development
initiatives

June 2017

implementing and monitoring the Grand Bargain commitment on transparency

baseline report

Contents

Executive summary

At the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016, Grand Bargain signatory organisations agreed to work towards greater transparency by improving the quality, availability and use of data on humanitarian funding to improve its effectiveness and enhance accountability. As a critical first step, organisations agreed to publish timely, transparent, harmonised and open high-quality data on their humanitarian funding and the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) was identified as the basis for a shared, common standard.

This report assesses the situation one year on from the Summit. Its purpose is to set a baseline for the extent to which Grand Bargain signatories are publishing their humanitarian data to IATI, against which future progress can be measured. The report proposes a framework and methodology for measuring the quality of humanitarian data published to IATI and uses IATI data published in a bespoke dashboard[1] to enable organisations to monitor their own progress against this commitment. The dashboard is publicly available and is currently in beta version.

The findings are encouraging. There is a clear organisational commitment by most Grand Bargain signatory organisations to publishing more and better data on their humanitarian activities – and to use the IATI Standard to do this. Our initial assessment shows that there has already been considerable progress in just one year since organisations agreed to make their humanitarian funding more transparent. Of 51 organisations that signed up to the Grand Bargain:

- 43% (22 organisations) are already members of IATI
- 73% (37 organisations or their members or affiliates) are already publishing some data to the IATI Standard
- 61% (31 organisations or their members or affiliates) are currently publishing humanitarian aid data to the IATI Standard.

More information on humanitarian funding is now becoming available, but there is still a need for more and better quality data. A small but growing number of organisations – from all the Grand Bargain's stakeholder groupings – are using the latest version of the IATI Standard to publish their data. However, they are not yet using its new humanitarian features, which improve IATI's interoperability with UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)'s Financial Tracking Service (FTS), the Grand Bargain's digital platform to track humanitarian flows.

The challenges for organisations to publish more and better humanitarian data to IATI vary across Grand Bargain signatories depending on their structures and operating models. Nevertheless, there are areas of commonality, for example concerns about the risks posed to privacy and/or security by publishing data or that the IATI Standard does

not yet fully meet the needs of humanitarian actors. Outdated or inadequate IT systems and a lack of human resources to manage IATI publication are key internal constraints for many organisations. There are also opportunities to overcome these by building on and adapting existing support mechanisms either internally or within the IATI and open data communities.

Enhancing the IATI Standard as part of the next upgrade process will enable organisations to publish more and better humanitarian data and contribute to greater use of IATI data for monitoring progress across other Grand Bargain commitments.

Progress on the automatic import of IATI data by UN OCHA's FTS will be crucial for realising IATI's potential in supporting increased efficiency and demonstrating the practical value of more and better data to the humanitarian community. The use of IATI data by donors to harmonise and simplify reporting requirements will also act as a key incentive.

Turning transparency promises into reality can be hard, but this is one of the commitment areas of the Grand Bargain with the most potential for progress. The challenge now is for organisations to publish more and better quality data on their humanitarian funding and for that data to be used by the humanitarian community to improve responses to crisis-affected populations. This will enable the 'virtuous circle' whereby increased and wide-ranging use of organisations' humanitarian data incentivises improvements to the breadth and quality of the data being published.

Recommendations

- Grand Bargain signatories should increase efforts to raise awareness and understanding of the transparency commitment and IATI internally and within the wider humanitarian community – including fostering greater cross-departmental coordination.

- Grand Bargain signatory organisations should take steps to begin publishing their humanitarian data to IATI, and those that have not already done so should upgrade to version 2.02 of the Standard and use the new humanitarian features.

- The IATI Standard should be enhanced to include more humanitarian-related elements as part of the next and subsequent upgrade processes, contributing to greater use of IATI for monitoring progress across other Grand Bargain commitments. Development Initiatives (DI) and the IATI Secretariat should continue to support Grand Bargain signatory organisations and the wider humanitarian community in this process.

- UN OCHA's senior leadership should prioritise efforts to enable the automatic import of IATI data into the FTS to support increased efficiency and reduce the reporting burden.

- Guidance and tools for publishing and using IATI data should be adapted to meet the needs of the humanitarian community. Greater efforts should be made to support the capacity of all partners to access and publish data, including by sharing best practice and learning among the humanitarian, IATI and open data communities.

- The humanitarian community should invest in developing case studies to demonstrate how IATI data can be used or joined up with other humanitarian data to improve the effectiveness of the humanitarian response to crisis-affected people.

- DI should increase efforts to work with all relevant Grand Bargain workstreams to assess how the IATI Standard can best support their objectives. In particular, DI should continue to work with the workstream on harmonised and simplified reporting as well as the IATI community to help ensure a reduced reporting burden over time. The use of IATI data by donors to harmonise and simplify reporting requirements will act as a key incentive.

> **"Without reliable data, we cannot know who is in need, what challenges they face, what support can assist them and whether interventions are making a difference" One humanity: shared responsibility – UN Secretary General, January 2016**

Introduction

At the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016, leading donor governments, multilateral and UN agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and NGO umbrella organisations agreed 'The Grand Bargain: A Shared Commitment to Better Serve People in Need'.[2] The Grand Bargain was first proposed by the former UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing report[3] as one of the potential solutions to address the humanitarian financing gap. It aims to make the delivery of humanitarian aid more efficient and collaborative, thereby supporting implementation of the 'Agenda for Humanity'[4] – a global plan of action to reduce crisis vulnerability and improve collective responses to humanitarian need.

The Grand Bargain includes commitments on greater transparency: a set of proposals to improve the quality, availability and use of data on humanitarian funding. These are outlined in the box overleaf.

Transparency is a fundamental prerequisite for improving the operational efficiency, effectiveness and accountability of humanitarian action.

Recent crises, including the 2014–2016 Ebola virus disease outbreak and the 2015 Nepal earthquake, have highlighted the consequences of inadequate information. During the Ebola outbreak, donors, governments and responding agencies could not plan their response effectively as they did not have an overview of all available resources. In the aftermath of the April 2015 earthquake in Nepal, local communities found they had no access to reliable information on the resources coming into their country and how they were being used. This compromised the effectiveness and accountability of both international and locally led responses.[5]

Where data on humanitarian funding is available, it is often incomplete, inaccurate, inconsistent or inaccessible. More importantly, data from different sources is often not published in comparable formats, limiting the ability to join up and compare data to build a richer, more detailed and more accurate picture of needs, resources and gaps.

Established in 2008, the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) emerged as part of a wider movement aimed at increasing development effectiveness and mutual accountability. The resulting IATI[6] Standard is now widely recognised as the international framework for publishing open data[7] on development cooperation and humanitarian assistance. The Grand Bargain commits signatories to use the IATI Standard as the basis for a common standard for publishing timely, transparent, harmonised and open high-quality data on humanitarian funding. In so doing, it sets a clear direction for improving the quantity and quality of humanitarian data to enable greater accountability and more informed decision-making.

Grand bargain commitments on greater transparency

Aid organisations and donors commit to:

1. Publish timely, transparent, harmonised and open high-quality data on humanitarian funding within two years of the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul. We consider IATI to provide a basis for the purpose of a common standard.

2. Make use of appropriate data analysis, explaining the distinctiveness of activities, organisations, environments and circumstances (for example, protection, conflict zones).

3. Improve the digital platform and engage with the open data standard community to help ensure:

    - accountability of donors and responders with open data for retrieval and analysis

    - improvements in decision-making, based upon the best possible information

    - a reduced workload over time as a result of donors accepting common standard data for some reporting purposes

    - traceability of donors' funding throughout the transaction chain as far as the final responders and, where feasible, affected people

4. Support the capacity of all partners to access and publish data.

Transparency is critical not only as an important end in and of itself but as a way of achieving a broader set of actions to better serve people in need. The links between transparency and the implementation and monitoring of other commitments in the Grand Bargain are clear. For example, traceability of funding gives visibility to funding channelled directly and indirectly to national and local implementing partners and can enable efforts *for more support and funding to local and national responders*. Similarly, more and better data on the use of different forms of financing can enable the humanitarian community to track progress against the Grand Bargain commitments in these areas, such as the commitment *to increase the use and coordination of cash-based programming.*

Improved transparency can support efforts to *harmonise and simplify donor requirements* as the availability and quality of standardised data increases, including agreements on the systematic reporting of results. Similarly, transparency of costs can inform agreements on common or comparable cost structures and eventually *reduce duplication and management costs* to promote more efficient and effective delivery of humanitarian assistance.

The Grand Bargain commitment on greater transparency also recognises that, while a critical first step, the availability of high-quality, timely humanitarian data will not in itself improve decision-making, operational effectiveness or accountability. Investments must also be made to encourage and support the use of data, including by joining-up data from different sources, to enable appropriate data analysis both locally and nationally in crisis-affected countries and by decision-makers operating at the international level.

Implementing the Grand Bargain commitment on transparency provides an unprecedented opportunity for increased political momentum and practical action to improve the quality, availability and use of data on crisis-related financing to ensure a better humanitarian response for affected populations.

Methodology

This report is part of the project **Monitoring the Grand Bargain commitment on transparency**, which runs until June 2018 and is funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.[8] Development Initiatives[9] (DI) is working with Grand Bargain signatory organisations to support implementation of commitments to greater transparency. The report provides an initial assessment of the extent to which organisations are publishing timely and high-quality data on their humanitarian funding, identifying some of the challenges they are facing, and presenting proposals on how they may be overcome. It provides recommendations and a roadmap for taking forward the Grand Bargain transparency commitments, including proposals for improvements to the IATI Standard. Finally, the report proposes a monitoring framework and methodology, supported by an online dashboard[10] to enable Grand Bargain organisations and the wider humanitarian community to measure progress in making humanitarian funding more transparent.

Between January and May 2017, DI carried out activities to reach out to Grand Bargain signatory organisations and the wider humanitarian community to raise awareness of the Grand Bargain commitments on transparency, and to better understand their views. Over 150 people from 85 organisations across 26 countries participated in this process, which is summarised in Table 1. A full list of participating organisations is attached in Annex 1.

The aim of this report is to reflect the emerging areas of consensus and we are grateful to the vast majority (over 80%) of Grand Bargain organisations that have engaged actively with this process. We look forward to continuing to work with signatory organisations and the wider humanitarian community to take forward the recommendations proposed.

Table 1: Project outreach activities

Activity	Date	Purpose
Background paper An Introduction to IATI for humanitarian actors[11] published	February 2017	To introduce humanitarian actors to the IATI Standard, particularly those organisations that have signed up to the Grand Bargain
Two-part webinar Improving humanitarian transparency with IATI held[12]	February 2017	To support signatory organisations to use the IATI Standard to share information on their humanitarian funding and activities
Online global survey for the Grand Bargain workstream on transparency conducted	March 2017	To better understand the state of play and the perceived challenges and incentives for organisations to meet their commitment on transparency
Consultation paper Implementing and monitoring the Grand Bargain commitment on transparency[13] launched, series of workshops and bilateral side meetings organised in Geneva, New York and Washington D.C.	March–April 2017	To consult on proposals to improve the IATI Standard and to monitor progress in meeting the transparency commitment

Chapter 1

Understanding the incentives and challenges of greater transparency

In March 2017 DI conducted an online survey on transparency, targeted at Grand Bargain signatory organisations, to better understand the current state of play and the perceived challenges and incentives for publishing data on humanitarian funding. A list of survey questions is given in Annex 2. Of 51 Grand Bargain signatory organisations, 23 (45%) responded within the five-week time frame. These comprise ten NGOs (including NGO umbrella groups), eight government donor organisations, four multilateral agencies (including UN agencies and the European Commission's Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)), and the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (joint submission).

The survey provides an encouraging snapshot of organisational commitments to the transparency agenda. It also identifies some key challenges, which vary from organisation to organisation depending on internal operating procedures and systems, organisational structures, resources and capacities. The survey's main findings are outlined in the following section.

Commitment to implementing transparency

The majority of organisations (63%) are planning to use the IATI Standard to implement the transparency commitment. Just over a quarter (26%) are undecided, signalling that they are in the process of conducting internal feasibility studies and cost-benefit analyses. The other 11% are considering using an alternative but do not yet specify what.

Figure 1 shows that the organisations surveyed identified the top three benefits of better humanitarian data as:

1. Improved accountability to partners (53%)
2. Improved transparency and monitoring within their organisation (53%)
3. Better external communication on the impact of their work (53%).

Source: Survey for the Grand Bargain Work stream on Transparency (Annex 2)

Some organisations also highlighted IATI's potential to provide cost savings by reducing their reporting burden. This is because the Standard enables organisations to 'publish once, use often' – generating data in a common, open, electronic format that can be used in a variety of ways by different people or platforms. Respondents from the NGO community emphasised the need for donors to accept the information they publish to IATI in lieu of other reporting requirements as a key incentive.
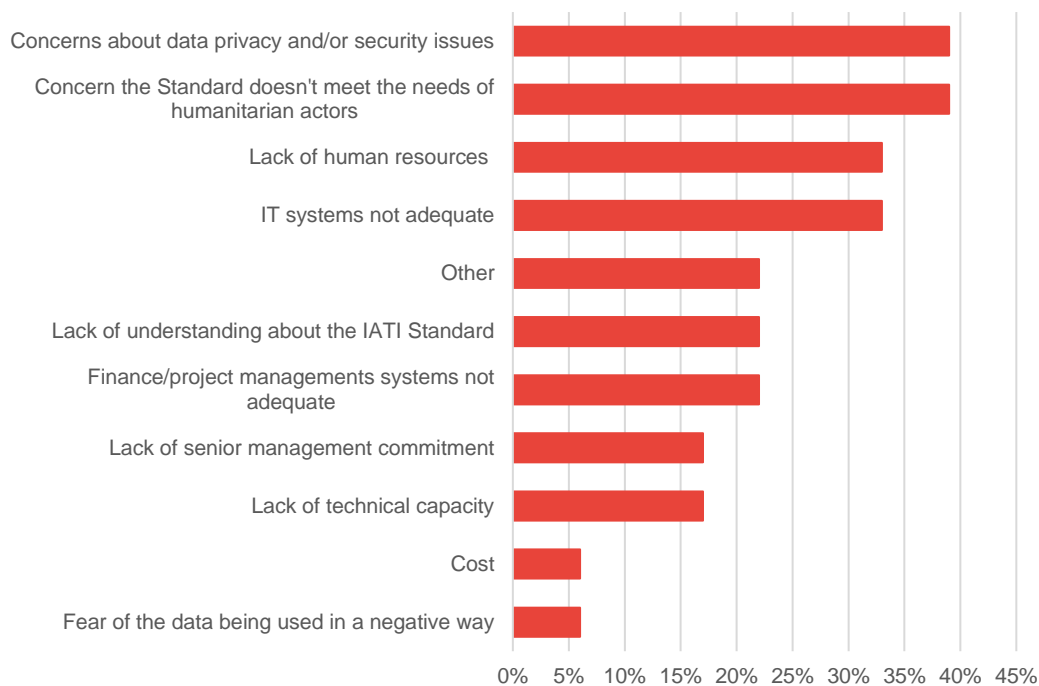
> **"IATI represents a globally accepted and external accountability standard that we are committed to follow. But as long as donors do not explicitly harmonise their own reporting using IATI, there will be a double reporting burden on us" – NGO respondent**

Figure 2 shows that the top four constraints for organisations to publish timely and high-quality humanitarian data to IATI are identified as:

1. Concerns about data privacy and/or security issues (39%)
2. Concern that the [IATI Standard] does not yet fully meet the needs of humanitarian actors (39%)
3. IT systems not adequate (34%)
4. Lack of human resources (34%).

Figure 2: What are the top three constraints to publishing timely and high-quality humanitarian data to IATI?

Constraint	Percentage
Concerns about data privacy and/or security issues	~39%
Concern the Standard doesn't meet the needs of humanitarian actors	~39%
Lack of human resources	~33%
IT systems not adequate	~33%
Other	~22%
Lack of understanding about the IATI Standard	~22%
Finance/project managements systems not adequate	~22%
Lack of senior management commitment	~17%
Lack of technical capacity	~17%
Cost	~6%
Fear of the data being used in a negative way	~6%

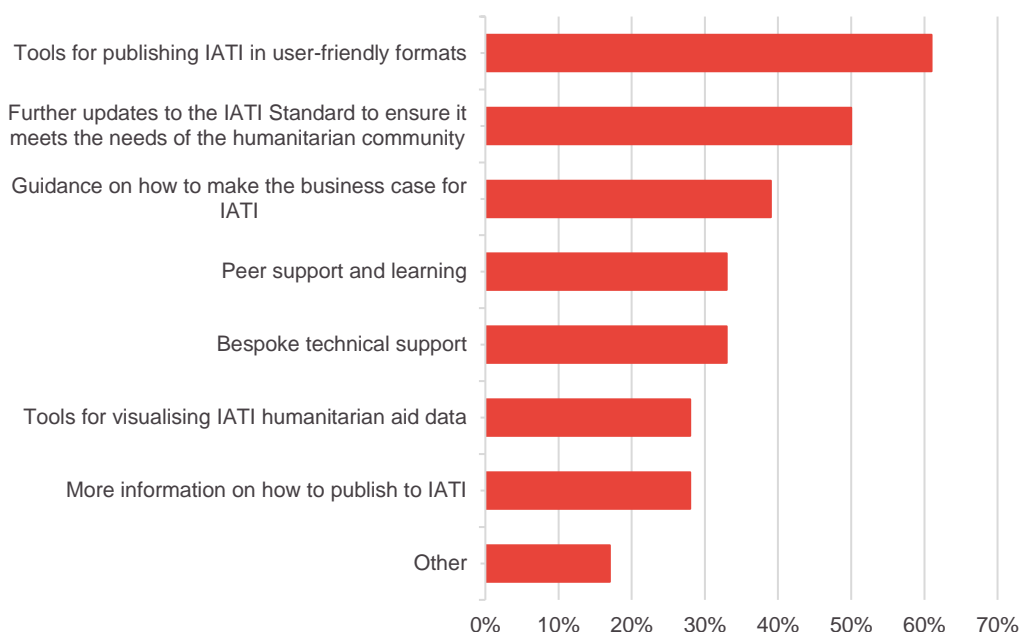Source: Survey for the Grand Bargain Work stream on Transparency (Annex 2)

In Figure 3, organisations identify their main requirements for external support to overcome these constraints:

1. Tools for publishing IATI data in user-friendly formats (61%)
2. Further updates to the IATI Standard to ensure it meets the needs of the humanitarian community (50%)
3. Guidance on how to make the business case for IATI (39%)
4. Bespoke technical support (34%)
5. Peer support and learning (33%).

Addressing data privacy and security concerns

Concerns about security, privacy or commercial confidentiality are common for many organisations. IATI enables publishers to exclude information from their data if there are security concerns in a particular humanitarian context, and/or publishing data poses an institutional, operational or other kind of risk.[14] While guidance and resource materials are available,[15] more work needs to be done to raise awareness and support best practice among the humanitarian and IATI communities on this issue. Grand Bargain signatory organisations with specific experience of operating in insecure or hostile environments are well placed to contribute to this dialogue.

Improving the IATI Standard

Given that IATI has grown out of a wider movement aimed at increasing the effectiveness of development cooperation and a stronger orientation towards partnership and mutual accountability in its delivery,[16] it is perhaps unsurprising that many organisations have expressed concerns that the Standard does not yet meet the needs of humanitarian actors. IATI's next upgrade process, and regular upgrades thereafter, provide opportunities to propose further enhancements to the Standard to ensure that it continues to evolve to better serve the humanitarian community. Chapter 2 outlines the proposals that have been developed based on feedback from the consultation process.

Better technical support and resourcing

Outdated or inadequate IT systems and a lack of human resources to manage IATI publication were identified among the key internal constraints by organisations surveyed. For some larger organisations, limited automation or integration between internal financial management, monitoring and evaluation, and project management systems mean that substantial investment may be needed to align systems and processes. For smaller organisations a number of tools have been developed to support them in publishing to IATI, such as Aidstream[17] and IATI Studio.[18] However, organisations emphasised they should be easier to use and could be better adapted to the needs of humanitarian publishers.

Bespoke technical support, peer support and learning were also identified as key enablers. Given that many organisations are members of IATI and the majority are already publishing some of their data to the Standard,[19] organisations should as a first step reach out internally to colleagues working in different departments of their own organisations, or in their member organisations or affiliates, to build on existing experience and capacity.

Existing peer support and learning mechanisms in the development, IATI and open data communities could provide Grand Bargain organisations that are new to the IATI Standard with support in publishing and using IATI data. For example, in the NGO community, Bond[20] and Partos[21] provide guidance and capacity building for their members in the UK and the Netherlands, which has been funded by their national governments. This is a service that some of the Grand Bargain's NGO umbrella organisations may wish to consider providing for their humanitarian members, although this would probably require external donor funding and support, and reflects the Grand Bargain's transparency commitment "*to support the capacity of all partners to access and publish data*".

Commitment by senior leadership

A number of organisations highlighted the need for guidance on how to make the business case for IATI to convince colleagues in senior management positions to make the required investment. Akvo,[22] Plan International Finland and Accenture Finland have created an open framework that enables organisations to do a cost-benefit analysis for effective decision-making on where and how to invest in IATI-based reporting.[23] DI can also play a role in sharing the lessons from organisations that have already undertaken this process successfully.

> **"Severe resource constraints and organisational budget cuts mean that senior management focus is elsewhere, data sharing is not a priority and inadequate resources are made available" – UN agency respondent**

Supporting and promoting data use

Many organisations see the full potential of IATI as enabling better use of the data during both protracted and rapid-onset crises. Better and more accessible data can enable better planning, coordination and monitoring of humanitarian action by implementing agencies as well as relevant ministries in governments in crisis-affected contexts.

In the development sector there is a small but growing body of evidence of IATI data being used by stakeholders for increased transparency, efficiency and effectiveness and greater accountability, in particular at country level.[24] While it is recognised that the quality and scope requires continuous improvement, there is now significant potential for increased use of this growing wealth of data for decision-making and accountability at country level. Indeed, realising this potential is seen by many as the next important step in IATI's evolution and success. Demonstrating how the use of IATI data can help inform and improve the response to affected populations will be the real test of the potential of IATI for the humanitarian community. It is also critical to maintaining and deepening the commitment by Grand Bargain signatory organisations to making timely and high-quality humanitarian data available.

Encouragingly, nearly half of the organisations surveyed (47%) indicated that they already have plans to use the humanitarian data being published to the IATI Standard. As more and better humanitarian data becomes available, the challenge for the humanitarian community will be in sharing and promoting these examples of data use to demonstrate the real value of IATI data.

"We plan to combine our own data with data of our partner organisations and use this to manage and account for results, learn and communicate" – Donor government respondent

Chapter 2

Improving the IATI Standard for humanitarian data

The IATI Standard is an internationally agreed framework for publishing open data on development cooperation and humanitarian assistance in a comparable and machine-readable format. IATI aims to provide a Standard that is stable but also flexible enough to respond to the needs of its users and adapt to the changing external environment. This is achieved through the IATI Standard upgrade[25] process, which enables the Standard to be modified. Organisations are encouraged to propose changes via the online community forum IATI Discuss.[26]

The most recent upgrade (version 2.02) was designed to improve IATI's usability by the humanitarian community and its interoperability with UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)'s Financial Tracking Service (FTS)[27] by enabling the automatic import of publishers' IATI data into the FTS platform. The benefit of UN OCHA FTS using IATI data was strongly welcomed by the majority of organisations during consultations for this baseline report. They identified a subsequent reduction in reporting as a clear incentive for publishing more and better humanitarian data to IATI.

IATI's current upgrade process offers an opportunity to propose new enhancements to the IATI Standard to ensure that it continues to evolve to meet the needs of the humanitarian community. Organisations want to be able to use IATI data to meet and monitor implementation of the Grand Bargain commitments. There was broad support by stakeholders for the proposed enhancements to the IATI Standard presented in the consultation paper. These are the ability to tag activities relating to rapid-onset emergencies; the ability to track pledges; and the opportunity to publish information on different programming modalities, including cash transfers, vouchers and in-kind delivery mechanisms.

While IATI supports the traceability of humanitarian data, allowing users to track funding from donors to implementing partners, organisations want to be able to identify recipient organisations more easily, in particular local and national implementing organisations in order to track commitments in this area.[28] Organisations also want to be able to use IATI data to monitor progress on other commitments, such as reduced earmarking of donor contributions and support for multi-year humanitarian funding. As the other Grand Bargain workstreams enter a phase of increased technical delivery, close coordination with the transparency workstream will be crucial to identify how organisations' IATI data can be used to support the Grand Bargain in meeting and monitoring these commitments.

The following proposals have already been put forward as potential enhancements to the next version (version 2.03) of the IATI Standard:

- Introduce 'Pledge' as a transaction type[29]
- Add new organisation types to support the tracking of funding[30]
- Enable the identification of activities relating to rapid-onset emergencies[31]
- Make provision for the new earmarking classifications as an 'Aid Type'.[32]

More work is being done by DI together with IATI to:

- establish the most efficient way for recording and identifying the use of cash transfers, vouchers and in-kind goods and services[33]
- enable the reporting and identification of 'multi-sector' interventions.

These may also lead to further proposals for enhancing the IATI Standard.[34]

While the improvements proposed as part of the next upgrade to the IATI Standard will be an important contribution to enabling more and better publishing of humanitarian data, some Grand Bargain signatory organisations are already showing leadership in this area by publishing data on their humanitarian activities using either older versions of the IATI Standard, or the latest version 2.02. Chapter 4 presents the progress being made in this area.

Chapter 3

Monitoring the Grand Bargain commitment on transparency

Ongoing monitoring of the progress made by Grand Bargain signatories in meeting the commitments made at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit on transparency will be an important driver for change. Visible and public improvements in the quality of the humanitarian data published to IATI will encourage signatories to improve their performance.

To support Grand Bargain signatory organisations to monitor progress and improve the quality of the data they publish, DI has developed a monitoring framework and methodology supported by an online dashboard.[35] The dashboard is a practical tool, which is updated daily. It will enable organisations to check the quality of the humanitarian component of their IATI data against predetermined performance measures and to identify areas requiring further improvement. The monitoring results aim to enable Grand Bargain signatories to assess their progress towards meeting their commitment to publish timely, high-quality data to IATI and to inform the independent Grand Bargain annual monitoring reports.

The monitoring framework and methodology proposed by DI is given in Annex 3 and has been developed based on feedback received from the consultation process led by DI over the period March to April 2017. DI organised a series of workshops and bilateral side meetings in Geneva, New York and Washington D.C. to consult directly with Grand Bargain organisations and the wider humanitarian community on proposals presented in the paper *Implementing and monitoring the Grand Bargain commitment on transparency*.[36] Organisations were also encouraged to provide their views directly via an online survey or by email. Sixty organisations participated in the consultation process. These include 32 NGOs (including NGO umbrella groups), 11 government donor organisations, 12 multilateral agencies (including UN agencies, the European Commission's Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and the World Bank), and the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Overall, organisations supported the establishment of a monitoring framework to enable them to monitor their own progress in meeting the transparency commitment. There was also broad consensus by stakeholders on the proposed monitoring methodology, with some areas of concern, which are outlined below together with recommendations on how these could be addressed.

Incentivising progress and placing performance in context

During the consultation process, organisations highlighted that Grand Bargain signatories are not starting from the same baseline. Some organisations have established processes and systems and are already publishing their data to IATI, whereas others may be making efforts internally but are not yet ready to publish. It will be important to recognise and incentivise these efforts by measuring the progress made by organisations in improving the quality of their humanitarian data over time as part of the overall assessment process. Many organisations also emphasised the importance of providing a narrative context on their performance measurement alongside their monitoring scores in the dashboard. To address these concerns we propose:

- adding a 'progress' column in the Grand Bargain transparency dashboard to show improvement over time
- highlighting best practice in the narrative of the baseline report
- exploring options to enable organisations to provide context and feedback on their performance assessments. For example, this could be done by enabling organisations to provide information on their IATI registry accounts[37] or on the dashboard itself linking to their own websites.

Recognising organisational constraints

Some organisations with highly federated or confederated structures emphasised that their operational models present significant challenges for implementing organisation-wide IATI publishing. National members or affiliates often have independent governance structures and are subject to differing legal requirements depending on national laws. This presents difficulties when measuring their performance and presenting a single score for individual Grand Bargain signatory organisations. We therefore propose:

- assessing all Grand Bargain signatory organisations that publish their humanitarian aid data to IATI individually and aggregating results for multiple government agencies or federated organisations into a single score
- agreeing how those scores are aggregated with the organisations concerned, while ensuring that these calculations are transparent and publicly available.

Weighting data quality measures

To measure the quality of the humanitarian aid data published to IATI by Grand Bargain signatory organisations, five performance measures are proposed. Four of these measures – timeliness, comprehensiveness, forward-looking and coverage – are based on the publishing statistics that IATI has previously developed for all of its publishers. These are publicly available via the IATI Dashboard and are routinely used within organisations publishing to IATI and other external monitoring initiatives.[38]

The proposed monitoring methodology includes a new performance measurement (also recently introduced by IATI and soon to be available on the IATI dashboard) – humanitarian – to assess:

- the number of current activities that are marked as being humanitarian related
- whether organisations are already publishing information related to humanitarian aid and/or using the humanitarian-related elements introduced in version 2.02 of the IATI Standard.[39]

Organisations were asked whether they agreed with the proposed measures, which measures are of most value or relevance to humanitarian actors and whether any new measures should be considered for monitoring purposes. During the consultation workshops, organisations highlighted that while all measures are relevant, their importance (and the ability to meet them) may vary according to different contexts. For example, in rapid-onset emergencies, timeliness of data would be crucial to support coordination and decision-making. Organisations would endeavour to publish their information as close to real time as possible; however, the trade-off would be less 'comprehensive' or complete data.

Some organisations argued that the availability of forward-looking information would be more important in the context of protracted crises. However, many emphasised the difficulty of being able to provide forward-looking information on their humanitarian activities given the short-term nature of most humanitarian financing and the importance of retaining flexibility to direct funding according to changing humanitarian needs and priorities.

In general the measures of timeliness, comprehensiveness and humanitarian were seen as the most important performance measures of data quality. We therefore propose weighting the data quality performance measures to reflect this, as outlined in Table 2.

Table 2: Data quality performance measures

Performance measure	Purpose	Weighting	Methodology
1. Humanitarian	To assess the use of the specific humanitarian elements added to the IATI Standard at v2.02	25%	http://dashboard.iatistandard.org/humanitarian.html#h_narrative
2. Timeliness	To assess both the frequency (how often the data is updated) and the time lag (how up to date the data is) of published information	25%	http://dashboard.iatistandard.org/timeliness.html#h_narrative
3. Comprehensiveness	To assess how much of the IATI Standard is being used	25%	http://dashboard.iatistandard.org/comprehensiveness.html#h_narrative
4. Coverage	To assess the percentage of an organisation's total operational spend on all humanitarian programming that is published to IATI	15%	http://dashboard.iatistandard.org/coverage.html#h_narrative Additional information will be required from publishers
5. Forward-looking	To assess how much information on activity budgets is available for the next three years	10%	http://dashboard.iatistandard.org/forwardlooking.html#h_narrative

Performance assessment

Organisations are given a percentage value for each of the measures, which are then aggregated into a single total value for each Grand Bargain signatory organisation.

An organisation's overall assessment is based on the total value by quintile ratings in accordance with Table 3 below. If a signatory organisation has met the Grand Bargain transparency commitment, it achieves an assessment of 'good' (60–79%) or above.

Table 3: Overall performance assessment

Quintile	Assessment
80% to 100%	Very Good
60%-79%	Good
40%-59%	Fair
20%-39%	Poor
0-19%	Very poor

Promoting data use

To fulfil IATI's potential to improve decision-making and learning, it is critical that Grand Bargain signatory organisations are aware of and use IATI-published data in addition to other available humanitarian-related data. The consultation paper proposed a performance measure for data use to assess whether IATI-published data could be automatically or otherwise imported into UN OCHA FTS, and whether signatory organisations were using their own IATI published data or that of others.

Organisations recognised the importance of sharing information on how IATI data is being used. However, there was a lack of consensus on whether this should be measured as part of the monitoring methodology. Organisations expressed strong support for developing tools and building capacity to enable the use of IATI data, and for sharing learning via knowledge-sharing platforms or communities of practice. The IATI Technical Advisory Group (TAG),[40] a multi-stakeholder community of publishers, developers, data users and transparency advocates, was identified as a good mechanism for this. Taking on board these considerations, we propose:

- removing the data use indicator from the monitoring methodology and the dashboard
- exploring tools and mechanisms for organisations to use IATI humanitarian data and to share this learning outside the monitoring framework.

Secondary IATI data

Some stakeholders have proposed that secondary IATI data (or data republished by another organisation) is considered in the monitoring process. Data from secondary publishers cannot currently be assessed owing to technical constraints and this approach also poses challenges around publisher responsibility and data integrity.

- We propose that secondary IATI data is not included in the current round of Grand Bargain monitoring, but that the IATI community further explores this option for later consideration.

Decision-making and arbitration

The monitoring framework and methodology aim to provide a fair assessment of all Grand Bargain signatory organisations based on the broad areas of consensus that have emerged from the consultation process.

We welcome feedback on the revised monitoring methodology and the beta version of the dashboard to ensure that they meet the needs of Grand Bargain signatory organisations and the wider humanitarian community in effectively tracking progress against the transparency commitment. Details on how to feed back can be found on the Grand Bargain transparency dashboard website.[41]

The dashboard will remain in beta version until the monitoring framework and methodology has been agreed by Grand Bargain Sherpas. In addition, we recommend that a mechanism is agreed and established by the Grand Bargain transparency workstream to arbitrate in cases of disputes that may arise relating to the monitoring statistics.

- We recommend that the Grand Bargain Sherpas agree the proposed monitoring framework and methodology by mid-September 2017.
- We recommend that the Grand Bargain transparency workstream establishes a mechanism to arbitrate in the event of disputes arising from the monitoring statistics. The mechanism should be open and transparent and any decisions should be made publicly available on the Grand Bargain transparency dashboard.

Chapter 4
Baseline assessment

Overview

An initial assessment of the data published to IATI as of 1 June 2017 shows that considerable progress has already been made by Grand Bargain signatory organisations in just one year since organisations committed to making their humanitarian funding more transparent. As Figure 4 and Table 4 show, of 51 organisations that signed up to the Grand Bargain:

- 43% (22 organisations) are already members of IATI, of these three joined IATI since the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016.[42]
- 73% (37 organisations or their members or affiliates) are already publishing some data to the IATI Standard.
- 61% (31 organisations or their members or affiliates) are currently publishing humanitarian aid data to the IATI Standard.

Figure 4: Overview of organisations that signed up to the Grand Bargain
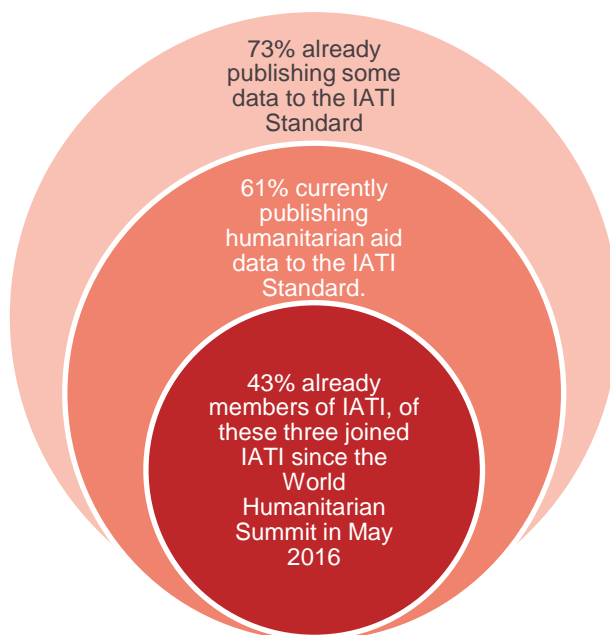
Note: Diagram not to scale.

A number of organisations are not yet publishing to IATI but have either contacted the IATI Secretariat for technical support and are making efforts internally (see Table 4) or have plans in place to do so in the next 6 to 12 months.

Table 4: Grand Bargain signatories publishing to IATI

Grand Bargain signatory organisation	Member of IATI	Date of first IATI publication**	Publishing humanitarian activities	Using IATI version 2.02
1. Australia	✓	2011	✓	
2. Belgium	✓	2014	✓	
3. Bulgaria				
4. CAFOD		2012	✓	
5. Canada	✓	2012	✓	
6. CARE International*		2012	✓	✓
7. Catholic Relief Services		2015		✓
8. Christian Aid*		2013	✓	✓
9. Czech Republic				
10. Denmark	✓	2012	✓	
11. Estonia				
12. European Commission (ECHO)	✓	2013	✓	✓
13. FAO	✓	2017	✓	✓
14. Finland	✓	2011	✓	
15. Germany	✓	2013	✓	
16. Global Communities				
17. ICRC		ⓘ		
18. ICVA				
19. IFRC*		2012/ⓘ	✓	✓
20. ILO		2016		✓
21. InterAction	✓	2015	✓	
22. IOM	✓	ⓘ		
23. IRC*		2014		✓
24. Ireland	✓	2013	✓	
25. Italy	✓			
26. Japan		2014	✓	✓
27. Luxembourg				
28. Mercy Corps*		2012		✓
29. Netherlands	✓	2011	✓	
30. Norway		2015	✓	
31. NRC		2013	✓	✓
32. OCHA		2014	✓	✓
33. Oxfam*		2012	✓	✓
34. Relief International*		2012		
35. SCHR				
36. Slovenia		ⓘ		
37. Spain		2011	✓	✓
38. Sweden	✓	2011	✓	
39. Switzerland		2013	✓	✓
40. Syria Relief Turkey				

Organisation		Year**		
41. UN Women	✓	2012		✓
42. UNDP	✓	2011	✓	✓
43. UNFPA	✓	2013	✓	✓
44. UNHCR		ⓘ		
45. UNICEF	✓	2013	✓	
46. United Kingdom	✓	2011	✓	
47. United States	✓	2013	✓	
48. UNRWA				
49. WFP	✓	2013	✓	✓
50. World Bank	✓	2011	✓	
51. World Vision International*		2012	✓	✓

Note: * indicates that data included from member or affiliated organisations. ⓘ indicates that the organisation is in contact with the IATI Secretariat on publishing humanitarian data to IATI. **Where multiple members or affiliated organisations are publishing to IATI, the earliest publishing date is used.

ECHO: European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Office; FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization (UN); ICRC: International Committee of the Red Cross; ICVA: International Council of Voluntary Agencies; IFRC: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; ILO: International Labour Organization; IOM: International Organization for Migration; IRC: International Rescue Committee; NRC: Norwegian Refugee Council; OCHA: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN); SCHR: Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response; UN Women: UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women; UNDP: UN Development Programme; UNFPA: UN Population Fund; UNHCR: UN High Commissioner for Refugees; UNICEF: UN Children's Fund; UNRWA: UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East; WFP: World Food Programme

Overall progress in meeting the transparency commitment

DI has developed an online transparency dashboard,[43] based on the monitoring framework and methodology outlined in Annex 3, which aims to support signatories to monitor their progress in meeting the Grand Bargain commitment to publish timely, high-quality, harmonised and transparent data on humanitarian funding. The dashboard, currently in beta version lists 67 signatory agencies. It comprises all Grand Bargain signatories and the members and/or affiliates of federated or confederated organisations that publish to IATI.

Figure 5 shows that 17 signatory agencies (25.4%) are in the 'fair' to 'good' performance categories, with values of 40% to 59% and 60% to 79% respectively. Of these, two organisations, the European Commission's ECHO and the World Food Programme are currently already meeting the Grand Bargain's transparency commitment, achieving a baseline assessment of 'good'. Fifteen signatory agencies have a baseline assessment of 'fair'. These include agencies from all the Grand Bargain's stakeholder groupings, including donor governments, non-governmental organisations, multilateral agencies and members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Once the values for the coverage performance measure are included for each agency, it is expected that the number of organisations in the 'good' performance category will have increased by the time of the next progress report in October 2017.

Figure 5: Overall performance assessment
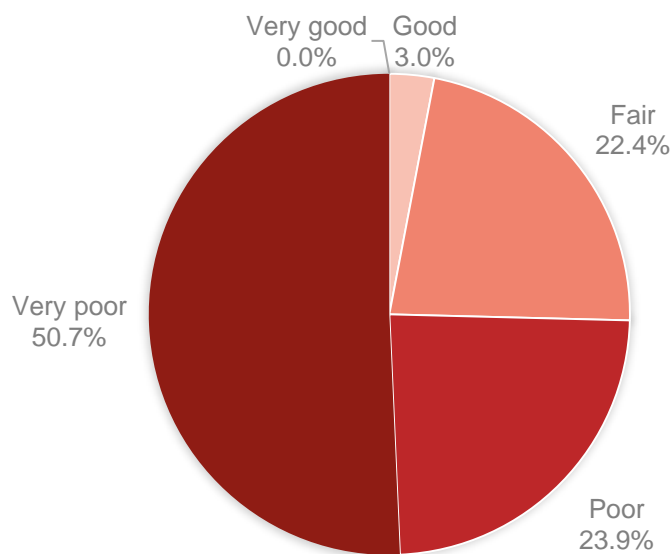
The next section assesses the quality of the humanitarian data published to IATI against the five performance measures of humanitarian, timeliness, comprehensiveness, coverage and forward looking. A snapshot of the data from the Grand Bargain transparency dashboard as of 1 June 2017 is given in Annex 4.

Performance on humanitarian

This performance measure assesses whether organisations are already publishing information related to humanitarian aid and/or using the humanitarian-related elements introduced in version 2.02 of the IATI Standard. The dashboard snapshot shows that just four signatory agencies are in the fair category for this performance measure, with the majority in the very poor or poor categories with values of 0 to 19% and 20% to 39% respectively. This is perhaps unsurprising, given that version 2.02 of the Standard was released relatively recently, in December 2015. While signatory agencies are identifying the activities they are publishing as humanitarian either by using DAC sector codes or the humanitarian marker to flag specific activities or transaction as humanitarian (version 2.02 only), as of 1 June 2017 organisations are not yet using any of the other humanitarian features introduced at version 2.02, which aim to improve IATI's interoperability with OCHA's FTS.[44]

Performance on timeliness

This performance measure assesses both the frequency (how often the published data is updated) and the time lag (how up to date the published data is) of information published. Figure 6 shows that over 26% of signatory agencies from all the Grand Bargain stakeholder groupings are in the good and very good performance categories, with values of 60% to 79% and 80% to 100% respectively, and publishing timely humanitarian

data. Eleven signatory agencies[45] are in the very good performance category and seven[46] are in the good category (see Annex 4). IATI recommends that publishers update their data on a monthly (or at least quarterly) basis. During the consultation process, organisations highlighted the need for daily or weekly updating in the case of rapid-onset emergencies. While not reflected in the dashboard results, we are aware that a very small number of agencies including Denmark's Danida and UN OCHA's Central Emergency Response Fund are now updating their published information automatically so it better reflects real-time changes.

Figure 6: Grand Bargain signatories' performance on timeliness
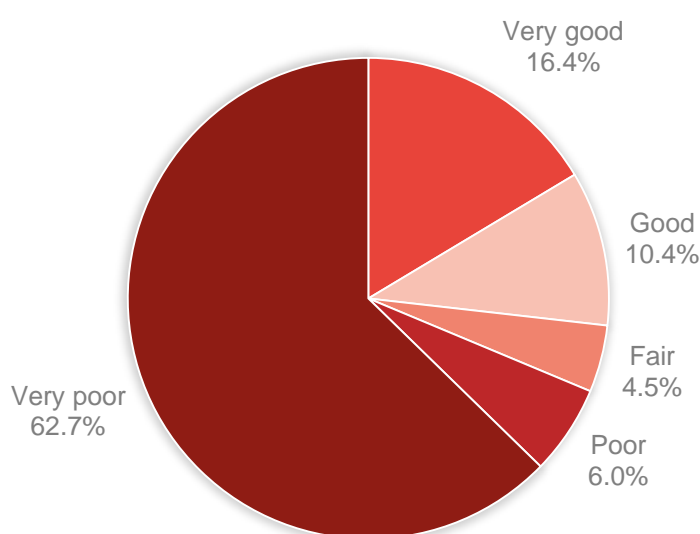
Performance on comprehensiveness

This performance measure assesses the use of:

- core IATI fields (e.g. title, description, start date)
- financial fields (transaction and traceability information)
- value-added fields (e.g. subnational location data, information on results).

Overall Grand Bargain signatories are either publishing good quality data or very poor quality data for this performance measure. Figure 7 shows that over 44% of signatory agencies from all the Grand Bargain stakeholder groupings are in the good and very good performance categories for publishing comprehensive humanitarian data. There are 12 signatory agencies[47] in the very good category and 18[48] in the good category.

Performance on forward looking

This performance measure assesses how much information on activity budgets is available. A snapshot of the data from the dashboard as of 1 June 2017[49] shows that six signatory agencies are in the good and very good performance categories and publishing forward-looking information on their humanitarian activities. The provision of forward-looking information is a particular challenge in the humanitarian context given the short-term nature of most humanitarian financing and the importance of retaining flexibility to direct funding according to changing humanitarian needs and priorities. Nevertheless, three signatories – the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the World Bank and the World Food Programme – are in the 'very good' performance category, joined by the UN Development Programme, UNICEF and Global Affairs Canada in the 'good' category.

While most signatory agencies are not publishing any forward-looking budgets, more agencies than expected – and from all the Grand Bargain's stakeholder groupings – are publishing at least some forward-looking data.

Performance on coverage

This performance measure assesses the proportion of an organisation's total operational humanitarian spending that is published to IATI. The percentage values for the coverage performance measure are currently not available. To calculate this, each Grand Bargain signatory organisation will be asked to provide a figure and an external reference (e.g. a link to their annual report) for their humanitarian spending for 2015 and 2016. Organisations will be contacted directly during the third quarter of 2017 and asked to

provide this information. More information about the full methodology for the calculation of coverage is available on the IATI website.[50]

Turning transparency promises into reality can be hard, but this is one of the commitment areas of the Grand Bargain with the most potential for progress. The challenge now is for organisations to publish more and better quality data on their humanitarian activities so that it can be used. This will enable the 'virtuous circle' where increased and wide-ranging use of organisations' humanitarian data is likely to incentivise improvement to the breadth and quality of the data being published.

Conclusion

The commitment to greater transparency of humanitarian funding is one of the areas of the Grand Bargain with the most potential for progress. There is a clear organisational commitment by Grand Bargain signatory organisations to publishing more and better data on their humanitarian activities – and to use the IATI Standard to do this.

An initial assessment shows that while more information on humanitarian funding is now becoming available, there is still a need for more and better quality data. While the challenges for achieving this vary across organisations depending on their structures and operating models, there are areas of commonality and opportunities to overcome constraints by building on existing support mechanisms.

Most Grand Bargain signatory organisations are already publishing some of their data to the IATI Standard and are therefore well placed to extend this to include information on their humanitarian funding. This includes donors and aid organisations – all with very diverse internal operating procedures and systems, organisational structures, resources and capacities. However, different departments in organisations or even different ministries are often responsible for humanitarian assistance and there is a need for a more joined-up way of working between humanitarian and development actors to make this happen.

Enhancing the IATI Standard to include more humanitarian-related elements will be a significant contribution to enabling Grand Bargain signatories to publish more and better humanitarian data. There is strong demand by organisations to use IATI data to meet and monitor implementation of the Grand Bargain commitments and the improvements proposed as part of IATI's next upgrade process will go some way towards fulfilling this. It will be important to ensure that the Standard continues to evolve to respond to user needs and that the humanitarian community is actively involved in this process.

Organisations need better technical support and resourcing to build their capacity to publish to IATI and use the data. This requires a commitment by people in senior leadership positions within Grand Bargain signatory organisations to prioritise implementation of the transparency commitment and allocate resources accordingly. While guidance, tools and resource materials are available for organisations to publish and use IATI data, more work needs to be done to ensure these meet the needs of the humanitarian community and to build capacity and share best practice and learning among the humanitarian, IATI and open data communities.

Organisations recognise the internal benefits of better humanitarian data in improving transparency and monitoring within their own organisations, improving accountability to their partners and enabling better communication on the impact of their work. Progress on the automatic import of IATI data by OCHA's FTS will be crucial for realising IATI's potential in supporting increased efficiency and demonstrating the practical value of more and better data to the humanitarian community. The use of IATI data by donors to harmonise and simplify reporting requirements will also act as a key incentive.

Nevertheless, demonstrating how the use of IATI data can help inform and improve the response to affected populations will be the real test of the potential of IATI for the humanitarian community. It is also critical to maintaining and deepening the commitment by Grand Bargain signatory organisations to making timely and high-quality humanitarian data available. Investments must be made to encourage and support the use of humanitarian data, including by joining up data from different sources, to enable appropriate data analysis both locally and nationally in crisis-affected countries and by decision-makers operating at the international level.

A roadmap for the way forward

Below we outline a roadmap to take forward the Grand Bargain transparency commitment, both in the short and longer term. DI will continue to support Grand Bargain signatory organisations as part of the project 'Monitoring the Grand Bargain commitment on transparency'. However, there are areas where further investment is needed, which are currently beyond the scope of this project and where we suggest further action.

Increasing the availability and quality of humanitarian data

The Grand Bargain transparency dashboard is an important tool for organisations to monitor the quality of the humanitarian data they publish to IATI. DI will continue to improve, update and maintain the dashboard over the course of the project and beyond.

- We welcome feedback from organisations on the beta version of the dashboard to ensure that it meets their needs and can be used to track progress effectively.

- During the third quarter of 2017 DI will explore options to enable organisations to provide their own perspective on their performance assessments and information on their operational humanitarian spending.

- DI will continue to support the monitoring process by producing two 'snapshot' monitoring reports in October 2017 and February 2018 and a final report in May 2018.

Further action

- Grand Bargain signatories should increase efforts to raise awareness and understanding of the transparency commitment and IATI internally and within the wider humanitarian community – including fostering greater cross-departmental coordination.

- Grand Bargain signatory organisations should take steps to begin publishing their humanitarian data to IATI; and those that have not already done so should upgrade to version 2.02 of the Standard and use the new humanitarian features.

- Grand Bargain Sherpas should agree the proposed monitoring framework and methodology by mid-September 2017.

- The Grand Bargain transparency workstream should establish an arbitration mechanism for any unresolved issues arising from monitoring the Grand Bargain transparency commitment.

Overcoming barriers

- The IATI Standard should be enhanced to include more humanitarian-related elements as part of the next and subsequent upgrade process, contributing to greater use of IATI for monitoring progress against other Grand Bargain commitments. DI and the IATI Secretariat will continue to support Grand Bargain signatory organisations and the wider humanitarian community in this process.

- DI together with the IATI Secretariat should provide ad hoc technical support to Grand Bargain signatory organisations that signal their intent to join IATI and/or to invest in publishing to the Standard or using IATI data.

Further action

- Guidance and tools for publishing and using IATI data should be adapted to meet the needs of the humanitarian community. Greater efforts should be made to support the capacity of all partners to access and publish data, including by sharing best practice and learning among the humanitarian, IATI and open data communities.

Incentivising change

- DI should explore mechanisms to enable Grand Bargain organisations to share information on how they are using their IATI data or that of other organisations and promote this in future monitoring reports.

- DI should increase efforts to work with all relevant Grand Bargain workstreams to assess how the IATI Standard can best support their objectives. In particular DI will continue to work with the workstream on harmonised and simplified reporting as well as the IATI community to help ensure a reduced reporting burden. The use of IATI data by donors to harmonise and simplify reporting requirements will act as a key incentive.

- UN OCHA's senior leadership should prioritise efforts to enable the automatic import of IATI data into the FTS to support increased efficiency and reduce the reporting burden.
- The humanitarian community should invest in developing case studies to demonstrate how IATI data can be used or joined up with other humanitarian data to improve the effectiveness of the humanitarian response to crisis-affected people.

In just one year since Grand Bargain signatory organisations committed to making their humanitarian funding more transparent, considerable progress has been made in increasing the availability of humanitarian data. While challenges remain, existing mechanisms can be used and adapted to help organisations overcome these. Taking forward the Grand Bargain commitment on transparency will require leadership, investment and for many organisations, a new way of working. However, our greatest incentive – and our common purpose – is better data for better decision-making and accountability, and ultimately for a better humanitarian response for people in need.

Notes

[1] Transparency dashboard accessed at: http://46.101.46.6/dashboard

[2] The Grand Bargain and participating organisations can be found at http://www.agendaforhumanity.org/initiatives/3861

[3] High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing, 2015. *Too Important to Fail – addressing the humanitarian financing gap.* Available at: www.un.org/news/WEB-1521765-E-OCHA-Report-on-Humanitarian-Financing.pdf

[4] UN, 2015. *One humanity: shared responsibility, report of the UN Secretary-General for the World Humanitarian Summit.* Available at: http://sgreport.worldhumanitariansummit.org

[5] See Development Initiatives (Parrish, C), 2016. *Better Information for a Better Response: The basics of humanitarian transparency.* Available at: http://devinit.org/post/betterinformation

[6] See: http://www.aidtransparency.net

[7] Open data is data that is freely available for everyone to use and republish as they wish, without restrictions from copyright, patents or other mechanisms of control.

[8] See: https://www.government.nl/ministries/ministry-of-foreign-affairs

[9] See: http://devinit.org

[10] See: http://46.101.46.6/dashboard

[11] Development Initiatives, 2017. *An introduction to IATI for humanitarian actors.* Available at: http://devinit.org/post/an-introduction-to-iati-for-humanitarian-actors/

[12] Development Initiatives webinar, 2017. 'Improving humanitarian transparency with IATI'. See: http://devinit.org/post/webinar-improving-humanitarian-transparency-with-iati/

[13] Development Initiatives, 2017. *Implementing and monitoring the Grand Bargain commitment on transparency.* Available at: http://devinit.org/post/implementing-and-monitoring-the-grand-bargain-commitment-on-transparency/

[14] Such as counter terrorism legislation, see: https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/7347.pdf

[15] For more guidance on exclusions see http://iatistandard.org/202/guidance/how-to-publish/establish-publishing-policies/#exclusions https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B32cSl_hOcDjTzdTVFlPZGpWYXc/edit (DFID); https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B32cSl_hOcDjRXdiTlRHZnRVUEk/edit (BOND); http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what-we-do/about-us/plans-reports-and-policies/open-information-policy (Oxfam)

[16] The Paris Declaration (2005) and Accra Agenda for Action (2008) were critical milestones. At the 4th High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan in 2011 signatories committed to publish their data to the IATI Standard, see http://www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/busanpartnership.htm

[17] See: https://aidstream.org

[18] See: https://www.iatistudio.com

[19] See Chapter 4 for an overview of the state of play of Grand Bargain signatory organisations publishing to IATI.

[20] See: https://www.bond.org.uk

[21] See: https://www.partos.nl

[22] Akvo is a not-for-profit foundation that creates open source, internet and mobile software and sensors: http://akvo.org

[23] See Akvo, 2016. Available at: *Mapping IATI: A business case framework*: http://akvo.org/blog/mapping-iati-a-business-case-framework/

[24] See Development Initiatives, 2017. *Reaching the potential of IATI data.* Available at: http://devinit.org/post/reaching-the-potential-a-review-of-iati-data-use-and-ways-to-increase-it/

[25] See: http://iatistandard.org/202/upgrades/

[26] See: http://discuss.iatistandard.org/t/welcome-to-iati-discuss/6

[27] See: https://fts.unocha.org

[28] See: https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/more-support-and-funding-tools-local-and-national-responders and the Charter for Change initiative https://charter4change.org

[29] See: https://discuss.iatistandard.org/t/transactiontype-codes/852

[30] See: https://discuss.iatistandard.org/t/organisation-type-codes-additions/858

[31] See: https://discuss.iatistandard.org/t/add-budget-exempt-attribute-and-codelist/845

[32] See: https://discuss.iatistandard.org/t/add-vocabularies-to-aid-type/847

[33] See: https://discuss.iatistandard.org/t/enable-reporting-of-payment-via-in-kind-vouchers-or-cash-transfers/664

[34] A full list of all IATI Standard upgrade proposals can be found at: https://discuss.iatistandard.org/c/standard-management/2-03-decimal-upgrade-proposals

[35] Transparency dashboard accessed here: http://46.101.46.6/dashboard

[36] Development Initiatives, 2017. *Implementing and monitoring the Grand Bargain commitment on transparency*. Available at: http://devinit.org/post/implementing-and-monitoring-the-grand-bargain-commitment-on-transparency/

[37] See IATI Registry Accounts at: https://iatiregistry.org/publisher

[38] For more information on these data quality performance measures (also known as "dimensions") see IATI Dashboard Publishing Statistics at: http://dashboard.iatistandard.org/publishing_stats.html

[39] The proposed specification for the humanitarian methodology is available on the community forum IATI Discuss

[40] See: http://www.aidtransparency.net/technicaladvisorygroup

[41] Transparency dashboard accessed here: http://46.101.46.6/dashboard

[42] New Grand Bargain members of IATI since May 2016 include: the Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development (joined in March 2017), the Food and Agriculture Organization (joined in April 2017) and the International Organization for Migration (joined in May 2017).

[43] Transparency dashboard accessed here: http://46.101.46.6/dashboard

[44] This includes the ability to tag an activity to a specific emergency or crisis, or to link an activity to a specific UN appeal or plan and to one or more UN clusters.

[45] ECHO, World Food Programme, Oxfam Novib, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UN Development Programme, UK Department for International Development, UN Population Fund, OCHA Central Emergency Response Fund, Danida - Denmark, UNICEF, CAFOD.

[46] CARE International UK, Netherlands Red Cross, Sweden, Global Affairs Canada, Germany Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), World Bank, Norwegian Refugee Council.

[47] UN Population Fund, World Food Programme, EC ECHO, UNICEF, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UN Development Programme, Global Affairs Canada, UK Department for International Development, Sweden, Oxfam Novib, World Bank, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.

[48] Food and Agriculture Organization, Spain, Netherlands Red Cross, Christian Aid, United States, CAFOD, USAID, Germany BMZ, British Red Cross, UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Australia, Interaction, Japan, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Care International UK, Finland, World Vision UK and Belgium Foreign Affairs Trade and Development Cooperation.

[49] See Annex 4.

[50] See http://dashboard.iatistandard.org/coverage.html#h_narrative

Acknowledgements

Acronyms

DI	Development Initiatives
ECHO	European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Office
FTS	Financial Tracking Service (UN OCHA)
IATI	International Aid Transparency Initiative
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN)
TAG	Technical Advisory Group (IATI)
UN	United Nations

Annex 1

Organisations that participated in the awareness-raising and consultation process

ACTED
Action Against Hunger
Adventist Development and Relief
Agency (ADRA)
Aidsfonds
Aid Works
American Red Cross
Australian government
BRAC
Brookings/ Modernizing Foreign
Assistance Network (MFAN)
Build Change
CAFOD
Canadian government
CARE International
Cash Learning Partnership
Catholic Relief Services
Center for Humanitarian Data
Center for Strategic & International
Studies (CSIS)
Charity Without Borders
Coastal Association for Social
Transformation Trust (COAST)
Concern Worldwide
Concern Worldwide US Inc
Danish government
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
Development Gateway
Dutch government
European Commission (ECHO)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the
United Nations (FAO)
Finnish government
German government
Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX)
ICCO Cooperation
InterAction

Intergovernmental Authority on
Development (IGAD)
International Committee of the Red
Cross (ICRC)
International Council of Voluntary
Agencies (ICVA)
International Federation of Red Cross
and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
International Labour Organization (ILO)
International Organization for Migration
(IOM)
INTERSOS
International Rescue Committee (IRC)
IRIN
Italian government
Jordan Health Aid Society
Luxembourg government
Mercy Corps
Mercy Malaysia
Norwegian Church Aid
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
Oxfam America
Partners for Development
Plan International USA
Publish What You Fund
Relief International
Relief to Development Society
(REDESO) Tanzania
Rutgers University
Save the Children
Slovenian government
Social Development International
SPARK
Start network
US government
Swedish government
Swiss government

Syria Relief
Syrian NGO Alliance
The Hunger Project
Translators Without Borders
UK government
UN Office for the Coordination of
Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
UN OCHA Central Emergency
Response Fund (CERF)
UN OCHA Financial Tracking Service
(FTS)
UN Women
United Nations Development
Programme (UNDP)

UN Department of Peacekeeping
Operations (UNDP DKPO)
United Nations Population Fund
UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)
UNICEF
US government
VOICE
Welthungerhilfe
World Food Programme (WFP)
World Health Organization (WHO)
World Bank
World Vision International
World Vision Nederland
World Vision United States

Annex 2

Survey for the Grand Bargain Work stream on Transparency

Q1. Which of the following best describes your organisation?

- Government donor
- Multilateral donor
- UN agency
- International non-governmental organisation (including umbrella group)
- National or local non-governmental organisation
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)/International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC)
- Other (please specify)

Q2. On a scale of 1 (never heard of) to 5 (extremely familiar), what level of knowledge do you have about the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) and how it works?

Q3. Does your organisation already publish information to the IATI Standard?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Q4. What do you think are the main challenges your organisation encounters when working to improve the quality of the data it publishes?

(Please select all that apply)

- Data for some fields is not collected by the organisation
- Inconsistent approach to data entry within the organisation
- Lack of awareness of data-quality issues
- Lack of data-quality management systems
- Lack of time and/or resources
- IT systems not adequate

- Investment in data publication is not an organisational priority
- Not applicable
- Other (please specify) [add comment box]

Q5. Does your organisation have clear publishing policies/plans in place to support regular IATI publishing (for example, an Open Information Policy or an inter-departmental working group)?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- If yes, please specify

Q6. Does your organisation have plans to use data published to IATI?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Q7. If yes, how does it intend to use IATI data?

Q8. How does your organisation plan to fulfil the Grand Bargain commitment to publish timely, transparent, harmonised and open high-quality data on humanitarian activities **and funding?**

- By using the IATI Standard
- Don't know
- By using an alternative (please specify)

Q9. Does your organisation already publish information on humanitarian **activities and funding to the IATI Standard?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Q10. If your organisation does not already publish information on humanitarian **activities and funding to the IATI Standard, when does it intend to begin?**

- In the next 0−6 months
- In the next 6−12 months
- In the next 12−24 months
- Don't know
- Never. Please clarify

Q11. What do you think are the top three constraints for your organisation to publish timely and high-quality humanitarian **data to IATI?**

(Please select up to three answers)

- Lack of understanding within the organisation about the IATI Standard
- Concern that the Standard does not meet the needs of humanitarian actors
- Concerns about data privacy and/or security issues
- Fear of the data being used in a negative way
- Lack of technical capacity
- IT systems not adequate
- Finance/project management systems not adequate
- Lack of human resources
- Cost
- Lack of senior management commitment
- Other (add comment box)

Q12. Please describe the reasons for your selection in more detail.

Q13. What external support do you need to overcome these constraints?

(Please select all that apply)

- More information on how to publish to IATI
- Further updates to the IATI Standard to ensure it meets the needs of the humanitarian community
- Tools for publishing IATI data in user-friendly formats
- Tools for visualising IATI humanitarian aid data
- Guidance on how to make the business case for IATI
- Bespoke technical support
- Peer support and learning
- Other (please specify)

Q14. Please describe the reasons for this selection in more detail.

Q15. What do you think are the top three benefits for your organisation to publish timely and high-quality humanitarian **data to the IATI Standard?**

(Please select up to three answers)

- Improved transparency and monitoring within my organisation
- Improved public trust
- Better external communication on the impact of our work
- Improved policy and/or decision-making within my organisation
- Improved brand image
- Cost savings on reporting

- Improved donor trust
- Improved accountability to partners
- Improved knowledge sharing
- Other (add box)

Q16. Please describe the reasons for this selection in more detail.

Q17. Would you be willing to take part in a follow-up interview if required?

- Yes
- No

Annex 3

Framework and methodology for measuring IATI data quality (revised as of 1 June 2017)

The monitoring framework and methodology proposed in this document has been developed by Development Initiatives based on feedback received from a consultation process with Grand Bargain signatory organisations and the wider humanitarian community over the period March to April 2017. It aims to support Grand Bargain signatory organisations in tracking:

1. The quality of the humanitarian data they publish to the IATI Standard, in terms of its structure rather than the content of the data.
2. The progress signatories are making in meeting the Grand Bargain transparency commitment to publish timely, high-quality, harmonised and transparent data on humanitarian funding.

The methodology measures the quality of humanitarian data an organisation publishes to the IATI Standard against five performance measures. Each of these performance measures has been given a percentage weighting that reflects its importance and/or relevance for the humanitarian community, based on feedback received through the consultation process.

Five performance measures:

- **Humanitarian**: to assess the use of the specific humanitarian elements added to the IATI Standard at version 2.02.
- **Timeliness:** to assess both the frequency (how often the data is updated) and the time lag (how up to date the data is) of published information.
- **Comprehensiveness**: to assess how much of the IATI Standard is being used. This covers:
  - o Core IATI fields (e.g. title, description, start date)
  - o Financial fields (transaction and traceability information)
  - o Value-added fields (e.g. subnational location data, information on results).
- **Coverage**: to assess the percentage of an organisation's total operational spend on all humanitarian programming that is published to IATI.
- **Forward looking**: to assess how much information on activity budgets is available for the next three years.

Organisations are given a percentage value for each of the measures, which are then aggregated into a single value for each Grand Bargain signatory organisation. This value is an organisation's **baseline** as of 1 June 2017 – a fixed value against which their progress in meeting the Grand Bargain transparency commitment can be measured.

The percentage values for the **coverage** performance measure are currently not available. To calculate this, each Grand Bargain signatory organisation will be asked to provide a figure and an external reference (e.g. a link to their annual report) for their humanitarian spending for 2015 and 2016. Organisations will be contacted directly in the third quarter of 2017 and asked to provide this information.

The weightings and methodologies for calculating each of the performance measures (from the IATI website) are outlined in the table below.

Performance measure	Weighting	Methodology
1. Humanitarian	25%	http://dashboard.iatistandard.org/humanitarian.html#h_narrative
2. Timeliness	25%	http://dashboard.iatistandard.org/timeliness.html#h_narrative
3. Comprehensiveness	25%	http://dashboard.iatistandard.org/comprehensiveness.html#h_narrative
4. Coverage	15%	http://dashboard.iatistandard.org/coverage.html#h_narrative Additional information will be required from publishers
5. Forward Looking	10%	http://dashboard.iatistandard.org/forwardlooking.html#h_narrative

An organisation's data will be classed as **humanitarian** if either of the following apply:

- The activity includes a DAC sector code in the range 72010 to 74010.
- The activity humanitarian attribute is set. (Note that the humanitarian attribute is only available to publishers using V2.02 or later of the IATI Standard.)

Meeting the commitment

An organisation's overall assessment is based on the total value by quintile ratings in accordance with the table below. If a signatory organisation has met the Grand Bargain transparency commitment, it achieves an assessment of 'good' (60–79%) or above.

Quintile	Assessment
80% to 100%	Very good
60% to 79%	Good
40% to 59%	Fair
20% to 39%	Poor
0 to 19%	Very poor

Grand Bargain transparency dashboard

An online dashboard has been developed to support Grand Bargain signatory organisations to monitor progress and improve the quality of the data they publish, based on the monitoring methodology outlined in this paper. The dashboard is currently in beta version and is updated on a daily basis. It uses the data that organisations publish to the IATI Standard on the IATI registry.

We welcome feedback on the revised monitoring methodology and the beta version of the Grand Bargain transparency dashboard to ensure that it meets the needs of Grand Bargain signatory organisations and the wider humanitarian community in effectively tracking progress against the transparency commitment.

Please send any comments or questions to Liz Steele at liz.steele@devinit.org.

Annex 4

Grand Bargain transparency dashboard values as of 1 June 2017

Organisation	First published	Timeliness	Forward looking	Comprehensive	Coverage	Humanitarian	Total
Australia - Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)	2011-09-02	50	25	65	0	25	37.5
Belgium - Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation	2014-12-15	0	27	60	0	25	23.95
British Red Cross	2012-08-16	50	40	67	0	25	39.5
Bulgaria	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0
Canada - Global Affairs Canada | Affaires mondiales Canada	2012-10-31	75	67	87	0	25	53.45
CARE International UK	2012-10-29	63	0	64	0	25	38

CARE Nederland	2016-04-28	0	0	0	0	0	0
Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD)	2012-03-21	88	0	70	0	25	45.75
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	2015-04-09	0	0	0	0	0	0
Christian Aid	2013-01-09	38	0	73	0	50	40.25
Christian Aid Ireland	2016-07-01	13	0	0	0	0	3.25
Czech Republic - Czech Development Agency	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denmark - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Danida	2012-12-21	100	0	55	0	25	45
Estonia	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0
European Commission (EC) - DG Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO)	2013-09-26	100	41	90	0	50	64.1
Finland - Ministry of Foreign Affairs	2011-11-25	50	14	64	0	25	36.15
Food and Agriculture	2017-05-03	38	1	79	0	25	35.6

Organization of the United Nations (FAO)							
Germany - Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	2013-03-28	75	0	67	0	25	41.75
Global Communities	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0
InterAction	2015-03-19	13	0	65	0	25	25.75
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0
International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0
International Labor Organization (ILO)	2016-04-18	0	0	0	0	0	0
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0

International Rescue Committee (IRC) UK	2014-02-11	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ireland - Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (Irish Aid)	2013-07-31	0	0	0	0	25	6.25
Italy - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0
Japan - Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)	2014-06-30	13	0	65	0	25	25.75
Luxembourg	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mercy Corps Europe	2012-07-02	0	0	0	0	0	0
Netherlands - Ministry of Foreign Affairs	2011-09-19	100	9	88	0	25	54.15
Netherlands Red Cross	2016-04-29	75	0	76	0	25	44
Norad - Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation	2015-12-18	0	1	81	0	25	26.6
Norway - Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	2013-03-08	63	0	48	0	25	34
Oxfam GB	2012-08-08	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oxfam IBIS	2016-04-27	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oxfam India	2013-09-24	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oxfam Novib	2014-05-08	100	23	84	0	25	54.55
Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre	2016-05-03	0	0	0	0	0	0
Relief International UK	2012-10-30	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slovenia Ministry Of Foreign Affairs	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spain - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation	2011-11-17	13	0	78	0	25	29
Steering Committee For Humanitarian Response (SCHR)	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sweden - Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)	2011-11-11	75	88	85	0	25	55.05

Switzerland - Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	2013-11-11	0	0	65	0	25	22.5
Syria Relief Turkey	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0
UK - Department for International Development (DFID)	2011-01-29	88	47	85	0	25	54.2
UK - Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)	2013-07-08	38	0	66	0	25	32.25
United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)	2016-02-09	100	0	56	0	50	51.5
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	2013-06-07	88	66	89	0	25	57.1
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	2011-11-22	88	61	88	0	25	56.35
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0
United Nations OCHA	2013-02-28	0	0	0	0	25	6.25

Financial Tracking Service (FTS)						
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	2014-06-26	0	0	0	0	0	0
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	2013-07-02	88	0	94	0	25	51.75
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0
United Nations Women (UN Women)	2012-11-20	0	0	0	0	0	0
United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)	2013-06-11	100	100	90	0	50	70
United States	02/01/2013	13	0	71	0	25	27.25
US Agency for International Development (USAID)	2017-04-27	38	0	69	0	25	33
World Bank, The	2011-03-14	63	86	83	0	25	51.35
World Vision International	2015-10-16	0	0	0	0	25	6.25

(WVI)

World Vision Netherlands	2016-06-20	13	0	0	0	0	3.25
World Vision UK	2012-06-13	0	0	63	0	25	22