A GUIDE FOR PREPARING AND IMPORTING IATI DATA INTO AIMS
How to Use This Document

This document was created to function as a guide for organizations and governments interested in using IATI data in their respective Aid Information Management Systems (AIMS). It will provide guiding information on items to cover during workshops conducted for those who will be involved in reviewing, preparing, and importing data into the local AIMS. The Training Guide first focuses on an introduction to IATI so that participants have a firm understanding of where IATI data comes from, what it includes, and how to review and use the data. It includes a section outlining key areas to review as well as common issues with data quality, based on our own experience. It also includes step-by-step instructions on how to use the DG IATI-AIMS import tool, which allows users to upload IATI data, map data to AIMS fields, and import data.

This document was created by Development Initiatives (DI) and Development Gateway (DG) through an initiative funded by UNICEF to pilot the use of UNICEF IATI data for reporting into the Aid Management Platforms (AMPs) in Madagascar and Senegal and were used for training the IATI-AIMS Fellows involved in the process, in addition to training UNICEF Staff who responded to Government requests for AMP data and Government Staff who managed the AMP. When using this guide for a training or workshop, it can also be used in conjunction with the IATI-AIMS Hands On Practice guide (found in the Annex), in order ensure the trainees are equipped with hands-on experience using both IATI data and the tools. One can also refer to the Summary Report and the Q&A for Using IATI in Country Systems: UNICEF Pilot in Senegal and Madagascar report to learn more about our pilot experience with these UNICEF Country Offices.

Figure: Process for preparing IATI data to import to AIMS
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INTRODUCTION TO IATI
WHAT IS IATI?

IATI stands for the International Aid Transparency Initiative. IATI is a voluntary, multi-stakeholder initiative that seeks to improve the transparency of aid, development, and humanitarian resources in order to increase their effectiveness in tackling poverty. IATI brings together donor and recipient countries, civil society organisations, and other experts in aid information who are committed to working together to increase the transparency and openness of aid.

At the centre of IATI is a data standard (more detailed information is located in section 3). This is a format and framework for publishing data on development cooperation and humanitarian activities, intended to be used by all organisations engaged in development, from government donors to private sector organisations, and national and international NGOs. It was designed in close consultation with key users of development cooperation data in developing countries, to ensure its relevance and utility for a variety of different data users. Organisations implement IATI by publishing their aid information in IATI’s agreed electronic format (XML) – usually on their website – before linking it to the IATI Registry. The Registry acts as an online catalogue and index of links to all of the raw data published to the IATI Standard. For more information about what data is being published to IATI, refer to Section 3.

WHY DO WE NEED IATI?

Developing countries face huge challenges in accessing up-to-date information about aid, development, and humanitarian flows — information that they need to plan and manage those resources effectively. Development organizations need information about what other organizations are doing in order to more effectively coordinate and share lessons learned. Similarly, citizens in developing countries and in donor countries often lack the information they need to hold their governments accountable for the use of those resources. IATI aims to address these challenges by making information about aid spending easier to access, use, and understand.

IATI tried to address the following issue: A lot of information on development cooperation is already available, but is very problematic to use. There are a number of systems and databases for reporting and capturing data on development cooperation; however, data from various sources is often:

- Presented in different, and sometimes incompatible, formats — making it difficult to mashup datasets;
- Difficult to find on various aid management systems;
- Out of date;
- Utilizing inconsistent vocabularies, definitions, and measures;
- Inconsistent in how elements or fields are reported or measured;
- Not all-accessible from a single source;
- Mostly not forward-looking, in that it reports past activity only (DAC CRS reporting);
- Restricted largely to traditional bilateral and multilateral donors, creating an incomplete picture of development.
Solution: IATI has been designed to enable all organisations to:

- Publish data in a uniform format, so datasets from various sources can be easily combined;
- Update data on a monthly, quarterly, or six-monthly basis, to keep information as current as possible;
- Publish data using a flexible standard, regardless of the type of development cooperation provider;
- Publish in one central location, in that the IATI Registry provides links to the data published by all organisations using the IATI Standard;
- Provide, where possible, forward-looking information, enabling developing country governments to plan and budget more clearly and comprehensively.

HOW DID IATI START?
A QUICK HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

IATI was launched in 2008 at the third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra. It was designed, in part to support donors to meet their political commitments on transparency, as laid out in the Accra Agenda for Action.

In 2011, IATI functioned as a central aspect of the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan. The Busan outcome document included a specific reference to IATI, requiring all endorsers of Busan to implement a common open standard for the publication of data on development cooperation by December 2015. In 2011, the IATI Standard was agreed upon, aimed at meeting the demand from developing country governments for timely, comprehensive and forward-looking information on external resources to better inform their decision-making.

A commitment for global actors to publish their humanitarian financing to IATI within two years has been included as part of the ‘Grand Bargain’, which was launched at the first World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in May 2016.

For more detailed information on progress of IATI and specifically referring to how it meets its strategic objectives, you can refer to the IATI Annual Report page. Annual reports are available for 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 in English, French and Spanish.
HOW IS IATI GOVERNED?

Since 2013, the initiative has been hosted by a multi-stakeholder consortium led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the UK-based international development organisation, Development Initiatives, and the governments of Ghana and Sweden. IATI is governed and supported by its members and a global community of data publishers and users, and advocates for transparency, communicators, technical specialists and general open data enthusiasts.

Technical Advisory Group (TAG): The TAG is a multi-stakeholder community of publishers, developers, data users and transparency advocates. The TAG chair (John Adams, Department for International Development) represents the TAG Community on the Governing Board. The latest TAG meeting took place on 6-9 March 2017, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. 138 people from various stakeholder attended the meeting in Tanzania, with the highest attendance from partner country governments (see participant list). General information can be found on the TAG website page.

More detailed information about the IATI governance structure and the different stakeholder groups involved can be found on the IATI website.
WHO IS PUBLISHING TO IATI AND WHO IS BENEFITING FROM THE DATA?
WHO IS PUBLISHING?

Since organisations first started publishing IATI data in 2011, 611 (as of December 19, 2017) have published data to the IATI Standard. These organizations include International NGOs, bilateral and multilateral donors, private sector, foundations and research organisations. NGOs make up a considerable number of publishers, in part due to IATI reporting being made a funding requirement by some donors.

IATI is constantly working with stakeholders from different kinds of organisations to ensure that the Standard is flexible enough and designed in a way that supports reporting from a variety of organisational models. Recently, IATI is working with organisations in Humanitarian Aid, to understand how IATI can support their publishing efforts. See Section 3.4. for more information on how changes to the standard are implemented.

The Table below shows the exponential growth of publishers from 2011-2017 (for more information, see p.8 in the IATI Annual Report 2016/17).

Additionally, for the most up-to-date list of publishers, please refer to the IATI Registry- Publisher page.
WHO IS BENEFITING?

For the full benefits of IATI to be realised, the use of IATI data at the country level is what really matters.

With better data on development flows, Governments in countries where development cooperation makes up a large part of the resource package, can better plan and manage their budgets. Without accurate and timely financial data, this process becomes very difficult. IATI worked with the Ministry of Planning in DRC, and DG and found that it was possible to automatically feed IATI data directly into country systems, to improve the data collection process. This can ease the reporting burden for organization country offices and make reporting faster and easier when organizations are publishing quality, timely IATI data. We found that 25 out of 27 of IATI partner country members of IATI are able to access IATI data for at least nine of the largest 10 development partners (see pp: 18-20 in IATI Annual Report 2016/17).
Development Organizations themselves are also one of the potential key users of IATI data. The Initiative for Open Ag Funding interviewed Donors, NGOs, and Foundations working in agriculture and found that they need data about what other organizations are doing within countries, who they worked with, and what the resulting outcome was, with an aim to learn what to do and what not to do. IATI has huge potential to provide organizations with this kind of information to improve coordination, collaboration, and shared learning between organizations.
UNDERSTANDING WHAT INFORMATION ORGANISATIONS PUBLISH TO
WHAT IS THE IATI STANDARD?

The IATI Standard is split into two parts:

**The Organisation Standard** is used to describe the organisations involved in development cooperation. It holds information not only on the organisation name and identification, but also:

- The organisation’s forward-looking budgets;
- Strategic documents such as country plans, annual reports;
- Budgets per country or region.

**The Activity Standard** is the space where organisations can publish comprehensive activity or project level details on their development cooperation. The IATI activity standard is the most widely used part of IATI. This includes:

- Basic information such as project descriptions, implementing organizations, etc.;
- Full transaction history – disbursements, expenditure, incoming funds;
- Sub-national geographic coding on the location;
- Sectors and classifications;
- Forward-looking budgets per activity;
- Conditions that are attached to activities and results – outputs and outcomes.
ELEMENTS OF THE ACTIVITY STANDARD

As referred to above, the IATI activity standard is the most widely used part of IATI. The activity standard supports around forty different fields, and is referenced by standard codelists, which define what data should be entered in certain fields, and designed to capture information about many different kinds of aid activities. Organisations publish this data in an activity file. It is expected that every organisation publishing IATI data should include at least one activity file. An activity file can detail one or many activities.

Overview - the links below provide initial guidance and information on different element of the standard. During the training, we can go through each one in further detail.

- Activity Standard
- Summary Table
- Activity file
- IATI Activity
- IATI Identifier
- Activity Dates
- Organisations
- Geography
- Classifications
- Budgets
- Transaction
- Result
- Related Data
- Related Documents
- CRS & FSS
- Conditions
- Contact Info
- Humanitarian Reporting
- Self-defined Vocabularies

IATI Codelists: IATI codelists make IATI activity and organisation data from different publishers comparable. A codelist can either be embedded (centrally managed by IATI) or non-embedded (derived from an authority source such as the OECD DAC, ISO, etc). For instance, when specifying the organisation reporting IATI data, one of the organisation type codelists should be used, so that definitions are comparable across datasets (e.g. 10- Government, 15- Other Public Sector, 21- International NGO, etc). Similarly, when reporting transactions to IATI, organisations must specify the transaction type using one of the IATI codelists (e.g. whether it is 1- incoming fund, 2- commitment, 3-disbursement, etc.). The full list of IATI codelists can be found here and specific examples will be presented during the training.

Currently the codelist on the IATI standard website is maintained in English. As discussed during the training, there are specific codelists that IATI replicates from the OECD DAC (see list below).

Aid type: http://iatistandard.org/202/codelists/AidType/
Aid type (category): http://iatistandard.org/202/codelists/AidType-category/
Budget Type: http://iatistandard.org/202/codelists/BudgetType/
CRS Other Flags: http://iatistandard.org/202/codelists/CRSAddOtherFlags/
CRS Channel Codes: http://iatistandard.org/202/codelists/CRSChannelCode/
Collaboration Type: http://iatistandard.org/202/codelists/CollaborationType/
Finance Type: http://iatistandard.org/202/codelists/FinanceType/
Finance Type (category): http://iatistandard.org/202/codelists/FinanceType-category/
Flow Type: http://iatistandard.org/202/codelists/FlowType/
DAC 5-digit sector: http://iatistandard.org/202/codelists/Sector/
DAC 3-digit sector: http://iatistandard.org/202/codelists/SectorCategory/
You will see on each individual codelist page that there is an external link to the OECD DAC spreadsheet is provided. If you click on this link, you can download the spreadsheet with the DAC and CRS list of codes. Once you open the spreadsheet, you will also find all codelists in French as well.

The IATI Technical Team is currently working with the OECD DAC to streamline how we replicate codelists from the DAC, so by autumn, this process will hopefully be set in place. The codelists will be available in French as well on the IATI website.

DAC 5 Digit Sector

External URL: http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/dacandcrscodelists.htm

This is a Non-Embedded codelist.

Use this codelist for

- iati-activities/iati-activity/sector/@code
- iati-activities/iati-activity/transaction/sector/@code

Download this codelist

<table>
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<tr>
<th>CLv1:</th>
<th>CLv2:</th>
<th>CLv3:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSV</td>
<td>CSV</td>
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<tr>
<td>JSON</td>
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FORMAT OF THE STANDARD

IATI uses a data format called XML. To the human eye, this can look rather complicated and confusing (see image below). XML files can be opened via your internet browser, or if you want to edit files, you can also use a range of tools to open them, such as Notepad++, Atom, etc.
However, it's very easy to convert this format into more accessible formats—such as CSV—or even use it to drive tools that can generate graphs and tables of data from queries.

The reason IATI uses XML is because it enables swift, machine-readable formatting of complex data that can be easily exchanged and compared with other data published using the XML format.

Several tools are available to organisations for capturing data and converting it into the IATI XML format. You can see in here the current list of publishing tools available for organisations to use. The most commonly used publishing tool by small organisations is Aidstream. Some bigger organisations, such as UNICEF, generate their own IATI XML files from their internal systems. Some new tools are also currently in development in trying to improve the publishing experience and to keep up-to-date with improvements of the standard.
VERSIONS OF THE STANDARD

The IATI standard is a living entity that will require improvement over time. Changes to some or all of those parts of the standard will be driven by the suggestions and experiences of the publishers and users of IATI data, and managed by the IATI Steering Committee through its Secretariat and Technical Advisory Group (TAG). The current version of the standard is version 2.02 and at the moment the IATI community is involved in a 2.03 upgrade consultation for the next decimal upgrade of the standard in Autumn 2017.
ACCESSING AND USING IATI DATA
IATI REGISTRY

The IATI Registry provides links to all raw data officially published by organisations using the IATI Standard. The IATI Registry serves as a single point of access for users to locate IATI data.

It is important to note that rather than holding the data on its own server, once an organisation has created a file of IATI XML data, they publish it on their own server or website, then add a URL to the registry which takes users to the actual data.

IATI Data is the place to search, register and use IATI data.
HOW TO DOWNLOAD DATA FROM THE IATI REGISTRY

**Step 1:** Locate the publisher or organisation you want to download IATI data for in this list: https://www.iatiregistry.org/publisher, OR search the publisher name directly here https://www.iatiregistry.org/dataset.
Step 2: Click on the Publisher page (for instance, click on UNICEF) and identify the file you want to download (for instance, UNICEF - Senegal) and press the "Download" button. You can then download the XML file and save it to your computer.
In addition to downloading the data in XML format, the following options can also be used:

1. **Preview Tool** - the preview tool allows you to view sub-sections of the activity file. For instance, the screenshot below shows the Preview of UNICEF’s IATI data file in Senegal. It allows you to see each unique activity/project individually.
2. **CSV Conversion tool** - this tool allows you to download IATI data directly from the Registry into a CSV format (CSV download can also be done with d-portal as explained in the section below). The CSV Conversion tool allows you to download the data either per activity or transaction (see below).

![CSV Conversion Tool](image)

**D-PORTAL**

**D-portal** is a country-based information platform that tracks resource flows and aims to provide line ministries, parliamentarians, and civil society with information that can assist with the planning and monitoring of development activities. It provides a view of all IATI (International Aid Transparency Initiative) data by recipient country or publisher, and is comparable with latest OECD DAC CRS (Creditor Reporting System) data.

D-portal provides much more user-friendly access to IATI data and helps you explore IATI data by providing a search function, information by country or by publisher on development activities, and budgets published to the platform.

See an example below for search publisher “UNICEF” and Recipient Country “Senegal” OR “Madagascar.” Also, see link to d-portal FAQs.
HOW TO DOWNLOAD DATA FROM THE D-PORTAL

In addition to linking directly to the IATI XML file and the IATI Registry, you can also download data from d-portal in a CSV format. See screenshot below.
OTHER OPEN AID PORTALS USING IATI DATA

In addition, publishers of the data are also seeing the benefits of using IATI. IATI data is currently being used by several publishers, particularly large bilateral and multilateral donors, to drive open aid portals – interactive tools that help users track donor spending. Through this, you can play an important role in promoting accountability, as well as engagement with parliamentarians, civil society, and taxpayers.

A few examples include:
- **DFID’s Development Tracker** visualises the DFID IATI data in a searchable format, and also incorporates data from some of the NGOs that they fund, enabling users to track funds through the System;
- **UNICEF’s Transparency portal** makes UNICEF’s IATI data easily accessible for users to explore the organization’s initiatives and financial information.

IATI DATASTORE

The IATI Datastore Query Building ([http://datastore.iatistandard.org/query/](http://datastore.iatistandard.org/query/)) allows you to query the whole IATI dataset from all publishers. For instance, you can select multiple UN agencies working in Senegal, and download a CSV file with all this information together (see below):

**IATI Data Store CSV Query Builder (Alpha Version)**

Please read the User Guide

Your link: http://datastore.iatistandard.org/api/v1/access/transaction.csv?reportingorganisation=XM-DAC-41110%7C41111%7CXM-DAC-41114%7C41304%7CNRK-VK

Select Reporting Organisation (eg. DFID = GB-GOV-1):
- The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) Secretariat: XM-DAC-41110
- United Nations Capital Development Fund: 41111
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): XM-DAC-41114
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO): 41304
- UNESCO-HE Institute for Water Education: NL-KVK-41406404
- United Nations Population Fund: 41119

Select Type of Reporting Organisation (eg. INGO = 21):
- None
- 10: Government
- 15: Other Public Sector
- 21: International NGO
- 22: National NGO
- 23: Regional NGO

Select Sector (eg Basic Health Care = 12220):
- None
- 111 Education, level unspecified
- 11100: Education policy and administrative management
- 11120: Education facilities and training
- 1130: Teacher training
- 1140: Educational Research

Choose Format
- One Activity per row
- One Transaction per row
- One Budget per row

Repeat Rows?
- No
- Multi-Sector expansion
- Multi-Country expansion

Choose Sample Size
- 1 row
- 50 rows
- Entire selection
PREPARING DATA FOR USE IN COUNTRY SYSTEMS
AID INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Aid Information Management Systems (AIMS) are country-level systems that governments use to track, manage, and use data on foreign development assistance. Historically, this has meant development partners in country assign Data Focal Points enter and update project information into the system on a regular basis (often, on a monthly or quarterly basis). AIMS track much of the same information that is reported to IATI — such as project title, description, locations, sectors, implementing agencies, and transactions. Countries may also request additional information that is not reported to IATI, such as alignment with national strategies and sectors. They also often have their own set format and vocabulary necessitating a mapping of IATI to AIMS data fields.

AIMS systems available include the Aid Management Platform (AMP) by Development Gateway, DAD by Synergy, Catalpa’s Mohinga, or countries may choose to hire a local firm to build a completely custom tool, such as Bangladesh’s AIMS.

USING IATI DATA IN AID INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Data from IATI can be imported for a few reasons: 1) the organization does not have an in-country office to provide data entry into the national system, or for some other reason is not reporting to the AIMS, 2) to replace most of the manual reporting and reduce the reporting burden by country offices, 3) to improve data quality, if IATI data is more comprehensive and/or timely.

In order to use IATI data in country AIMS, it must meet certain requirements and data quality standard. The rest of this document will review methods for checking and reviewing data in order to use it in country systems, and will outline how to use the IATI-AIMS Import module developed by DG for importing the data into AIMS.

The first step is to check is the IATI version the publisher is using. Please note that AMP IATI Importer Tool supports IATI 1.01-1.05 and IATI 2.01-2.02. Data published under another format will not be able to be downloaded in AMP. The version is displayed under the contents section of the dataset webpage. It also shows the total number of each activity in a given country. For example, “32 activities UNICEF Senegal.”
UNICEF Activity File - Senegal

This file contains programme budget figures (Regular Resources, Other Resources - Regular and Emergency), allocations and expenditure data for all UNICEF Output level results which have had at least one transaction recorded against them since Jan 01, 2012. Data on sectors funded, grant donors and results is also included. The contents of the datasets are updated on a monthly basis.

For more detail about the different version schemas, please see:

http://iatisstandard.org/102/activity-standard/summary-table/
http://iatisstandard.org/103/activity-standard/summary-table/
http://iatisstandard.org/104/activity-standard/summary-table/
http://iatisstandard.org/105/activity-standard/summary-table/
http://iatisstandard.org/201/activity-standard/summary-table/
COMMON ISSUES WITH DATA QUALITY
WHAT WE’VE LEARNED

Development Gateway conducted a pilot in five francophone African countries to import IATI data into their systems; in addition, DG partnered with DI and UNICEF to support the use of UNICEF’s IATI data in both the Senegal and Madagascar AMPs. From these experiences, we learned that a high proportion of government agencies staff are aware of IATI in general terms. However, despite this general awareness, IATI hasn’t been widely used. A few reasons were put forth to explain, which should be considered by data publishers who want to use IATI data in AIMS:

- **Language:** The relative lack of data and information in French proved to be the largest limiting factor, as most desk officers in Francophone Africa are not comfortable working with data in English. Data publishers must provide data content in the preferred language of the recipient government in order for the data to be used within the country system.

- **Trust:** Multiple participants expressed concern at not knowing more details regarding the publication and validation process for each funder in IATI. Greater coherence between funder HQ and country offices, enabling country offices to effectively answer government questions on IATI data publication processes and quality assurance, could potentially offset this lack of trust. Given frequency of rotation and turnover within country offices, this would perhaps best be accomplished through stronger documentation created by an IATI specialist within each publisher. This documentation could be referenced by country office staff, would provide country offices with up-to-date contact information on who the IATI focal point for each organization is.

- **Data Format:** As expected, survey respondents reported low levels of comfort in the use of xml, but also surprisingly low comfort levels with the more common csv format (due to a lack of awareness of how to properly open CSV files in Excel). Respondents expressed a strong preference for XLS(X) formats, although training on csv could hopefully offset this gap.

- **Differences in reporting:** Although IATI is a standard that has many rules and guidelines, there is still a large amount of flexibility, and at times guidelines are ignored. This makes mapping and using IATI difficult when how data is reported in IATI varies widely and can be difficult to understand what those differences are.

In addition, the following are common issues important to check for when importing data into AMP:

- **Project titles don’t match what is in the AMP:** This could be for a number of reasons – for example, the project of the title may differ between country office and HQ, HQ may be reporting programs or objectives instead of projects, or vice-versa, or there may be projects that HQ manages and reports to IATI that the country offices are not aware of.

- **Non-descriptive project titles and descriptions:** A review of each data source should be made to determine which has better titles and descriptions.
- **Accurate transactions**: IATI and AMP transactions often do not match. This can be due to various reasons, including if HQ is reporting projects that the organization country office is not aware of, if they are reporting administrative costs, or interpreting transactions differently, or if there are currency exchange differences. This distinction needs to be decided by the organization and might require discussions between HQ and the country office to reach an agreement. Finally, outlier figures may also be due to not reporting the correct currency.

- **Double counting/traceability**: AIMS have rules on who is responsible for reporting to the AIMS to ensure that projects with multiple organizations involved are not reported multiple times. IATI publishers should be reporting all the participating organizations, their role, and unique org identifiers. When this isn’t done, it can be difficult to ensure that project information isn’t used multiple times or double counted. It could even mean the data is unusable in country systems if they cannot split up where funding is coming from or going to. To avoid this issue, IATI publishers need to report all organizations and the proper role of each one in each transaction: for example, "funder, implementing organization, etc."

- **Inclusion of administrative costs**: Many AIMS don’t ask for development partners to report on administrative costs. However, some organizations publish this funding data in their IATI publication. This means the organization HQ, country office, and government need to agree on whether administrative costs will be included in the reporting. If it’s decided that Administrative costs will not be included in the AIMS, there needs to be a clear way to exclude this information from the import – for example, by publishing it as its own project.

- **Diversity in reporting levels**: Whether information is published at the project level, program level, outcome, or by theme can vary based on how data are reported to the system, even if the data comes from the same original source. Therefore, comparing the data submitted to country systems and HQ levels can be difficult if they are represented differently. In some cases, we found that projects with the same theme (such as Health) were aggregated as a single entry when entered into the country system year after year, instead of as distinct projects. This made it difficult to compare projects and transactions between IATI data, which was much more disaggregated.

- **How transactions are reported**: Making sure transactions are reported in IATI in a way that fits reporting expectations for country systems is critical. One example is that we found that disbursements in an IATI file were being aggregated into a single disbursement, and the date was being updated continuously instead of having individual disbursements for each reporting date. In a typical AIMS, transactions such as disbursements are reported on a specified timeline, whether it’s monthly, quarterly, or otherwise. Donors are expected to either report transactions with the specific date the transaction occurred, or to use a specific date, like the last date of the quarter, for all transactions that took place that quarter. This becomes relevant to how data appears in reports and dashboards where filters look at transaction dates. Additionally, it becomes relevant in whether one should include the transaction or not when looking at a specific time period, and allows users to look back at historical trends. Thus it’s important for IATI files to follow this same concept. Disbursements need to be published as individual transactions, with either the exact transaction date, or a standardized one such as the last day of the month, to be sure that disbursements appear appropriately in dashboards and reports.

- **Proper dates**: It’s important that “actual end dates” aren’t entered until the project has been closed, and that once the project has been closed, the status is changed and the “actual end date” is entered.
TOOLS FOR CHECKING DATA QUALITY

**IATI Public Validator:** The IATI public validator currently only checks whether the file is a valid XML and whether it follows the IATI format. It does not check the content of the data. The IATI technical team is currently working on improving the functionality of the validator so that its functions include content checking.
**IATI Dashboard**: The IATI Dashboard tracks published IATI data around a series of quality measures. The Dashboard is updated every day, during the early hours of the morning, UK time. Users can use the Dashboard in two ways:

1. Users can look for specific errors on individual publishers’ pages. For an example, please see the UNICEF page below.

![UNICEF Dashboard](image)

2. You can see how an individual publishers’ data quality compares to that of other IATI publishers. The Publishing Statistics page on the dashboard looks specifically at three dimensions – Timeliness, Forward-looking and Comprehensiveness. Here is the direct link to UNICEF’s dashboard page.

- **Timeliness** - two areas are assessed here: frequency (how often a publisher updates its data) and time-lag (how up to date the data is, at the point when it is refreshed).

- **Forward-looking** - The main difference between IATI and DAC CRS is that IATI provides forward-looking data. The forward-looking score basically measures the number of activities with budgets reported by a publisher for each year, compared to the total number of current activities at the start of each year.

- **Comprehensiveness** - this area checks whether current activities include elements of the IATI standard populated with valid data. The comprehensiveness score is split into three sections: score, financials and value-added. Each area checks for different parts of the standard – for example, IATI identifier, participating organisation, DAC sectors, geographic coordinates, etc.
Publish What You Fund’s public **Data Quality Tester** is a helpful tool for checking key quality data errors, such as ensuring that start dates fall chronologically before end dates, and that they publish to key fields that are desired by government systems. This tool may be able to address some of the concerns around trusting data quality, as it can give an initial look at main quality concerns.

However, in the end, properly checking data quality requires both time and effort.
WHAT DO I DO IF THE DATA QUALITY IS BAD?
CONTACT THE PUBLISHER DIRECTLY

We strongly encourage users of IATI data to contact the publishers directly with data quality concerns. You can find contact details on the IATI Registry page (see highlighted area of the figure below).

Alternatively, you can look for contact details in the individual XML activity files.

If you are still unable to locate contact details, you can email the IATI technical team at the following address: support@iatistandard.org
IATI DISCUSS

Engage in discussion with the broader IATI community and other IATI users online. Create a login at https://discuss.iatistandard.org/

If you are interested, there are a number of categories on IATI Discuss that you can follow. For this specific project, the most relevant one for this specific project is on "Using IATI data" (see below). You can post questions and discussion points within the Discuss board to learn from others' experiences or share your own lessons learned for others.
WHAT ELSE SHOULD I CHECK BEFORE IMPORTING IATI DATA INTO AIMS?
A FINAL CHECK

Before importing data, the final checks to be completed are as follows:

1. Check the IATI version to be sure it’s supported by the IATI Importer (you’ll also need to know the IATI version when you begin importing);

2. Check that the data is in the proper language for the country AIMS;

3. Run the file through data quality checking tools to make sure it is valid, identify any existing data quality issues, and address them before importing;

4. Compare projects in IATI to those in AMP, and be aware of which ones match up. Additionally, decide which projects, transactions, and data fields you will be importing into the AIMS;

5. Compare key data fields, such as titles and descriptions, and decide if you should import those IATI data fields or keep the AIMS fields;

6. Lastly, depending on how they’ve structured hierarchies into their XML file, the formatting of the IATI data may encounter difficulties while importing. If you encounter any issues as you follow the steps given below, please contact a Development Gateway Associate.
IMPORTING IATI DATA INTO AMP
WHAT IS THE IATI IMPORT MODULE?

Development Gateway has developed an open-source API-based module that can integrate with AIMS, and has been integrated into Development Gateway’s Aid Management Platform (AMP). It allows users to upload IATI XML data, select which projects to import, map IATI fields to AIMS fields in a user-friendly format, and then import data into the AIMS.

DOWNLOAD XML FROM THE IATI REGISTRY

The IATI Datastore is an online service that gathers all data published to the IATI standard into a single source able to be queried. It can deliver selections of IATI data in JSON, XML, or CSV formats. Data that is recorded on the IATI Registry, and that is validated against the standard, is pulled into the Datastore on a nightly basis. This enables people to query for IATI activities across several facets (e.g., country, publisher, and sector). Activities that satisfy the criteria can then be accessed in XML, JSON or CSV (spreadsheet) format.

In order to view and download the IATI files, the following steps can be taken:

1. Visit the IATI Registry URL (http://iatiregistry.org/dataset) and search the required XML, as follows:

   ![IATI Datastore Screenshot]

   **14 datasets found**

   - DFID Activity File Kosovo
     - IATI data updated: 2015-08-06, No. of Activities: 65
     - View Metadata, Download (360 KB), Preview
   - European Commission - NEAR Project Activity File - Kosovo
     - IATI data updated: 2015-10-16 11:12, No. of Activities: 115
     - View Metadata, Download (758 KB), Preview
2. The IATI site lists all datasets that match with the previous search. In each row, the site shows:

   a. Dataset name;
   b. Dataset summary: last update date and number of activities;
   c. Links to view Metadata, download, preview, and download CSV: the site shows the following data:

   ![Metadata Table]

   This information shows the IATI file Version and the total number of activities included in this dataset.

In some cases, the metadata does not include the IATI schema version. In this case, user should attempt to import using a selected version, and the system will alert the user if the file schema does not match the selected version.

3. To download the IATI Dataset, click on the 'Download' button (See an IATI XML file online).
IMPORT PROCESS

STEP 1 – Launch the Import Tool

After logging into AMP with the desired user and selecting the appropriate workspace for the import, depending on the implementation, you will see the “IATI Importer” option within the TOOLS dropdown menu of AMP. By selecting it, a new window/tab with the Import tool should open.

Once the Import Tool is opened, you must select “Import Process” from the dropdown menu and select which version of IATI you’ll be importing. The current versions supported are 1.04, 1.05 and 2.01.

Please note that the only valid files for the process are XMLs that are compliant with the IATI versions mentioned above (1.04, 1.05 and 2.01).
STEP 2 – Upload the IATI file to Import

1. **Browse button**: this button opens a new window to search for the specific file to be imported;

2. **File Preview**: this widget allows the user to:
   a. Open a preview window with the data file, for instance:
Note that if the file size is greater than 500KB, this widget is not shown and you are not able to do a file preview.

3. Remove the selected file
   Remove

4. Upload the file
   Upload

During the upload process, the 3. Remove and 4. Upload buttons are changed and the following progress bar and options appears:

5. Progress bar: this feature shows the level of progress of the file being uploaded;

6. Cancel button: the original ‘Remove’ button is replaced by a ‘Cancel’ button, allowing the user to cancel the upload process.

7. Upload button: during the Upload process, this button is disabled.
After the file is uploaded, the app shows the following:

8. **Upload files table:**
   a. File name
   b. Generated Date-Time data
   c. 'Valid': this field shows whether the uploaded file has the same version that the scheme selected previously in Step 1. If the file does not have the same version, the application will show an 'Invalid' message as well as the following:

   ![Invalid file message]

   Note that the above message is a warning about the uploaded file. If you continue with the next steps, the application will execute the import process using the uploaded file even if there's a mismatch. Despite missing version information, the user might want to try to import it anyway.

**STEP 3 – Filter Data**

This step gathers the relevant fields that are used to filter the projects found in the file. For instance, for IATI 2.01, we might select to import information from specific provider organizations. The configuration of these fields is associated with the file type and supports the configuration of a default value for that particular type/field combination (i.e. Field: “Language”, Default value: “FR”).

This step is optional; therefore, it can be skipped.
1. Filter options: here you can see the list of all options available to filtering the projects.

>Note that the application just displays those filter options included within the uploaded file.

**STEP 4 – Choose Projects**

This allows selecting actions for each of the matched and retrieved projects.

The system searches for the equivalent projects in the destination system, in order to find out whether the project already exists (based on the IATI Identifier values). It then generates two different lists of projects: One for the existing projects; another for the new projects.

As for the new projects, the user is able to search the destination system database for existing project, mark it as a new project, or skip importing it altogether.
1. **Import/Update projects checkboxes**: This is a project selector.

2. **New Projects list**: this table shows:
   a. **Source Projects**: all projects which are NOT in the destination.
   b. **Destination Projects**: here you can enter an existing Destination Project; this action will update the existing project in the destination or just keep it empty. Doing so will store the new project without any mapped destination project. In that list, you can search for any destination project except for those that were included in the Existing Projects list selected for updating.

3. **Existing Projects**: this table shows:
   a. **Source Project**: all projects which ARE in the destination.
   b. **Destination Project**: the current destination project that matches with each source project.
STEP 5 – Choose Fields

The system presents the list of fields available from the imported file, as well as the list of fields in the destination system. If the mapping for existing projects is different than the mapping for new projects, performing two different imports setting up the two different mappings is suggested.

This step allows you to create a mapping between the import file system and the destination file system, and stores the mapping for future use. If the mapping for existing projects is different than the mapping for new projects, performing two different imports setting up the two different mappings is suggested.

For each field, the system should list values coming from the attribute in the file, as well as let you map each value to a destination list of values.

1. **Validation message**: Here, the application shows the list of required destination fields and destination fields with dependencies (meaning that if you want to import the field ‘A,’ then you must also select the fields ‘B’ and ‘C’).

2. **Import/Update field checkboxes**: This is a fields selector.

3. **Source Field vs Destination Field**: Here, you can map each destination field against one destination field. The fields are shown grouped by category for instance: Multi-Languages, Lists, Date, Organization, and Transactions.

4. **Loading Existing Template**: Here, you can save your mappings and then load them for future imports. In order to do so, follow steps 1 and 2, then click “Save.” The application will save your field mappings.
**STEP 6 – Map Values**

Based on the fields selected in Step 5, this window allows mapping of each source field value against the appropriate destination field value. The only values that can be mapped are the “Code Lists” and the Organizations. If you have selected a field that is not one of these types, it will not show in this section.

**1. Source Values vs. Destination Values:** for each source value, you can map the appropriate destination value.

**STEP 7 – Review and Import**

At this point, the user is able to check whether all previous steps were completed properly. If not, the user is able to return to any step left incomplete, and complete it.

To be used for future reference, this step also generates a report with a list of all changes that were committed to the destination system.

Additionally, users select how they want transaction data to be handled when it is imported. Options for this include:

- **Overwrite all funding information:** All funding information in the project is overwritten with data from the IATI file.
- **Only add missing information:** Only adds new funding information to the project. Existing funding information is not overwritten or updated.
- **Replace funding information:** Replaces funding information in the AMP project with funding information from the IATI file per donor. Data for donors that were not reporting to the AMP already are not affected.
The import process is executed in a transaction-per-project approach. Therefore, the process will not fail the entire import; instead, all failed projects will be marked as "not imported."

After clicking in “Proceed with Import,” the tool will begin importing the projects from the file and will present a log with the success/failure of import projects, which can be saved for future reference.
REPORT – Previous Imports

In this section, you can see the list of the executed imports.

1. **View Import**: This view allows the user to see the list of the imported projects, as well as view the result of the process for each project.

2. **Delete**: this action removes the import log.

Note that the ‘Delete’ action does not remove the imported projects from the appropriate destination.
INSTRUCTIONS

This tool is to be used in conjunction with the IATI-AIMS Training Manual. The following questions allow the user to gain practical hands-on practice on what is being taught in the Training Manual.

1. Exploring D-Portal

1a. Use d-portal to find out how many active projects does UNICEF have taking place in Madagascar.

1b. Find the UNICEF Madagascar project, “Increased national capacity and delivery of services to prevent excess mortality among girls, boys and women in humanitarian situations.” what other organizations are providing funding to this project?

2. Exploring the IATI Standard and Codelist

2.a. What information does the standard outline for the location of a project provide?

2.b. What are the different Flow Types?

2.c. What does the code ‘3’ for Activity Status mean?

2.d. What are the different Transaction Types?

2.e. What does Organization Type code ‘21’ mean?


3. Using the IATI Registry

3a. Find and download the UNICEF Senegal and Madagascar IATI data in XML and CSV.

3b. What IATI standard version is UNICEF Senegal publishing in?

3c. How many activities are in the UNICEF Senegal file?

3d. Comparing UNICEF Senegal IATI data to AMP data, do project titles match up? Can you identify the same project in each data file?
4. Checking for Common Data Issues

4a. If you identified matching projects in the previous example, what is the difference between reported disbursements in IATI versus in AMP?

4b. Looking at the UNICEF Senegal IATI data, do the start dates occur before the end dates? Do they provide forward looking budget data? Are implementing agencies listed (Here, consider using PWYF's data quality tool)?

4c. Using the IATI dashboard, what is UNICEF's timeliness score?

5. Getting to know the IATI community

5a. Create an IATI Discuss membership.

5b. Post the work you are undertaking to use IATI data on the Community Zone 'Using IATI Data'.

6. Last Minute checks

6a. Run through the checklist, and comment below on the outcomes of each step:

7. Navigating the AMP

7a. According to AMP, how much has been disbursed by UNICEF in 2016?

7b. Looking at Commitments, what is the largest UNICEF project?

8. Importing Data

8a. Upload an IATI XML file, and check if it is valid against the version.

8b. Walk through the import mapping process. Take note of any questions that arise during the process here:
ANNEX B
NOTES ON UNICEF’S DATA
UNICEF’S PUBLISHING JOURNEY:

Milestones - UNICEF’s Transparency Initiative

- 2012
  - *Mar - Signed on to IATI
  - *Nov - UNICEF IATI Implementation Schedule finalized and published on the IATI and OECD websites

- 2013
  - *June - 1st batch of UNICEF data published on IATI’s Registry (2012 accounts and programme details at Output level for all UNICEF offices

- 2014
  - *Began regular quarterly uploads to the IATI registry
  - *Released an interactive open data website with geographic mapping of both financial and programme-results data and links to other UNICEF datasets (e.g. Audit Reports and COARs)

- 2015
  - *Began publishing monthly to the IATI Registry
  - *Achieved commitment to publish data on 94% of elements contained in the Common Standard by Dec. 2015
  - *Enhanced open data portal with links to key policy documents

- 2016 & 2017
  - *Upgraded to version 2.01
  - *Established a formal sign-off process with Finance team
  - *Participated in the study for WHS: Grand Bargain to demonstrate traceability using IATI Data
  - *Pilot to test use of IATI data for Govt reporting

UNICEF’s Data Released through IATI

- Financials:
  - Board Approved Budgets and Planned Amounts
  - Allocations, Expenditures, Sector Funding Status
- Programme structures: Titles, Descriptions, Durations
- Programme results: Short summary of the progress made under each outputs (with baselines, targets, status)
- Sectors funded (%)
- Gender equality marker
- Names of donors who funded each Output
- Value of contributions from each donor to each Output
- Geo-locations
- Links to each Country Office website, annual reports, audit reports, evaluations, supply contract awards, etc.
- Mapping to government sector codes
- Open data portal (http://open.unicef.org) - an interactive Open Data website
ANNEX C

COMMON ABBREVIATIONS
Common Abbreviations

**AIMS** Aid Information Management System. Generic name for an IT system typically used by a developing country to view information on development resources that are coming into their country. Governments can use an external supplier for their AIMS (Development Gateways’ AMP, Synergy’s DAD) or develop a more bespoke, custom solution (e.g. Myanmar’s Mohinga (developed by Catalpa) or Bangladesh’s AIMS).

**CSO** Civil Society Organisation. Typically a non-governmental organisation (NGO) whose missions are explicitly and uniquely developmental in character. However, civil society also includes professional and trade associations, community-based organisations, environmental groups, independent research institutes, universities, faith-based organisations, as well as many other groups that do not engage in development work. This broad definition is widely accepted in the world of development practitioners.

**HXL** Humanitarian Exchange Language. Run by UN OCHA (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs)

**IATI** The International Aid Transparency Initiative

**JSON** JavaScript Object Notation. A lightweight data-interchange format, which tries to be easier (than XML) for humans to read and write.

**JUDS** Joined-up Data Standards. Project to make various standards on sharing data for development/humanitarian more inter-linkable and compatible

**OpenAg** The initiative for Open Agriculture. Project to share data on agriculture funding. They identified use of the IATI Standard as a data interchange format. More details here: https://www.interaction.org/project/open-ag-funding/overview

**OC** Another project similar to IATI, but focussed on transparency in contracting and procurement processes.

**OCDS** Open Contracting Data Standard. A similar data standard to IATI, but focused on the contracting process. The OCDS is defined according to a JSON schema. More information: http://standard.open-contracting.org/latest/en/

**SDGs** UN Sustainable Development Goals. A universal set of goals, targets and indicators introduced in 2015 that UN member states will be expected to use to frame their agendas and political policies over the next 15 years.

**TAG** Technical Advisory Group. Informal group of interested parties who have some interest (technical and otherwise) in the success of IATI and the IATI Standard. The TAG typically has a conference-style event which takes place every 18-24 months.

**XML** eXtensible Markup Language. The technical language used by the IATI Standard.