data publication, such as pledges and information relating to the Grand Bargain commitments on cash, localisation and earmarking, which is being published by 13% of publishing signatories. Tracking also now includes traceability information, being provided by 35% of publishing signatories, which enables users to track funding through the funding and delivery chain. As explored further in Chapter 3, these detailed publication elements further enhance the usability of IATI data for decision-making, and the workstream will continue to support and encourage all signatories to include this level of detail, where possible and meaningful, within their data.

**Figure 1: Comparison of data publication to IATI by year, 2017–2020**



Source: IATI Humanitarian portal [www.humportal.org](http://www.humportal.org)

## Timeliness of publication

The workstream's current targets for publication do not take into account timeliness, either in terms of frequency or the time-lag, of the data published.<sup>13</sup> Regular, up-to-date publication is necessary to make data usable and useful for humanitarian decision-making, where data is needed as close to real time as possible to effectively support the humanitarian response. Some organisations publish IATI data so infrequently that even several months into the Covid-19 response data on Covid-19 activities is not available. This highlights the importance of publishing at least monthly, and as close to real time as possible in a rapid-onset emergency. Information on timeliness and usability of the humanitarian elements of published IATI data is now available on the IATI Humanitarian Portal.<sup>14</sup> We believe that this is an area for analysis and action in the coming year.

## Integrating gender

In 2019, the workstream co-conveners and DI partnered with Development Gateway (DG), which specialises in gender-disaggregated data, to provide options for the Grand Bargain transparency workstream for integrating gender-equality considerations into its work. DG carried out a review of the gender data ecosystem and provided an analysis of two commonly used gender markers: the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC)'s gender equality policy marker and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)'s Gender with Age Marker (GAM). The report *Integrating Gender within Grand Bargain Transparency Commitments* finds that while both markers serve different purposes for signatories and have various shortcomings, the IASC's GAM has the most potential for empowering evidence-informed decision-making to improve the delivery of aid to women and girls. The report recommends that transparency mandates in the Grand Bargain CCTRIs can be leveraged as a tool to keep signatories accountable to gender-sensitive programming.

The report and its findings were shared by the Grand Bargain transparency workstream co-conveners with Grand Bargain signatories, the Grand Bargain Facilitation Group, the IASC Reference Group on Gender and Humanitarian Action, and the Grand Bargain Friends of Gender Group.

## Barriers and incentives to better publication

Whilst significant progress has been made since the inception of the Grand Bargain, the ability of the humanitarian sector to use the data relies on signatory-wide publication of high-quality, timely, complete open data to IATI. Whilst many signatories have taken huge strides forwards, a number of signatories are yet to make the investment needed to enable their data to be useful and usable to enhance the response to a crisis. Through the self-reporting process and direct engagement with signatories, DI identified a number of key challenges that need to be addressed:

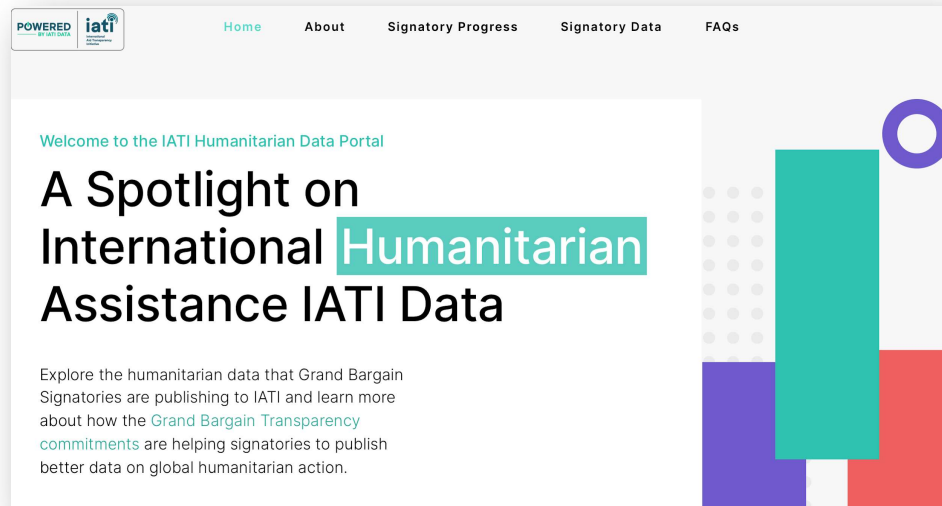
1. **Prioritisation and investment:** Whilst the commitment to transparency remains seemingly universal among signatories, this has not yet translated to action across all signatories. The true sector-wide value cannot be realised fully until more organisations are publishing high-quality, detailed and open data. The workstream's shift in focus towards data use aimed to address part of this challenge, demonstrating IATI's value through prototyping of data use tools. However, in the run up to the five-year review in 2021 there needs to be increased action around publication, culminating in a political reaffirmation by signatories to publish their humanitarian data to the IATI Standard.
2. **Breadth of the IATI Standard:** The Standard provides a great deal of flexibility to organisations publishing IATI data, allowing them to accurately reflect their own business processes. However, the breadth of the Standard can pose challenges to organisations in their initial publication, as the learning curve can be steep. Further improvements to guidance and documentation, including the finalisation by IATI of the humanitarian guidance planned in 2020, will help address these issues.
3. **Reporting burden:** The reporting burden on signatories is high. Closer interoperability and harmonisation of reporting across standards, platforms and donors will lead to efficiency gains. Increasing the usability of data provides an incentive for better publication to IATI. The positive feedback cycle between data use and data publication is discussed further on the next page and in Chapters 2 and 3.

### Monitoring the publication of signatory data

To support signatories monitor their progress against the data publication commitment of the Grand Bargain, DI launched the IATI Humanitarian Data Portal, which allows signatories and others to track individual and signatory-aggregated progress against the Grand Bargain transparency commitments in near real time.<sup>15</sup> The portal was publicly launched in April 2020, replacing the previous Grand Bargain transparency dashboard. Improvements to the portal will continue, based on signatory feedback.

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**Figure 2: A snapshot of the IATI Humanitarian Portal**



Source: IATI Humanitarian portal [www.humportal.org](http://www.humportal.org)

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## Making use of data analysis

In 2019 the transparency workstream shifted its primary focus from data publication to data use, whilst continuing to support signatories in monitoring their progress against the publication commitment (commitment 1.1). In support of progress towards commitment 1.2, the workstream has supported and engaged with signatories in the following ways:

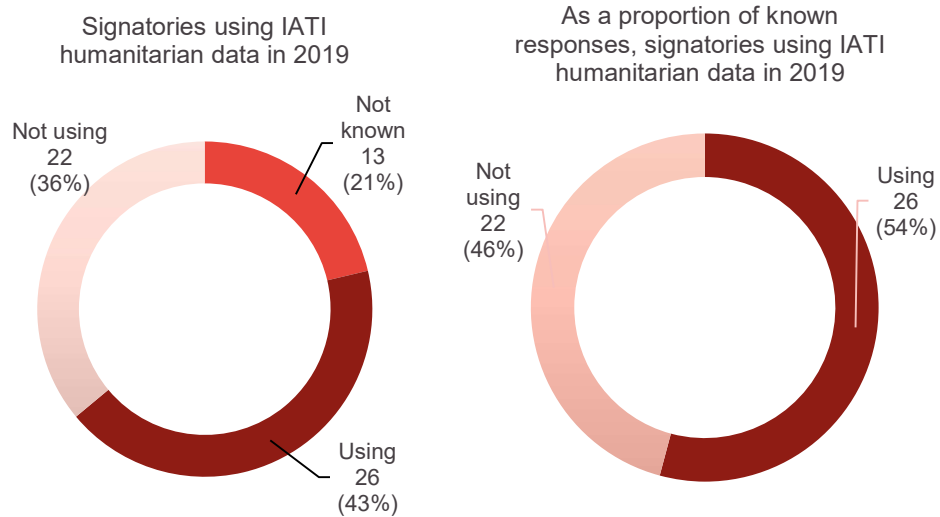
- Supported the understanding and monitoring of the data use CCTRI through surveying signatories, analysing signatory self-reports, and conducting key informant interviews.
- Hosted a workshop entitled *The next step for humanitarian transparency - making IATI data more useful for decision-making* in the Hague in May 2019 with 54 participants from 34 organisations.
- Worked with signatories to develop data use case studies to provide insight into how organisations use IATI data in their work.
- Commissioned Publish What You Fund and Ground Truth Solutions to carry out research on local user needs in Bangladesh and Iraq.

- Developed and engaged with signatories around a series of data prototypes to demonstrate the value of IATI data, including the development of a Covid-19 prototype visualisation launched in June 2020.

### How are signatories currently using IATI humanitarian data?

As part of its work to support the monitoring of progress, DI conducted a data use survey in March 2019 to identify key incentives and perceived barriers to using IATI data. This informed the workstream’s activities for the year and highlighted a number of case studies demonstrating how IATI data is currently used by signatories. Towards the end of 2019, the workstream’s data use core commitment CCTRI was incorporated into the 2019 annual Grand Bargain self-reporting process to reduce the reporting burden on signatories and improve the breadth of responses for analysis. This enabled DI to establish a baseline for the current status of humanitarian IATI data use among signatories.

**Figure 3: Grand Bargain signatories reporting that they use data published via IATI, 2019**



Source: Development Initiatives’ analysis of signatory self-reports

Of the 61 signatories included in analysis of the independent self-reports,<sup>16</sup> 26 (43%) reported using IATI data and accessing IATI-compatible data platforms and tools for evidence-informed decision-making, greater accountability and learning. Of these, 21 responded that they were using IATI data and a further 5 did not respond directly but referred to data use examples within their wider responses. When non-respondents

were removed from the analysis, data use rose to 56%. The results show that the workstream is on track to reach the CCTRI of 50% data use among signatories in 2020. 22 (36%) of signatories responded that they are not using IATI data, with some of the reported challenges and barriers highlighted below. No response to the data use questions was provided by 13 (21%) of signatories, of which 3 did not provide reports and 9 did not provide an answer to the question nor provide any evidence within their wider responses that would indicate data use. Given this is the first year this question has been included within the self-reporting process, this serves as a baseline for comparison in 2021.

Signatories provided a range of examples of how IATI data is used within their organisations. Most of the use cases referred to were tools developed by donors, agencies and NGOs for users to view their data. Examples include Canada's Global Affairs Project Browser,<sup>17</sup> which provides visualisation of Canada's IATI data in the form of maps and graphs; the Netherlands' METIS platform, which allows visualisation and analysis of both the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and their partners' IATI data on an activity-by-activity basis; and the Oxfam project browser or 'Atlas', which visualises projects of all Oxfam organisations that publish to IATI.<sup>18</sup>

In addition to organisational tools, signatories-stated direct uses included:

- Ensuring consistency across internal and external reports
- Ensuring compliance
- Analysing (other) donor priorities
- Understanding funding opportunities.

Whilst there is a growing number of examples of signatories developing tools that allow better access to their IATI data, few organisations report using their own or others' IATI data for decision-making purposes. The link between transparency and HQ decision-making needs further investigation to better understand if and how organisations are using data in their decision-making and how they can be best supported in this process.

## Barriers and enablers to access and data use

The self-reports and signatory interviews carried out by DI highlighted a number of barriers to accessing and using IATI data:

- **Quality and timeliness of IATI data.** Trust in the available humanitarian IATI data is low among some signatories, meaning they do not currently use IATI data for decision-making. Some signatories indicated that due to quality issues, lack of timeliness or incomplete publication, they continue to make use of traditional and informal routes (e.g. relationship channels and existing platforms) to gather information regarding funding flows. This highlights the ongoing importance of commitment 1.1 (data publication) and the positive feedback loop between publication and data use – as more signatories and partner organisations use

humanitarian IATI data and identify gaps/challenges, we expect to see an improvement in the quality of data publication, leading to more data use.

- **Interoperability between existing data platforms.** Many signatories use existing platforms, in particular FTS, to inform their funding needs. They pointed to the need for, and commitment to, compatibility between the FTS, the European Emergency Disaster Response Information System (EDRIS) and IATI data as a means to increasing efficiencies, increasing data quality/consistency and increasing the use of IATI data for decision-making. 12 signatories specifically referred to the importance of the IATI–FTS pilot project within their self-reports as a step towards this goal.
- **Data platforms/visualisations.** Signatories referred to needing improved tools/platforms to utilise IATI data for decision-making, to improve access and turn data into information, for example around localisation and earmarking. DI continues to support the transparency workstream in this area through the development of a number of data use prototypes using IATI data, including in the areas of cash, localisation and earmarking, and in exploring the potential to take these to scale. A prototype has also been developed to visualise Covid-19 data (Chapter 3).
- **Ongoing reservations by a small number of signatories.** Despite the Grand Bargain signatories having jointly decided on, and committed to, using the IATI Standard for publication, 3 signatories still referred to only seeing IATI data as a compliance mechanism or only for the use of recipient countries and therefore not relevant to their own decision-making processes. Whilst this is disappointing, it highlights that the vast majority of signatories understand the importance of IATI and are investing in its success within their organisations.

**Need for a better understanding of data use at a global, national and local levels.** To support increased data use, signatories have communicated the need to better understand decision-making processes and user needs for all stakeholders in the humanitarian funding chain. To date, the transparency workstream has focused most of its work on addressing data publication and use at the global level. The workstream’s work on prototyping will further inform this process and work towards increasing the understanding of global needs, encouraging partners to develop the tools and services that users are looking for. To better understand the data and information needs and challenges of local and national humanitarian actors, the Netherlands has funded research carried out by Publish What You Fund and Ground Truth Solutions, working together with the World Bank and DI. The findings and recommendations based on research conducted in Bangladesh and Iraq will be published in June 2020, and engagement around the findings will take place in Q3 and Q4 of 2020. This chapter has demonstrated the progress made by signatories towards their commitments to data publication and data use and reviewed ongoing barriers that need to be addressed. Data publication has significantly improved since 2017, with almost all signatories now publishing some humanitarian data to IATI. The focus continues to be on the usability of the data and providing incentives for better



publication. The next two chapters look in more depth at two key workstream projects – the piloting of IATI data ingestion into the FTS and the prototyping of a Covid-19 visualisation – looking more closely at the potential of IATI data use and the incentives for, and steps towards, enhanced publication.

# Chapter 2: Publish once, use often: Lessons from the IATI–FTS pilot

A common challenge across humanitarian organisations is being able to share and use data in timely and efficient ways. This applies both within organisations and across humanitarian actors, with many instances of data being duplicated and fragmented as a result of multiple reporting requirements being placed on organisations.

The costs and impact of such duplication are significant in terms of time, resources and effort spent across procuring, processing and using data. This can be further compounded when there is a lack of standards or common approaches to shared problems around data formatting and categorisation. These issues make it much more complicated for users to understand and use different datasets with similar coverage but differences in content.

Whilst it cannot solve all of the challenges with the current landscape, the IATI Standard provides an opportunity for the humanitarian sector to rationalise and align, reducing the reporting burden on donors and providing a key incentive for better publication. IATI provides a common core on which data on humanitarian activity can be structured. For many signatories, systems and processes have been established to ‘automatically’ produce IATI data, and the heavy lifting to translate internal data into a common framework is in place.

This chapter provides an overview of the work to pilot importing IATI data into the OCHA FTS, a step that would further reduce the time burden for data publishers that currently report to FTS and publish to IATI. It reviews key learnings from the project and provides recommendations both for organisations that wish to use their IATI data to report to FTS, and for the workstream and partner organisations in support of efforts to increase interoperability of data platforms.

## IATI and FTS: Piloting efficiencies

To meet its mandate (Box 2), the OCHA FTS faces two core demands on finite resources: to **seek** and procure data from a wide range of sources in order to **analyse and reconcile** data into a common framework for use by the sector. Additionally, FTS strives to ensure data is harmonised and non-duplicative – something that is increasingly complex in a context of multi-directional and re-purposed financial flows.

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### Box 2: What is FTS<sup>19</sup>

The Financial Tracking Service (FTS) is a global humanitarian financial reporting platform and service. It was created in 1992 as a result of resolution 46/182,20 with the mandate to track financial contributions made to coordinated appeals (now known as humanitarian response plans) and for humanitarian funding more broadly. FTS is managed by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) under the oversight of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC).

Data published by FTS is continuously updated, providing a snapshot of the current funding situation and thus informing strategic and operational decisions. Its reach is global: it applies consistent methodologies and standards for data acceptance and verification, ultimately allowing data from many different reporters, crises and contexts to be reliably compared to each other without double counting. FTS does not merely track financial contributions, but it links them to projects, sectors and response plans, showing how funding is being allocated and used (where the data is reported to FTS).

Information published by FTS is based on data reported to it by donors and recipients of humanitarian funding through many different channels. Reporting is voluntary, but it is well established as a requirement when participating in inter-agency humanitarian response plans.

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Demand among data publishers to consolidate reporting to FTS and publish to IATI is such that, in certain instances, organisations have previously built bespoke ‘bridges’ that share data with FTS. Whilst this has helped reduce data friction, a degree of complexity has remained: the solution is not to continuously build and maintain a myriad of these interfaces, which create multiple points of possible failure at both ends. Meanwhile, a significant number of donors and implementing partners continue to send data in the form of manually curated spreadsheets to FTS. These use significant resources on both the part of the signatory and FTS, relying predominantly on human effort.

As a first step towards streamlining this data exchange, DI has been working with OCHA’s Centre for Humanitarian Data and FTS as part of the Grand Bargain transparency workstream to focus on two key challenges:

1. Can machine-readable data, in the IATI format, be used by FTS? How can this save time, effort and resources that may have been spent on manually procuring similar data?
2. What, if any, additional steps do organisations that publish IATI data have to take to ensure their publication is useful to FTS?

The hypothesis has been that if FTS can effectively use signatory data published using the IATI Standard, then efficiency can be gained both in the sharing and processing of it, moving closer to the goal of ‘publish once, use often’.

Five organisations agreed to participate in a pilot project between 2018 and 2020 to explore this hypothesis.<sup>21</sup> They were selected because they are established in their publication of IATI data and have pre-existing arrangements to share information with FTS. A key component to this work has been the development of an ‘IATI Ingestion Module’ within the FTS system, which enables FTS staff to select, import and process IATI data.

For each pilot organisation, the following five steps proved vital to making progress on the pilot:

1. **Research:** Understanding and charting who in the pilot organisation is responsible for sharing data with FTS and how this is done. This involved inspecting the spreadsheets or (in the case of one organisation) a pre-existing ‘bridge’ and charting the workflows that inform these.
2. **Analyse:** Understanding how the IATI publication of the pilot organisation matches or differs from the information requirements currently in place between the pilot organisation and FTS.
3. **Assess:** Agreeing, discussing and implementing changes to the organisation’s IATI publication; trialling the import of snapshots of their IATI data into FTS and then evaluating the outcome.
4. **Validate:** Undertaking prolonged, systematic ingestion of the organisation’s IATI data to FTS.
5. **Sustain:** Once ingestion of the organisation’s IATI data is running smoothly, moving towards configuring processes to more automatically pinpoint relevant data for use by FTS.

The pilot study successfully demonstrated that integrating IATI and FTS data is feasible, as some level of integration was achieved across several of the pilot organisations. It also gave valuable insight into how FTS–IATI integration would work across different organisations, and crucially how the implementation process varies. Progress across the five steps outlined above was not linear for most pilot

organisations, and different publishers faced different challenges in reconciling divergent IATI and FTS data and coordinating the different people and processes involved. There were a number of key learnings from the study, which are discussed in more detail below. We outline 10 steps that publishers should take to ensure that their data can be ingested easily.

## Key learnings

The pilot has shown that it is possible for FTS to use IATI-formatted data, though there are steps that should be taken to ensure that all publishing organisations are able to take advantage of this opportunity. Within the wider context of data being challenging to access, verify and process, there are a number of key areas of learning that are relevant to organisations wishing to use their IATI data to report to FTS and for the IATI and humanitarian communities as a whole.

### 1. Collective decisions need to be made about scope/coverage

IATI publications are routinely updated datasets that grow and develop over time. FTS reporting is generally based on periodic snapshots. With IATI there is a far greater volume of data in terms of historical records and granularity of financial flows. To effectively use IATI data, pragmatic decisions have to be made between FTS and the IATI publisher about how best to interpret and use the data.

### 2. Bespoke “bridges” between IATI and FTS are not needed, if best practice is observed

While the specific recommendations for IATI publishers will vary depending on the individual organisation and the nature of their data, the pilot has highlighted that there is no requirement for specific or bespoke ‘versions’ of IATI for FTS, providing best practices are observed (Figure 4). In addition, organisations that align their teams and processes for reporting to FTS and publishing IATI data are better placed for success.

### 3. Standards should be shared to increase accuracy

IATI publications can cross reference and interlink, creating ‘traceability’ chains. This relies on a strong culture and practice of shared identifiers and approaches. FTS has always reconciled data they have received to avoid double counting. IATI data can add a new degree of robustness to this existing process, but this requires IATI publishers to communicate and embrace common standards.

### 4. Expectations on the speed of implementation and efficiency gains need to be moderated

With IATI data being machine-readable, time can be saved in terms of production and input. This can (in theory) reduce the time lag of any data being added to FTS, although care should be taken to manage expectations. Data will always need to pass quality checks, whether they be manual (with decisions taken by humans) or automated (with decisions taken by machines). As this package of work progresses

and we learn how IATI data can be mapped to and ingested into FTS, there may be scope for shifting some of the focus from manual decision-making to automated decision-making, thus reducing the burden of reconciliation.

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### **Box 3: 10 steps you can take to ensure your IATI data can be used by FTS**

1. Update your data on a least a monthly basis or as close to real time as possible during a crisis.
2. Use the 'humanitarian flag' function of IATI to signify which data is relevant to FTS.
3. Include the specific humanitarian response plan and/or Global unique disaster Identifier number (GLIDE) number within any IATI activity (where possible).
4. Aim to ensure IATI activity data is structured around specific projects or contracts (rather than more aggregated units).
5. Publish the names of the organisations you are working with (implementing partners should be named where possible, within confidentiality parameters).
6. Provide breakdowns of forward-looking commitments (where possible).
7. Understand the nature of the data currently provided to FTS and how it compares with the data being publishing to IATI.
8. Provide documentation to explain and detail how your IATI publication is structured and performs.
9. Designate and support key contact points for FTS to field queries and questions.
10. Reach out to FTS to discuss your plan.

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## **Conclusions and recommendations**

This pilot project has proved the concept that organisations' IATI data can be ingested into FTS. It has also highlighted the need for prioritisation and commitment by those wishing for their IATI data to be used; publication alone will not yield results. Investment is also needed for ingestion to be rolled out widely, further developing and embedding the steps highlighted above. Whilst IATI data delivers a dependable and reliable exchange format, efforts are needed in terms of learning, sharing and explaining the particular nuances of any publisher's publication approach. However, upfront investment will likely lead to significant capacity savings over time.

Moving forwards, OCHA FTS is continuing to develop the IATI ingestion module to test, validate and increase the speed and efficiency of data ingestion. The Covid-19 situation has presented a context in which subsets of the total amount of IATI data can be more easily processed, leading to an increase in the number of publishers using the ingestion module. As this network of IATI publishers grows and develops, there are further opportunities for data reconciliation among IATI publishers' data, thus enhancing the accuracy of FTS.

There is now the opportunity to expand the project beyond the initial piloting organisations to enable wider ingestion of signatory IATI data into FTS as part of a longer-term vision and strategy. As a first step, non-pilot signatories should take stock of their IATI data and engage with FTS. To support this process, guidance will be provided to signatories on the specific actions they need to take, the success of which will depend on whether additional resources are made available to and within FTS to take this forward. Building on the lessons of this project, there is an opportunity to review the pathway towards wider interoperability (e.g. the relationship between IATI, EDRIS and FTS) and engage with signatories and platform providers on a vision for the humanitarian data landscape.

Based on the findings of the pilot we have identified three broad areas for further work on the IATI–FTS ingestion project.

### **1. Reconciliation**

There is a need to develop a robust methodology for how IATI data can be reconciled with the data already captured in FTS in a way that reduces data collection efforts compared with existing manual processes. This would provide all parties with clearer starting points for switching from dual reporting to IATI ingestion.

### **2. Resources**

Sufficient resources should be available to and within UN OCHA FTS. In the short term, resources are required to make up-front investments in tools and processes to enable a sustainable ongoing import of a large number of publishers' IATI data. In the medium term, resources are needed to ensure that additional organisations can be on-boarded to capture more of their data from IATI rather than from existing manual processes, and to make further improvements to the tools. Specifically, any expansion of the project will require the reinforcement of the FTS team to include a dedicated person working on IATI.

### **3. Replication**

Closely related to the previous two points, the IATI ingestion module should be enhanced further to support the FTS team to quickly and efficiently ingest data based

on 'patterns' of IATI publishers. This would lead to a degree of predictability and stability for the data infrastructure.

### **Next steps for the Grand Bargain transparency workstream**

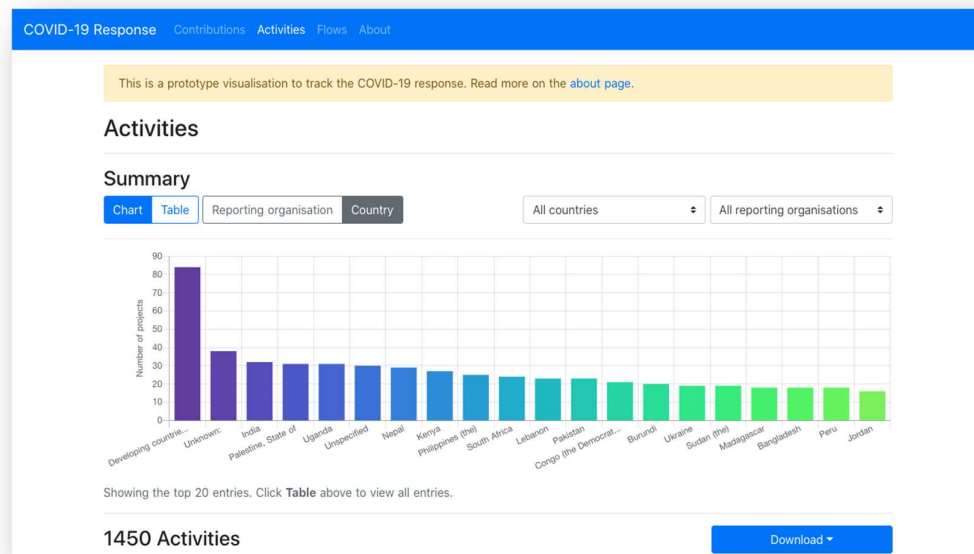
1. Work with FTS and the OCHA Centre for Humanitarian Data to develop guidance for signatories, detailing the work required on behalf of the signatory to understand their current FTS and IATI data in preparation for using IATI data in FTS.
2. Support FTS to identify opportunities presented by the development of the Covid-19 prototype visualisation, enabling the narrowing of data sets to Covid-19-specific activities in IATI as a starting point for wider FTS ingestion of signatories' IATI data.
3. Work with platform providers beyond FTS to identify opportunities for wider interoperability (e.g. the relationship between IATI, EDRIS and FTS) and as a basis for broader discussions on the challenges and opportunities of the current humanitarian data landscape and the vision leading up to, and beyond, the five-year review of the Grand Bargain in 2021.



# Chapter 3: Lessons from visualising the response to Covid-19 using FTS and IATI data

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Grand Bargain transparency workstream convened digital platform and service providers including IATI, UN OCHA FTS, the World Health Organization and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to discuss and agree how to improve data-driven transparency and tracking of the international humanitarian and development response to the crisis.

Figure 4: A snapshot of the Covid-19 prototype (June 2020)



Source Prototype: <http://covid19.humportal.org>

To support this process, DI developed a Covid-19 tracking prototype (Figure 5) to visualise the response to Covid-19 as a pathway towards more comprehensive tracking, including what activities are being financed in affected countries.<sup>22</sup> At time of publication of this report, the prototype visualises humanitarian contributions from FTS and humanitarian and development activities from IATI data. It also shows the flows from IATI publishers to their implementing partners. It is automatically updated daily as new data becomes available through each source. It was publicly launched on 4 June 2020.<sup>23</sup> This prototype is unique in allowing users to see published Covid-19 IATI and FTS data from all publishers and the total published values towards the response. As more data gradually becomes made available through FTS and IATI, the prototype will present a more complete picture and its value will increase. The response to the prototype has been overwhelmingly positive.

## Key findings

**IATI offers added value, complementing existing platforms.** Within the humanitarian sector, FTS provides valuable curated information on whether funding meets the requirements set out by humanitarian response plans and provides a holistic picture of humanitarian funding by capturing flows outside those plans. However, short-term humanitarian responses will not address the longer term implications of Covid-19 on people's livelihoods. This will require joined up assessments, planning and programming, and flexible and appropriate financing. The Covid-19 prototype demonstrates how organisations' IATI data can complement FTS by showing how humanitarian and development financing on Covid-19 is spent in affected countries. It also allows funding to be followed down the chain of implementing organisations, depending on the quality of data available from publishers.

**Rapid data publication is possible when prioritised.** In the week preceding the beta launch of the prototype in May 2020, there was a significant increase in IATI data publication, from 17 to 52 publishers and from 92 to 635 activities. Some of this increase can be directly attributed to engagement around the prototype – several publishers DI engaged made a concerted effort to get their data published earlier than it would otherwise have been. This highlights the importance of positive incentives to publishing data and the value of demonstrating data use through prototyping, and it proves that, with prioritisation, publishers are able to move quickly to release their data.

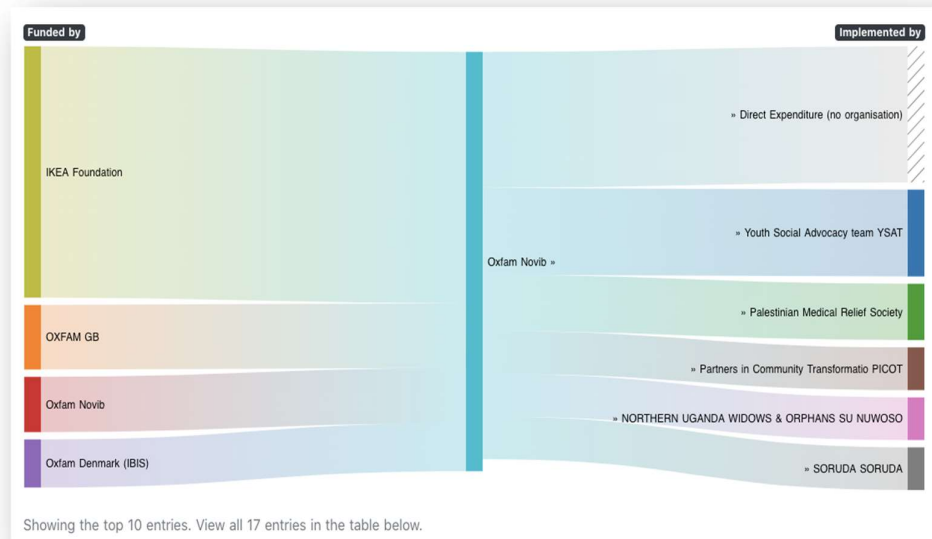
**Early release of guidance is essential.** Rapid publication by signatories was made possible by the IATI Secretariat sharing publishing guidance at the start of the pandemic, coordinated with UN OCHA's Centre for Humanitarian Data and FTS. Organisations were able to identify their Covid-19 projects and use the guidance to publish their Covid-19 activities in a way that could easily be picked up by the visualisation. The process supported learning from organisations' internal Covid-19 funding tracking and looked at how the IATI Standard could be improved to track funds more accurately and systematically. The data use guidance published by the IATI Secretariat is also a very important contribution to making data more accessible to users. The prototyping process also identified a number of ways in which the Standard

and guidance could be improved to make the data more accurate, detailed and usable at both the activity and transaction levels. The IATI Secretariat is planning a webinar at the time of writing to share analysis of Covid-19 data and discuss what further adjustments to publishing might be needed.<sup>24</sup>

**Data use drives better data publication.** The prototype enabled rapid analysis of data, which led to improvements in signatories' data and recommendations for improvements in the Standard going forwards. Signatories were able to see clearly what the data they published was saying and how it compared to others, leading to better data alignment and cross-organisational learning. The prototype has already highlighted the need to improve the way data is published when large projects contain a small Covid-19-specific amount. Commitments to Covid-19-related activities currently total US\$26.9 billion; when transactions unrelated to Covid-19 are excluded, the total amount of commitments falls to US\$19.6 billion.

**IATI data requires some reprocessing for comparable data use.** Whereas FTS is manually curated, IATI data is published as raw data. There is value in this as the data comes from source and reflects the operations of the publishing organisation. However, when trying to bring together published IATI data it requires some reprocessing to make the data comparable and useful. For example, the prototype required that we convert from donor currencies to US\$.

**Figure 5: Visualisation of flows data by the Covid-19 prototype (June 2020)**



Prototype: <http://covid19.humportal.org/flows>

## Challenges with current data publication in an ongoing emergency

The prototype has identified a number of areas where current IATI publication practices, whilst adhering to the Grand Bargain transparency commitments, do not enable usability of data during a crisis.

1. Some organisations publish so infrequently that several months into the global response there is still no data available. Publishers' data should preferably be updated as close to real time as possible and monthly at a minimum. A number of publishers have made concerted efforts to speed up their publication cycle, specifically for Covid-19 related projects.
2. Some organisations publish cumulative data throughout the year, rather than (at least monthly) breakdowns of their spending. This makes it very difficult, or impossible, to see how much money is spent in a particular month and makes aggregation of the data challenging as all of the expenditure will appear to occur on the most recent date of publication.
3. A number of publishers do not publish the names of the organisations that are implementing their activities, making it difficult to show how funding is being allocated along the transaction chain. In some cases, the data suggests that 100% of their spending is direct expenditure, rather than disbursing on to other organisations. This requires investigation from those most familiar with these organisations' operating models. In other cases, publishers do not publish the names of any organisations that they disburse funds to. Sometimes this may be due to systems limitations in those organisations' financial management systems. In other cases, it is an organisation-wide policy not to publish the names of these organisations. The fact that many signatories (large and small) are able to publish the names of their partner organisations should prompt reconsideration of decisions against publication of this information in favour of a more nuanced approach that adheres to the draft data responsibility guidelines developed by the Centre for Humanitarian Data.<sup>25</sup>

The prototype also helped identify gaps in reporting data to FTS. As discussed in Chapter 2, the Covid-19 data provided a clear overview of available FTS and IATI data in response to the crisis, thereby facilitating comparison between the two. IATI data related to the Covid-19 response from at least one donor was imported to FTS, thereby improving the comprehensiveness of FTS data.

The prototype – while remaining limited in its initial ambition – has provided some extremely useful and detailed insights into the availability and usefulness of data on the Covid-19 response. It emphasises how much can be achieved in a relatively small space of time with collective effort. For the Grand Bargain transparency workstream, it also clearly demonstrates the value of this type of prototyping as a means to make IATI data more accessible, enable organisations to see the added value of their data and therefore incentivise progress on publication.

Going forwards, DI and the workstream will continue to improve the prototype based on signatory and partner engagement and support interested partners in taking the prototype to scale. The prototype is furthermore serving as a foundation for wider DI work on COVID-19 data, with analysis of Covid-19 funding due to be released in the Global Humanitarian Assistance Report in July 2020, along with regularly updated data analysis on the Covid-19 response published on the DI website.

# Conclusion and recommendations

The Grand Bargain transparency workstream has focused its efforts over the last four years on supporting signatories to increase the availability and use of data on humanitarian financing. This report highlights the significant progress made by many signatories in the publication of humanitarian data using the IATI Standard and the gradual improvement in the granularity of that data, providing more useful and usable information on their humanitarian activities. Importantly, the analysis shows that IATI data is being used, with close to 50% of signatories reporting using IATI data in 2019. However, whilst progress is clear, work is still required to achieve the goal set out by the Grand Bargain: for humanitarian transparency to put accurate and timely data at the heart of decision-making. The workstream's work on data prototyping to support the Covid-19 response has highlighted what is possible through prioritisation and collaboration, and the gaps and challenges that remain in achieving a complete and accurate picture of humanitarian financing.

## Key recommendations for all signatories

In the lead up to the five-year review of the Grand Bargain in 2021, we believe that there are a number of key areas for action:

1. **Political commitment to better publication:** Whilst signatories remain committed to the concept of transparency, there needs to be a collective recommitment to timely, high-quality and detailed publication of humanitarian funding using the IATI Standard so that the data can be used to meet the humanitarian communities' information needs, particularly in fast-onset and rapidly escalating crises. A political reaffirmation of this commitment is required at the time of the 2021 review of the Grand Bargain to achieve lasting sector-wide impact.
2. **Making IATI data more consistent and comparable:** For signatory data to be comparable between organisations, signatories and partners need to consult and agree to a framework and guidance to make publication more consistent. This work should be informed by a common understanding of how stakeholders at the global, national and local levels use data for decision-making and accountability, and signatories will need ongoing support from the IATI Secretariat to execute the guidance.

3. **Realising efficiency savings:** The reporting burden on signatories needs to be reduced and alignment found between reporting frameworks at the global level and between donors and NGOs. Investment is needed to take forward the ingestion of IATI data into UN OCHA's FTS. Further work should be done by the workstream, signatories and platform providers to look at other ways in which IATI publication can reduce the burden, support the harmonisation of reporting and drive long-term efficiency savings, allowing signatories to realise the goal of 'publishing once, using often'.

Based on the finding of this report, we provide the following specific recommendations for Grand Bargain signatories and the workstream to progress against the commitments to publication and data use.

### Publication

- Signatories should publish granular information (IATI V2.02, v2.03 and traceability information) on humanitarian funding in their IATI data.
- Signatories should publish granular financial data and the names of the organisations that are involved in their activities (including implementing organisations), subject to confidentiality requirements.<sup>26</sup>
- Signatories should publish on a regular basis, at least monthly and more frequently during a crisis (preferably in near real time, where possible).
- Signatories should quality check their data and, where possible, use IATI data as a basis for reporting to other platforms and internally ensuring alignment of numbers.

The workstream can support signatories through:

- Continuing to support signatories to monitor their progress through the IATI Humanitarian Data Portal.
- Including a target for timeliness of data as a key mechanism for tracking signatory progress on data publication.
- Engagement with signatories on specific publication challenges and signpost support for signatories where needed.
- Supporting signatories, partners and users to consult and engage on the finalisation of the IATI humanitarian publishing guidance for more consistent publication by organisations.

## Data use

- Signatories should review the steps outlined in this report for enhancing their IATI publication and understanding their data in preparation for ingestion into FTS.
- Signatories should work towards a better understanding of how data is being used at the HQ and local levels within their organisations and how their IATI data can better support decision-making.

The workstream can support signatories through:

- Continuing to demonstrate the usability and value of IATI data through data prototyping and visualisation.
- Supporting engagement on data use at the global, national and local levels to provide specific recommendations to signatories and partners.
- Monitoring progress towards the data use commitment, carrying out a detailed data use survey in 2021 and sharing best practice among signatories.
- Supporting the roll-out of IATI–FTS ingestion by signatories and the strengthening of FTS capacity to enable this.
- Convening and engaging signatories and digital platform and service providers to take forward a common vision for humanitarian transparency beyond 2021.



# Notes

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- <sup>1</sup> Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/grand-bargain-official-website/grand-bargain-signatories> (accessed 11 June 2020)
- <sup>2</sup> IASC, <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/about-the-grand-bargain> (accessed 11 June 2020)
- <sup>3</sup> High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing, Report to the Secretary-General, 2016. Too important to fail – addressing the humanitarian funding gap. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/high-level-panel-humanitarian-financing-report-secretary-general-too-important-fail>
- <sup>4</sup> High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing, Report to the Secretary-General, 2016. Too important to fail – addressing the humanitarian funding gap. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/high-level-panel-humanitarian-financing-report-secretary-general-too-important-fail>
- <sup>5</sup> High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing, Report to the Secretary-General, 2016. Too important to fail – addressing the humanitarian funding gap. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/high-level-panel-humanitarian-financing-report-secretary-general-too-important-fail>
- <sup>6</sup> IASC, [www.interagencystandingcommittee.org/greater-transparency](http://www.interagencystandingcommittee.org/greater-transparency) (accessed 11 June 2020)
- <sup>7</sup> Development Initiatives, 2017. Implementing and monitoring the Grand Bargain commitment on transparency. Baseline report. [http://devinit.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Baseline-report\\_-\\_implementing-and-monitoring-the-Grand-Bargain-commitment-on-transparency.pdf](http://devinit.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Baseline-report_-_implementing-and-monitoring-the-Grand-Bargain-commitment-on-transparency.pdf) and Development Initiatives, 2018. Progress report 1: Supporting Grand Bargain signatories in meeting commitments to greater transparency. <https://devinit.org/publications/grand-bargain-progress-report-1/>
- <sup>8</sup> Information about the self-reporting progress can be found here: IASC, [www.interagencystandingcommittee.org/grand-bargain-official-website/grand-bargain-self-reports-2019-2020](http://www.interagencystandingcommittee.org/grand-bargain-official-website/grand-bargain-self-reports-2019-2020)
- <sup>9</sup> For more information about the IATI standard see: IATI, <https://iatistandard.org/en/about/iati-standard/>
- <sup>10</sup> IASC, [www.interagencystandingcommittee.org/grand-bargain](http://www.interagencystandingcommittee.org/grand-bargain) (accessed 11 June 2020)
- <sup>11</sup> The IATI Humanitarian Portal is available at: [www.humportal.org](http://www.humportal.org)
- <sup>12</sup> IATI data is currently not published by the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response, NEAR, Global Communities and the Governments of Estonia, Czech Republic and Bulgaria. At the point of measurement, Slovenia and Luxembourg were not publishing to IATI, but they published for the first time in May 2020.
- <sup>13</sup> Publishing frequency refers to how often an organisation updates their published IATI data. The time lag is how up to date the data is.
- <sup>14</sup> Each publishing signatory has their own page on the IATI Humanitarian Portal, which includes information about the timeliness of their publication. Signatory pages are accessible at: <https://www.humportal.org/signatory-data>
- <sup>15</sup> IATI Humanitarian Portal, available at: [www.humportal.org](http://www.humportal.org)
- <sup>16</sup> South Korea became the 62nd signatory in January 2020, but as the official reporting cycle was for January to December 2019 they were excluded from this analysis.
- <sup>17</sup> Canada's Global Affairs Project Browser, available at: <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/>
- <sup>18</sup> Oxfam Atlas, available at: <https://atlas.oxfamnovib.nl>
- <sup>19</sup> Development Initiatives, 2017. Improving humanitarian transparency with IATI and FTS. <https://devinit.org/publications/improving-humanitarian-transparency-international-aid-transparency-initiative-iati-un-ocha-financial-tracking-service-fts/#>
- <sup>20</sup> UN General Assembly Resolution 46/182 “Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations outlines a framework for humanitarian assistance and a set of guiding principles”. Accessed here: <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/46/a46r182.htm>
- <sup>21</sup> International Rescue Committee (IRC), the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, OCHA's Country-Based Pooled Funds, the UK Department for International Development (DFID), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).
- <sup>22</sup> Covid-19 tracking prototype, available at: <http://covid19.humportal.org>
- <sup>23</sup> Development Initiatives, 2020. Strengthening data-driven transparency in response to Covid-19.

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<https://devinit.org/blog/strengthening-data-driven-transparency-response-covid-19/>

<sup>24</sup> Webinar details available at: <https://discuss.iatistandard.org/t/webinar-iati-covid-19-data-progress-update-and-consultation-tuesday-30-june/1968>

<sup>25</sup> The draft of the Centre for Humanitarian Data's *Data Responsibility Guidelines* is available at: <https://centre.humdata.org/data-policy/>

<sup>26</sup> IATI guidance on exclusion policies can be found at: <https://iatistandard.org/en/guidance/preparing-organisation/organisation-data-publication/information-and-data-you-cant-publish-exclusions/>

# Annex

## Workstream 1 greater transparency: Core commitment indicators and target results (CCTRI)

<p><b>Workstream:</b></p> <p>Workstream 1: Greater transparency</p>	<p><b>Core commitment:<sup>1</sup></b></p> <p>#1 Signatories make use of available data analysis, explaining the distinctiveness of activities, organisations, environments and circumstances.</p>
<p><b>Indicator (what is to be measured):</b></p> <p>1. (on data publication) % of Grand Bargain signatories (or their affiliates) publishing humanitarian data to IATI, and % publishing more useable humanitarian data.</p> <p>2. (on data use) % of Grand Bargain signatories (or their affiliates) using IATI data and accessing IATI-compatible data platforms and tools in order to enable evidence-informed decision-making, greater accountability and learning.</p>	<p><b>Baseline and target-results (numerical objective):</b></p> <p>1.1 Baseline value (as at 1 June 2018): 73% of Grand Bargain signatories (or their affiliates) were publishing humanitarian data to IATI, and of these 0% were publishing more useable humanitarian data.</p> <p>1.2 Target value: 100% of Grand Bargain signatories (or their affiliates) are publishing humanitarian data to IATI, and of these 50% are publishing more useable humanitarian data.</p> <p>2.1 Baseline and target values: To be established by June 2019.</p> <p>2.2 Target value: x% of Grand Bargain signatories (or their affiliates) using IATI data and accessing IATI-compatible data platforms and tools in order to enable evidence-informed decision-making, greater accountability and learning.</p>

**Provide a short definition of the CCTRI:**

a) Explain the CCTRI: Two indicators are proposed to measure progress against the Grand Bargain's goal of increasing the availability and use of open data on humanitarian financing in order to enable evidence-informed decision-making, greater accountability and learning:

**Indicator 1 (on data publication)** measures the percentage or number of Grand Bargain signatories (or their affiliates) that are publishing open data on their humanitarian activities, by using the DAC sector codes or the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)<sup>2</sup> humanitarian flag. It also measures the percentage/number of Grand Bargain signatories (or affiliates) that are providing more granular or 'useable' data. This means they publish one or more of the specific humanitarian elements added to the IATI Standard at version 2.02 (e.g. information on global humanitarian clusters, the emergency or appeal, the disaster and/or humanitarian response plan). As of June 2019, this definition will be expanded to include the publication of: 1) the specific humanitarian elements added to the IATI Standard at version 2.03 (e.g. levels of earmarking, pledges, cash-based programming<sup>3</sup> and whether funding is channelled via local and national responders); 2) IATI's traceability elements (which identify the funding provider and recipient for each activity across the delivery chain); and 3) data that is formatted so that it can be used by UN OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS).<sup>4</sup>

**Indicator 2 (on data use)** measures the percentage or number of Grand Bargain signatories (or their affiliates) that are using IATI data and accessing IATI-compatible data platforms and tools.

b) Describe how the CCTRI should be measured by donors and humanitarian agencies:

**Indicator 1 (on data publication):** The Grand Bargain transparency workstream is supporting Grand Bargain signatories and the wider humanitarian community in tracking progress against the transparency commitments. It has developed the Grand Bargain transparency dashboard<sup>5</sup> and since June 2017 has established a baseline and publishes an annual progress report. <sup>6</sup> As of June 2019 the dashboard will be revised and upgraded to enable better monitoring of Indicator 1.

**Indicator 2 (on data use):** In 2019 the Grand Bargain transparency workstream will be carrying out a survey and key informant interviews to establish a baseline on the number of Grand Bargain signatories using IATI data and accessing IATI-compatible data platforms and tools, identifying key incentives and perceived barriers to data use and collating and publishing qualitative information on how organisations are using this data and its impact, as well as potential uses. Grand Bargain signatories are encouraged to collate and publicise examples of how they are using IATI data and accessing IATI-compatible data platforms and tools, including in their operations as well as internal business processes. This could include: mandating their implementing partners to publish their humanitarian data to IATI or report to FTS; using IATI data on humanitarian operations in their own or others' information tools (such as EDRIS, Devtracker, Openaid.NL, FTS, HDX) or data visualisations; using IATI data or accessing IATI-compatible data platforms and tools to inform research, advocacy, programme planning, resource mobilisation or monitoring. The revised Grand Bargain transparency dashboard will track the number of Grand Bargain signatories using IATI data for FTS reporting and potentially for EDRIS.<sup>7</sup>

<b>Timeline:</b>			
<b>Indicator 1 (on data publication)</b>			
<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Milestone 1</b>	<b>Milestone 2</b>	<b>Final target</b>
Month/year: June 2017	Month/year: June 2018	Month/year: June 2019	Month/year: June 2020
Value: 73% of Grand Bargain signatories (or their affiliates) are publishing humanitarian data to IATI, and of these 0% are publishing more useable humanitarian data.	Value: 82% of Grand Bargain signatories (or their affiliates) are publishing humanitarian data to IATI, and of these 18% are publishing more useable humanitarian data.	Value:	Value: 100% of Grand Bargain signatories (or their affiliates) are publishing humanitarian data to IATI, and of these 50% are publishing more useable humanitarian data.
<b>Indicator 2 (on data use)</b>			
<b>Baseline</b>			<b>Final target</b>
Month/year: June 2019			Month/year: June 2020
Value (to be established)			Value: x% of Grand Bargain signatories (or their affiliates) using IATI data and accessing IATI-compatible data platforms and tools in order to enable evidence-informed decision-making, greater accountability and learning.
% of Grand Bargain signatories (or their affiliates) using IATI data and accessing IATI-compatible data platforms and tools in order to enable evidence-informed decision-making, greater accountability and learning.			

<p><b>The indicator refers to:</b></p> <p>All constituencies <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Donors <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>UN agencies <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>NGOs <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Red Cross Movement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><b>Is the indicator gender sensitive?</b></p> <p>No</p> <p><b>If yes, please provide a short explanation on how the gender dimension is captured:</b></p> <p><b>If no, please provide a short explanation about why the gender dimension is not relevant:</b></p> <p>As highlighted by the <i>Aide-memoire on gender mainstreaming in the Grand Bargain</i> there is an increasing need for gender-disaggregated data to support an evidence-based understanding of the gender dynamics that affect and influence the effectiveness of humanitarian interventions and for this information to be publicly available. Therefore, the gender dimension is clearly directly relevant to workstream one's core commitment to enable Grand Bargain signatories to "make use of available data and take into account the distinctiveness of activities, organisations, environments and circumstances in their analyses".</p> <p>Both the IATI Standard and the IASC have developed gender-related markers. The IATI Standard enables organisations to publish data in accordance with the OECD DAC Creditor Reporting System's gender equality policy marker,<sup>8</sup> while the IASC's Gender with Age Marker (GAM) enables organisations to report the extent to which essential programming actions address gender- and age-related differences in humanitarian response and includes a monitoring element.<sup>9</sup> The GAM is also a requirement for reporting to FTS.</p> <p>Further analysis is required to assess whether the GAM and the DAC gender equality policy marker can be aligned and to determine if the two gender markers can be used concurrently within existing IATI publishing practice. If this is not possible, then changes to the IATI Standard may be required as part of the next and subsequent upgrade processes. Once the best practice use of the GAM has been established, it will be included as part of the usability definition under Indicator 1 and will be captured by the revision of the Grand Bargain transparency dashboard.</p>
<p><b>Provide a short description about how signatories are moving commitments beyond the first transaction level:</b></p> <p>Organisations operating at all transaction levels in the humanitarian system's delivery chain have the possibility to publish their data in IATI (i.e. to open up their internal management systems automatically with IATI). Since its inception the IATI Standard allows publishers to indicate the (IATI published) references of the activity(s) of both the funding provider and funding recipient with specific traceability to their own project, programme or intervention. This aspect has been included as part of the usability definition under Indicator 1 on data publication and will be captured by the revision of the Grand Bargain transparency dashboard in 2019. It can help to avoid double counting and links funding with its source or recipient within the delivery chain. However, IATI is no financial accountability tool, but a source of public data that can be used by anyone to enable greater transparency, accountability and learning on funding flows.</p> <p>Indicator 2 (on data use) will capture any mandate by Grand Bargain signatories for implementing partners to publish their humanitarian data to IATI.</p>	

# Annex notes

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<sup>1</sup> The co-convenors consider the following interpretation of the core commitment: “Signatories make use of available data and take into account the distinctiveness of activities, organisations, environments and circumstances in their analyses.”

<sup>2</sup> IATI is an international open data standard for publishing development and humanitarian aid data:  
<https://iatistandard.org/en/about/>

<sup>3</sup> Once definitions have been agreed.

<sup>4</sup> FTS is a centralised source of curated, continuously updated, fully downloadable data and information on humanitarian funding flows: <https://fts.unocha.org>.

<sup>5</sup> Grand Bargain transparency dashboard has now been decommissioned

<sup>6</sup> Development Initiatives, 2017. Baseline report. <http://devinit.org/post/baseline-report-implementing-and-monitoring-the-grand-bargain-commitment-on-transparency/>; and progress report 1, 2018. [http://devinit.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Progress-report-1\\_supporting-Grand-Bargain-signatories-in-meeting-commitments-to-greater-transparency.pdf](http://devinit.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Progress-report-1_supporting-Grand-Bargain-signatories-in-meeting-commitments-to-greater-transparency.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> EDRIS is a web-based information system on European Emergency Disaster Response to identify EU humanitarian aid contributions: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hac/>

<sup>8</sup> OECD, <http://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/dac-gender-equality-marker.htm>

<sup>9</sup> IASC, GAM Fact Sheet. Available at: <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/iasc-gam-information-sheet.pdf> and on the website: <https://iascgenderwithagemarker.com>

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