iati
International Aid Transparency Initiative

Sustaining progress towards IATI's Strategic Plan

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Foreword

Henry Asor Nkang
Chair of IATI Governing Board

During 2022, Covid-19 continued to pose severe challenges to global efforts in achieving sustainable development. As the pandemic reached its third year, international development and humanitarian communities focused on delivering an effective recovery to get the world back on track for achieving Agenda 2030. I am proud the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) continued to play our part in facilitating the availability of data required by policy makers and practitioners to deliver effective development. For example, last year we enabled 269 organisations, including governments, UN agencies and NGOs, to publish IATI data on the financing and delivery of almost 20,000 Covid-19-related activities. This is a 14% increase in the number of organisations publishing data on Covid-19 compared to 2021, providing much needed data for the planning, coordination and accountability of essential resources.

2022 was a significant year for IATI, marking the mid-point of IATI's ambitious five year strategic plan and I am very pleased that we continued to sustain progress towards achieving its objectives. The IATI Secretariat effectively promoted the use of IATI data to governments, civil society and development partners at workshops in Rwanda, Nigeria and Thailand. I attended each event and saw firsthand how impressed participants were that IATI could help fill data gaps required to manage external resource flows. During the year progress was made on improving global access to IATI data through the delivery and improvement of online tools, and our virtual community continued to grow. It was also encouraging to see the value of IATI in capturing data on emerging crises and showing global trends in funding. For example, analysis from the IATI Secretariat showed that Ukraine was projected to receive over USD $19 billion, by far the highest figure for a recipient country in 2022, showing how the Russian invasion of Ukraine has reoriented the global funding landscape.

In 2022 I was delighted to be re-elected onto IATI's Governing Board in March and appointed by Board colleagues as Chair for a two-year term. As well as delivering our Strategic Plan, the Board focused on securing new hosting arrangements for IATI's Secretariat from 2023, upon the expiry of the Secretariat mandate. I pay enormous tribute to UNDP, UNOPS and Development Initiatives for hosting IATI since 2013 and contributing to the rapid expansion and global endorsement of the IATI Standard for capturing global development and humanitarian data.

The Board looks forward to working with the new Secretariat, along with our dedicated members and community over the next year on moving closer towards achieving our strategic goals.
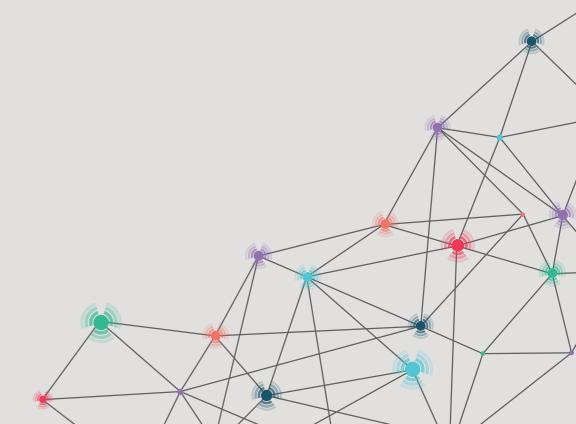
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About IATI

The International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) works to ensure that transparent, good quality information on development cooperation and humanitarian assistance is available and used to help achieve sustainable development outcomes.

Organisations publish information according to the rules and guidance set out in the IATI Standard, generating data that is freely and openly available to anybody with internet access. The initiative supports its publishers to improve the quality of IATI data and facilitates access to effective tools and guidance to use this information to drive decision-making and accountability.

IATI is governed by its members and a member-elected Governing Board, and it is supported by a global community of development and humanitarian practitioners, advocates for transparency, data experts and technical specialists. The initiative has been hosted from 2013 to 2022 by a multi-stakeholder consortium led by the UN Development Programme (UNDP), together with the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the international development organisation Development Initiatives. In 2022 a process to select new hosting arrangements was initiated by the Governing Board to meet the changing needs of an expanding initiative. At the time of this report's publication, the work to select new hosts for the initiative was complete and transition to new hosting arrangements was underway.

Annual Report 2022

This year's Annual Report shares the progress and challenges in 2022 of implementing the IATI Strategic Plan 2020 - 2025. This report is accompanied by a separate Financial Report that provides accessible and transparent information about IATI's finances.

ACCESS IATI FINANCIAL REPORT 2022

Est. 2008

Overview of data available from IATI

For more information, see Annex: IATI Annual Report statistics and methodology

Budget and Spending data available from IATI

1528 organisations have published data on their development and humanitarian resources and activities. The unit of work described by an 'activity' is determined by the organisation publishing their data, and IATI data is available on **826,474 activities.**

Budget data

Budget data indicates the amount of money an organisation plans to spend. The following data is available on 2023 budgets:

USD $139 billion in forward-looking budgets for **221* recipient countries**

Multilateral organisations published 64% of this data followed by bilateral governments (at 26%)

Spending data (disbursements and expenditures)

Spending data (disbursements and expenditures) on development and humanitarian activities shows money being transferred from one organisation to another across delivery chains, and the eventual spending on goods and services. **The following data is available on 2022 spending:**

USD 226 billion in spending for 218* recipient countries

The top three sectors to which resources were allocated:

Emergency Response	Basic Health	Government & Civil Society
$37 billion (16.1%)	**$24 billion** (10.6%)	**$24 billion** (10.5%)

*The IATI Country codelist is generated from the ISO 3166-1 part of the ISO 3166 standard

IATI data available on humanitarian assistance

Organisations have published data on over **86,000 activities** identified as specifically responding to humanitarian crises, in **202* countries.**

IATI's terminology and definitions are aligned with other humanitarian initiatives, ensuring IATI data is meaningful for the sector. In 2022, more organisations published data on the ways in which their humanitarian activities relate to international responses:

Publishers have indicated which humanitarian emergencies their activities are responding to by using internationally recognised GLIDE codes (GLobal IDEntifier number).

IATI data is available on activities addressing **482 unique GLIDE codes**, including codes for **24 humanitarian emergencies** that took place in 2022.

Organisations publish IATI data on the ways their activities are contributing to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)'s Humanitarian Response Plans and Flash Appeals.

There are **364 unique Humanitarian appeals** referenced in IATI data.

*The IATI Country codelist is generated from the ISO 3166-1 part of the ISO 3166 standard

IATI data on the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Users can see how almost **125,000 activities** are contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

These activities cover all 17 goals and 169 targets of the SDGs. There was a **21% increase in 2022** in the number of organisations publishing data on SDGs, compared to 2021.

IATI data on gender equality

In 2022 organisations shared data on which of their activities are targeting Gender Equality.

427 organisations identified that one or more of their activities were targeting Gender Equality.

Over **190,000 activities** were identified as targeting Gender Equality.

IATI data on Covid-19

In 2022, addressing Covid-19 and implementing a strategy for recovery from the global pandemic remained a prominent priority for development and humanitarian actors. IATI publishers continued to share data on their Covid-19-related funding and activities using the IATI Standard.

Almost **20,000 development and humanitarian Covid-19 related activities** were published by **269 organisations**, including governments, UN agencies and NGOs. This represents a **14% increase** in the number of organisations publishing data on Covid-19 activities, compared to 2021.

IATI data on climate action

Organisations are continuing to share data on which of their activities are targeting climate change adaptation and mitigation.

190 organisations identified their activities as targeting climate change adaptation and/or mitigation.

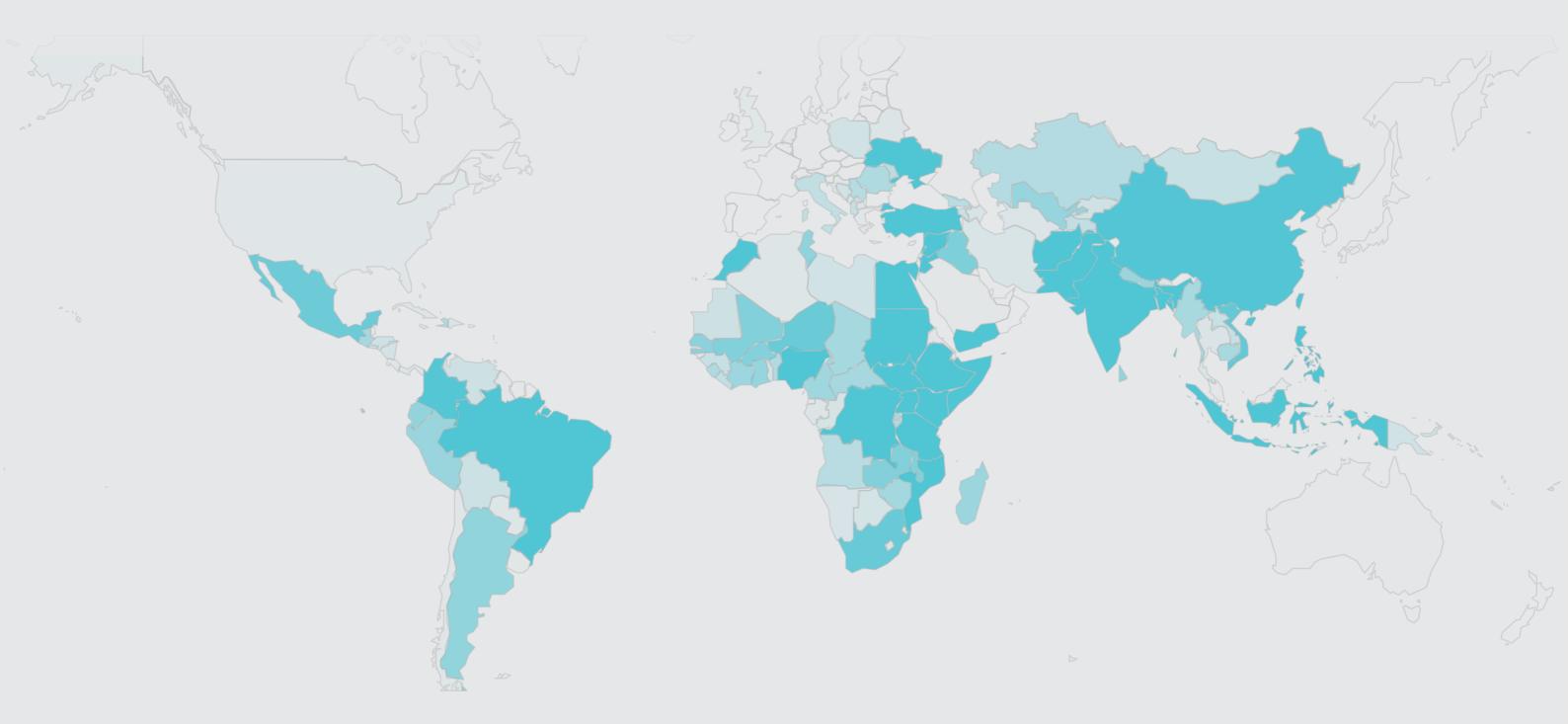Almost **28,000 activities** were marked as targeting mitigation.

Over **33,500 activities** were marked as targeting adaptation.

Discover 2022 IATI data by country

IATI provides a useful source of data on development budgets and spending. This data can be easily viewed in useful summary maps, charts, and tables on IATI's Country Development Finance Data (CDFD) tool. CDFD enables the simple customisation and download of Excel-formatted IATI data on development finance, by recipient country or region.

View the following global map online to discover how much IATI data was available on spending for each country in 2022.

VIEW GLOBAL MAP OF SPENDING IN 2022

Sustaining progress towards IATI's Strategic Plan

[IATI Strategic Plan 2020-2025](#) sets out a clear direction for the initiative to maximise its contribution towards achieving sustainable development outcomes.

It aims to achieve three objectives:

1. **Promote the systematic use of IATI data by development and humanitarian actors**

2. **Drive a significant improvement in the quality of data published to IATI**

3. **Strengthen the IATI Standard to support objectives (1) and (2) by consolidating its technical core, maintaining its infrastructure and reinvigorating its community of publishers and members**

A monitoring exercise is undertaken annually based on the [Strategic Plan's Results Framework](#) to measure the delivery of the Strategic Plan in each of the five years and to shape successive annual work plans. As with previous years, 2022 results will be released in a separate Strategic Plan Results Framework Monitoring Report.

IATI Strategic Plan Objective:

Promote the systematic use of IATI data by development and humanitarian actors

Henry Asor, IATI Governing Board Chair (left) Ureerat Chareontoh, Director-General of Thailand International Cooperation Agency (centre) and Christophe Bahuet, UNDP Deputy Regional Director Asia and the Pacific; and Director, Bangkok Regional Hub (right) at the 2022 Regional Workshop in Bangkok, Thailand

IATI's Strategic Plan 2020 - 2025 aims for IATI data to be systematically used to inform the planning, coordination and accountability of development and humanitarian resource flows.

Workshops engage data users in partner countries

As global travel restrictions from the Covid-19 pandemic eased, the IATI Secretariat was able to deliver valuable in-person events again. In 2022, three workshops were delivered to engage data users in partner countries. In May, representatives from partner country government members of IATI attended a workshop in Kigali, Rwanda. In July, a regional workshop was held in Abuja, Nigeria to engage a range of data users from across West and Central Africa. Then in November, data users from the Asia-Pacific region joined a regional workshop in Bangkok, Thailand which was co-hosted with UN DESA's Development Cooperation Forum team (see page 16: Outreach and Engagement).

These three events delivered:

- **Widespread awareness:** The Secretariat promoted the value of IATI to 58 government representatives from 49 countries, 75 participants from national and international civil society organisations (CSOs), and more than 25 representatives from development partner organisations,many of whom were attending an IATI meeting for the first time.

- **Training according to user needs:** Governments received training on using IATI data to inform and support more effective planning, budgeting, and coordination of development cooperation resources (read more on page 9: IATI Country Development Finance Data tool). CSOs learned how to use IATI data for increased accountability, coordination, advocacy, and funding.

Civil Society Organisations joined the IATI Regional Workshop in Abuja, Nigeria in June 2022

- **Use Cases:** Participants received presentations on use cases from Chad, Lesotho, Liberia, and Nigeria, showing that IATI data is increasingly being used in a systematic way by partner country governments. Use cases were also presented on how civil society organisations and researchers are increasingly using IATI data to support their work.

- **Feedback on challenges:** The IATI Secretariat gathered feedback from participants which will be valuable in future planning for the initiative. Government representatives spoke of facing continuing challenges in accessing data on development finance at the country level, and highlighted the value of IATI data in helping to fill these data gaps. Workshop participants also shared areas for improvement for IATI, including long standing issues with data quality and the need to consolidate the range of IATI tools, in order to improve the accessibility of IATI data.

- **Facilitated dialogue:** While in Kigali the IATI Secretariat also held a workshop to bring together AIMS (Aid Information Management System) providers and governments. They discussed current challenges and potential solutions for making IATI data more accessible and usable for partner country governments through integration with their national AIMS or other possible solutions for more effective use of IATI data alongside national systems.

Improving tools for accessing IATI data

IATI's Strategic Plan states that the initiative should aim to ensure "simple, effective tools are freely available for all users" (page 15). In 2022, significant progress was made to improve the accessibility and usefulness of IATI's data access tools for data users at all levels of technical ability.

IATI's Country Development Finance Data tool

In 2022 three new training videos were developed to support the use of IATI's Country Development Finance Data (CDFD) tool. The videos were made available in French, Spanish and Portuguese and provide step-by-step guidance on understanding and analysing data in spreadsheets available from CDFD.

In-person training on using the tool was delivered to Government representatives during the workshops (see page 8). Participants compared their latest national-level data with what is available in IATI and accessible using CDFD, and several countries noted that there were substantially more partners publishing to IATI when compared to in-country data sources.

The following new features were implemented in the CDFD tool based on feedback gathered during the workshops, as well as trainings and support calls undertaken throughout the year:
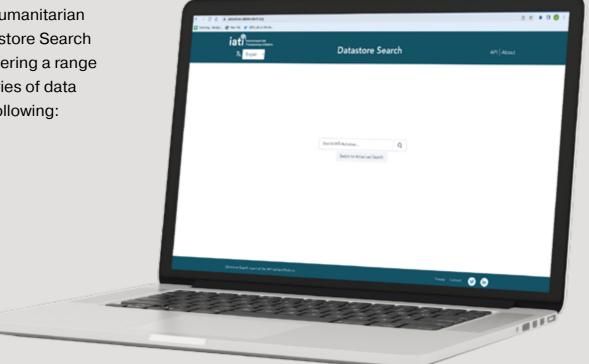
- **Data Dashboards:** Data is now available in useful summary maps, charts, and tables. Dashboards can be viewed by Country/Region, Reporting Organisation and Sector.

- **Custom Data Download:** Customised spreadsheets can be downloaded using a range of filters to ensure the data can meet specific users needs. For example, data can be filtered by calendar year or quarter, budgets and/or spending, reporting organisation, type of aid (e.g. grant or loan) and more.

- **A redesigned website:** CDFD is now clearly recognisable as an IATI tool with updated branding in IATI colours. The Data Dashboard and Custom Data Download features can also be accessed easily from the home page.

Launch of Datastore Search

In March, IATI launched Datastore Search to enable data users to download all valid development and humanitarian IATI data in CSV, JSON and XML formats. Datastore Search replaced IATI's previous Query Builder tool, offering a range of additional functions to enable complex queries of data published to the IATI Standard, including the following:

- **Robust free text searches:** users can use an online web-search style interface to search for IATI activities using keywords

- **Flexible searching:** users can select data across any combination of elements or attributes in the IATI Activity Standard

- **Extended access:** Datastore Search is not paginated so users can download thousands of rows of data at once

- **Access of element definitions:** Users can hover over any element of the IATI Standard and access its definition

During 2022, IATI continued to maintain its suite of tools (including d-portal, IATI Registry and Validator) to ensure they remained available and useful to IATI stakeholders (read more information from page 14).

New IATI Data Analysis

To raise awareness about the different ways in which IATI data can be analysed and used, the IATI Secretariat authored two analysis pieces that were published in November and December.

Understanding 2022 budgets and spending

The IATI Secretariat published a paper in November on how 2022 budgets and spending by country can be found using IATI's Country Development Finance Data tool (see Graph 1 below). For example the paper showed that Ukraine was projected to receive over USD $19 billion, by far the most for a recipient country in 2022. The data published to IATI reveals the impact that the Russian invasion of Ukraine has had on the global funding landscape.

IATI Data for Mine Action

In December 2022, the IATI Secretariat used IATI Datastore Search with the Country Development Finance Data tool,
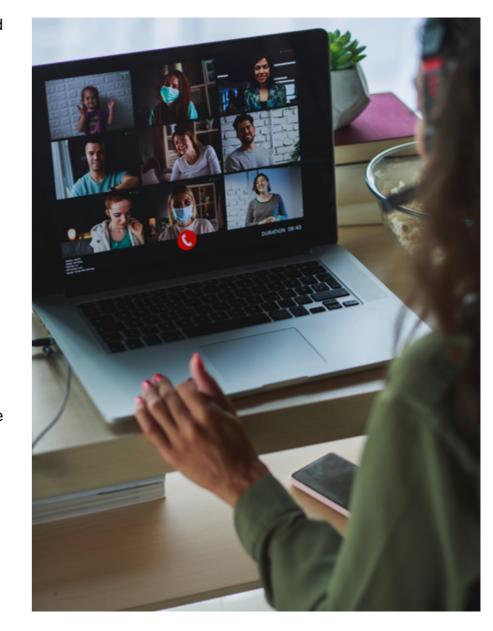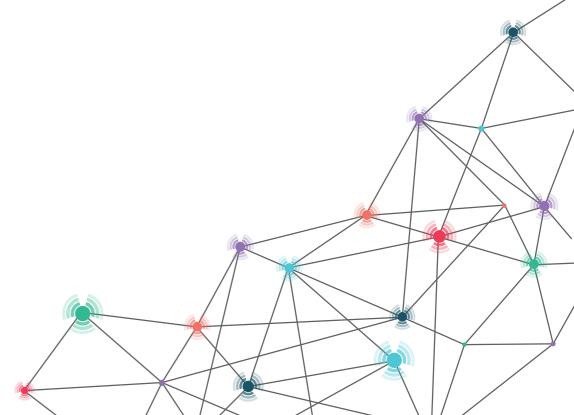
to analyse funding for mine action. The analysis was released to mark the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Ottawa Mine Ban Treaty. Amongst a range of analysis, it confirmed Canada's continuing commitment as one of the leading providers in the mine action sector. The analysis also confirmed that mine action resources have been channelled to those countries most impacted by explosive hazards since 2011. Iraq, considered to be the world's most heavily contaminated country by extent of mine area according to the Landmine Monitor, received the highest share of mine action funding reported to IATI since 2011 (over $423 million in spending).

Ongoing data use training and support

IATI's Secretariat continued to deliver virtual Data Use Drop-In Sessions for data users to bring their questions and receive on-the-spot support from the IATI Secretariat and other data users. The Secretariat also updated the Data Use Query Corner with new examples of data queries, including ones using the newly launched Datastore Search (see page 9).
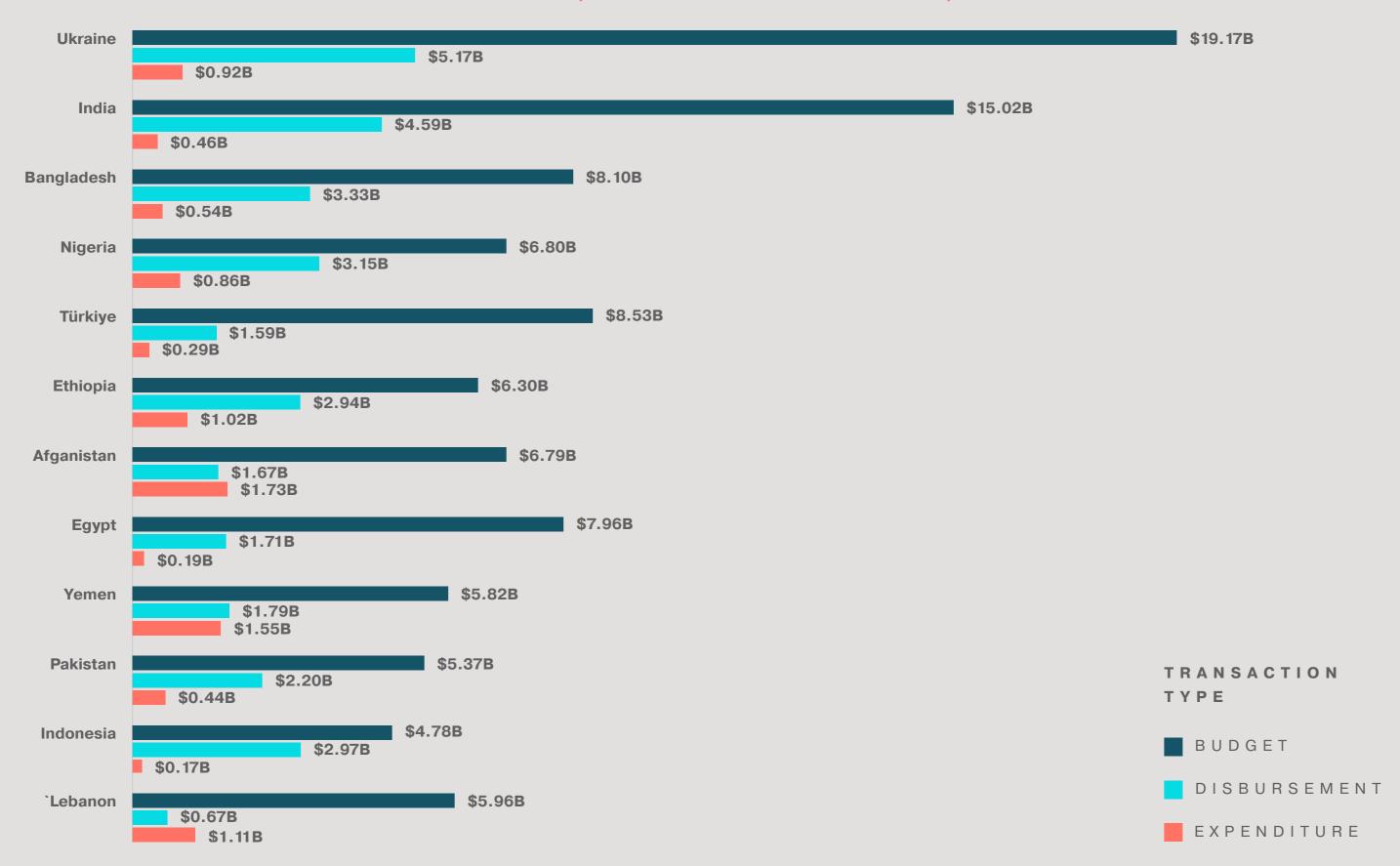
Throughout 2022, virtual support and presentations were delivered to interested data users including governments, researchers and civil society organisations. For example, the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO) in Turkmenistan was interested in using IATI data in their Development Finance Assessment, and Tanzania's Development Partners Group wanted to use IATI data to inform dialogue with partners at the country level. Presentations were also given to key development partners such as the US State Department, World Bank Trust Funds, and SlovakAid who wanted to better understand how IATI data is used both to make better use of the data internally and to inform data quality improvements.
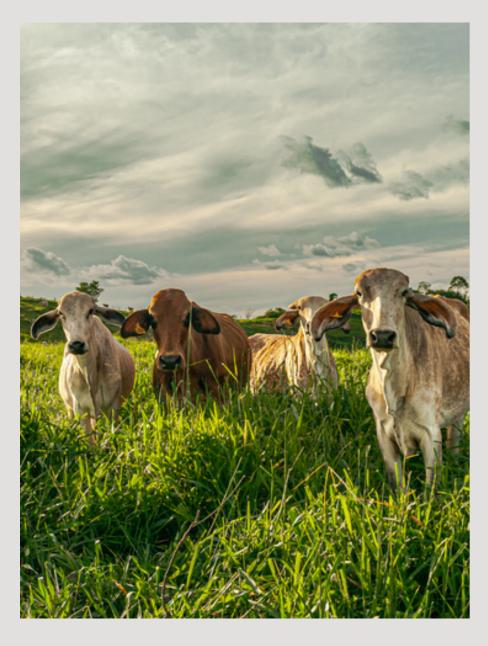
Analysing IATI data to understand 2022 budgets and spending

GRAPH 1: BUDGETS AND SPENDING (DISBURSEMENT PLUS EXPENDITURE) BY RECIPIENT COUNTRY

Ukraine
- $19.17B
- $5.17B
- $0.92B

India
- $15.02B
- $4.59B
- $0.46B

Bangladesh
- $8.10B
- $3.33B
- $0.54B

Nigeria
- $6.80B
- $3.15B
- $0.86B

Türkiye
- $8.53B
- $1.59B
- $0.29B

Ethiopia
- $6.30B
- $2.94B
- $1.02B

Afganistan
- $6.79B
- $1.67B
- $1.73B

Egypt
- $7.96B
- $1.71B
- $0.19B

Yemen
- $5.82B
- $1.79B
- $1.55B

Pakistan
- $5.37B
- $2.20B
- $0.44B

Indonesia
- $4.78B
- $2.97B
- $0.17B

`Lebanon
- $5.96B
- $0.67B
- $1.11B

TRANSACTION TYPE

- BUDGET
- DISBURSEMENT
- EXPENDITURE

Case study on data use:

Using IATI data to inform livestock decisions

"The Livestock Project Portal taps into open data from the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), to offer valuable real time insights on the activity of organisations working on livestock development. Users can explore who is working on what, where, and in some cases what data these projects are generating."

Vanessa Meadu, Communications and Knowledge Exchange Specialist for SEBI-Livestock

The Centre for Supporting Evidence Based Interventions in Livestock (SEBI-Livestock) mobilises and improves data and evidence to improve food security and livelihoods for small-scale farmers in low and middle-income countries.

SEBI-Livestock has created the Livestock Project Portal that uses IATI data to map the landscape of investments into livestock development. The tool offers important evidence for organisations working in this space.

The Livestock Project Portal was built in close consultation with Livestock Data for Decisions (LD4D), a network of over 700 livestock data producers and users, working to improve data and analytics for better decisions. The portal shares IATI data in formats that support a range of data users, including the following:

- **Funders** wishing to explore who is funding livestock projects at a global level with the aim of identifying funding gaps to allocate resources effectively

- **Governments** interested to find what kinds of investments and projects are being implemented in their countries so that they can coordinate activities and resources

- **Grantees** in the start-up phase of their investment who want to know who else is working on livestock projects in their target countries for advice on local contexts, or to find previous investments that may provide learnings before they start their new project

The Livestock Project Portal accesses data from IATI's Datastore API, which provides access to data published according to the IATI Standard after discovering IATI datasets through a Google search for livestock data (see p.14 below on Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) work undertaken in 2022).. In early 2022, IATI implemented Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) for the data in the IATI Datastore, enabling IATI data to be discovered via Google search. This has broadened the reach of the initiative, with the result that IATI data is now more easily discoverable by organisations such as SEBI, who were not aware of IATI until they searched for livestock data and found IATI datasets.

IATI Strategic Plan Objective:

Drive a significant improvement in the quality of data published to IATI

To ensure that IATI data is useful, the Strategic Plan has an important objective of improving the quality of the data published. In 2022, the IATI Secretariat continued to offer a range of support to organisations who wanted to improve the quality of the data they publish to ensure it is useful.

IATI Data Quality Index Consultation - phase 2

In 2022, the second phase of IATI's Data Quality Index (DQI) consultation began. The DQI is a new index proposed through the Strategic Plan that aims to measure the components of IATI data that matter most to the IATI community.

As with the first phase of the DQI consultation (delivered in 2021), the second phase attracted a wide range of feedback on IATI Connect and via two virtual consultations for:

- **Part 1 -** Timeliness, Frequency and Validation (February - March)

- **Part 2 -** Data Completeness (March - May)

The third and final part of the DQI phase 2 consultation on Weights and Measures was postponed in September as part of a wider decision by IATI's Governing Board to pause activities with a medium- to long-term horizon until new hosting arrangements for the IATI Secretariat were selected in 2023 (see page 18: Governance and Membership, for more information).

Improving validation

The IATI Validator is a key online tool that checks if data complies with the rules of the IATI Standard. In 2022, the Validator tool and API were improved to more easily identify errors and to allow more data to be accessed via the IATI Datastore.

The Validator was updated to run checks on data at a more granular level by implementing Activity Level Validation. The Validator previously assessed activity 'files' (which contain multiple activities) and if any data in the file was critically invalid then no data in the file would be available to users of the IATI Datastore. However now the Validator individually assesses each activity contained within activity files and excludes only activities with critical errors.

This change responded to demand from the IATI community to have as many activities as possible made accessible via the IATI Datastore. This is also the approach followed by many community-built tools and services. By implementing activity-level validation, the IATI Datastore provides as much usable information as possible, whilst still upholding standardisation.

Support provided via IATI Helpdesk

IATI's Helpdesk continued to provide dedicated support to organisations requesting assistance to publish and improve their data. The IATI Secretariat and Technical Team also provided support through one-to-one calls to existing publishers and organisations interested in publishing IATI data for the first time. In-depth publisher support calls were held with USAID, Institute of Development Studies, British Red Cross, UNFPA, UNEP, ILO, the World Bank and others. In addition, the Technical Team contacted over 100 publishers that had started to register their organisations in preparation to publish, but had not yet completed the process. This contact has so far led to 15 new organisations becoming IATI publishers.

IATI Strategic Plan Objective:

Strengthen the IATI Standard by consolidating its technical core, maintaining its infrastructure and reinvigorating its community of publishers and members
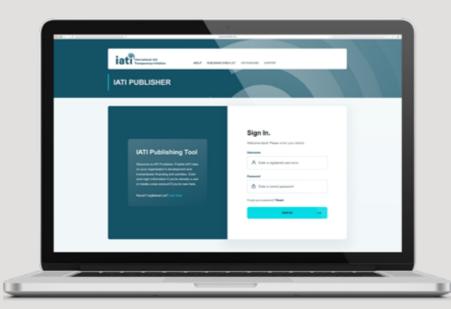
In 2022, IATI's Technical Team continued to respond to users' needs by developing improved technical services and tools to support publishers and data users.

IATI Publisher tool developed

During 2022, IATI's new publishing tool was developed by the IATI Secretariat and Technical Team, through a contract with software provider Young Innovations. IATI Publisher (launched in January 2023) is a new online tool that enables organisations to publish data according to the XML format required by the IATI Standard. The new tool has been designed to be simple and intuitive, making publishing easier for organisations and has a range of benefits:

- It is free to use

- Has clear explanations of data fields in the IATI Standard together with links to useful guidance

- Enables data to be provided either by completing online forms or via CSV file using the tool's Bulk Upload feature

- Runs automatic checks for errors (via the IATI Validator) before publishing data

Launch of new Datastore API and Datastore Search

In January, the IATI Technical Team launched its new Datastore API on IATI's Unified Platform, fulfilling a commitment to members to integrate IATI's Datastore in-house. **The new version of the Datastore API has the following features:**

- The API is built to a higher specification;

- It has lower costs and greater efficiency than was possible with previous versions;

- It updates in less than 24 hours; and

- It can return activity, transaction and budget data filtered by any element or attribute in the IATI Activity Standard; and returns all valid activity data for each activity.

The Technical Team also completed the development of the new Datastore Search (see page 9). Search Engine Optimisation was implemented, enabling IATI data to be discovered via Google search. This has led to IATI data being found by more organisations that were previously unaware of the initiative (see Case study Using IATI data to drive livestock decisions: see page 12).

Since the launch of Datastore Search, the Technical Team has delivered several minor version releases with enhancements such as Excel-optimised CSV downloads, easier to use codelists, clearer error messages, and better dropdown and text fields.

IATI Validator

The Technical Team also made improvements to the IATI Validator (see page 13) to respond to feedback from users. In Phase I of this work, the team updated the Validator tool to run checks on data at a more granular level by implementing

Activity Level Validation. In Phase II, the Validator API was also enhanced to show critical IATI XML schema errors inline at an activity level.

Accompanying this major improvement in the Validator, the Technical Team also improved the user interface of the tool, making it easier to search and navigate and to filter/view validation reports.

IATI Registry improvements

The Technical Team also implemented important improvements to the IATI Registry, which contains a repository of links to every IATI data file published. The Registry now shows the Validator 'status' of all activities, enabling organisations to see if their datasets contain errors that need to be fixed. The Registry also now has a feature to alert publishers if the URL to their IATI data set does not point to an XML file (as the IATI Standard requires data to be published in XML). Finally a new feature was implemented to enable the Technical Team to search for pending publishers.

Maintaining d-portal

During 2022, essential maintenance was undertaken on IATI's search platform, d-portal. The Technical Team worked with the tool's supplier to upgrade the server, and the website's headers were adjusted to ensure CORS (Cross-origin resource sharing) compliant servers are able to securely retrieve data. Planned work to develop a new version of d-portal was postponed as part of the wider decision by IATI's Governing Board to pause activities with a medium- to long-term horizon, until new hosting arrangements for the IATI Secretariat were in place in 2023 (see page 18: Governance and Membership for more information).

Governance and community

The IATI Strategic Plan 2020 - 2025 sets out several cross-cutting action areas which are essential for the initiative to meet its objectives. They include goals and activities relating to outreach and engagement to IATI's members, community and other important external stakeholders, as well as executing effective governance of the initiative.

Outreach and engagement

In 2022, the initiative accelerated efforts to reach and re-engage a range of important IATI stakeholders, specifically targeting stakeholders in partner countries to demonstrate the vast progress made in improving both the quality and accessibility of IATI data.

By delivering three in-person workshops (in Rwanda, Nigeria and Thailand - see page 8), the IATI Secretariat has generated renewed interest in the initiative from across governments, civil society organisations (CSOs), and development partners based in partner countries. Not only have these workshops led to more stakeholders understanding the potential value of using IATI data, they have led to a surge in interest in IATI membership. This is attributed to effective engagement before, during and after the workshops, and a thorough demonstration of the value of IATI data for stakeholders at the country level. The IATI Secretariat held biannual virtual information sessions to promote IATI membership to interested organisations, whilst continuing to respond ad hoc to similar requests received from time to time.

Outreach to UN stakeholders

In 2022, the Secretariat sought to raise awareness on how UN stakeholders can benefit from using IATI data to support programme governments in harnessing the power of development finance. A briefing was created to set out the 'offer' of IATI and it highlighted that UNDP

Case study on outreach

Government of Lesotho becomes an IATI member

The Government of Lesotho joined IATI formally as a member in October 2022. Lesotho's membership followed their participation as an observer in the IATI Partner Country Members Workshop (May 2022, Kigali, Rwanda). At the workshop they took part in IATI training, discussion and networking together with existing partner country members.

The Government of Lesotho had been using IATI data for several years in their Development Cooperation Report, which provides an annual systematic review of external financial flows into the country. However, following the workshop, where they presented their use case to IATI members, they were convinced that membership of the initiative offered the government added value, and decided to join.

As a new member, Lesotho says it is committed to promoting the use of IATI data to stakeholders in other partner countries. The Government also says it wants to be an "active member" by attending community and membership events.

Country Offices and UN Country Teams (UNCTs) could gain detailed information from many types of development assistance providers in their support to government-led, country-level processes. Such processes included Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs) and the development of United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSCDFs). With the support of the Secretariat, the government of Turkmenistan successfully used IATI data to inform its Development Finance Assessment, the first step in the INFF process. A number of other countries have requested similar support in 2023.

In 2022, IATI also established valuable connections with UN DESA's Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), the officially-mandated space for discussion on development cooperation amongst UN member states. Like IATI, the DCF seeks to generate data and evidence to increase the effectiveness of development resources in partner countries. IATI, and UN DESA co-hosted the 2022 regional workshop in Bangkok, Thailand (see page 8), recognising that both have common aims and target audiences. Alongside in-depth IATI training, the participants learned and discussed DCF recommendations on strengthening their aid information management systems and wider development cooperation management. The DCF sessions were informed by the biennial DCF Survey exercise, which has provided evidence of the effectiveness of international development cooperation since 2009.

This collaboration opens the doors for future opportunities for IATI to work closer with UN DESA and the DCF on influencing important stakeholders, and for higher visibility of IATI with UN member states.

Engaging IATI's Community

IATI's Strategic Plan 2020-2025 includes a commitment to "reinvigorate its community of publishers and members".

During 2022, IATI's membership and wider community engaged in a range of activities delivered by IATI's Secretariat.

Two Virtual Community Exchanges (VCE3 and VCE4) were held in June and November, which showcased promising IATI use cases, promoted collaboration amongst IATI's community and hosted high-level speakers. For example, the keynote speech at the VCE4, was delivered by Mr. Augustus Flomo, Deputy Minister for Economic Management, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning at the Government of Liberia. The Deputy Minister shared Liberia's development data needs and described how IATI was helping to fulfil them.

In total, the two VCEs attracted:

- 548 registrants

- 57 speakers, and

- 18 sessions on development and humanitarian open data and transparency issues.

IATI Connect

During 2022, the number of accounts on the community platform, IATI Connect increased by 30%. The IATI Secretariat continued providing support to existing groups on the platform and launched new groups upon request. For example, the IATI Members Group was launched, where the Governing Board shares regular updates on governance related matters with more than 100 group members. A new automated calendar was also provided on IATI Connect to share relevant upcoming events to the wider community.

On IATI Connect, 9 vlogs (called IATI Connect Stories) were published with organisations from IATI's community who wanted to showcase their IATI work. Over the year, interviews were conducted across a range of organisations, from government agencies, to academics to civil society organisations.

Governance and membership

IATI is run by its members who govern and fund the initiative through membership contributions. Any organisation committed to improving the transparency of development and humanitarian resources can join IATI as a member.

IATI's newly elected Governing Board met at UNDP Headquarters in New York on 28 - 29 April 2022 (and virtually)

In March, IATI members elected its Governing Board for a new two-year term. The Board appointed a new Chair: Henry Asor Nkang from the Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Government of Nigeria; and Vice-Chair: Thea Schepers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. The new Board met for the first time at UNDP Headquarters in New York on 28 - 29 April 2022 (and virtually).

The Governing Board introduced new virtual 'IATI Board Drop-in Sessions', inviting IATI members to discuss existing and upcoming governance issues. The Board also engaged IATI members via a new Members group on IATI Connect. At their meeting in November 2022, the Board also decided to set up three working groups: a Technical Working Group; a reinstated Data Use Working Group, and a Publishing Working Group. The groups are to be set up in 2023 and aim to strengthen the voices of IATI members and Community in key decisions and activities of the initiative.

IATI Hosting Arrangements

The Governing Board continued the process to secure hosting arrangements for 2023 as the mandate for the current hosting consortium of UNDP, UNOPS and Development Initiatives was set to expire at the end of 2022.

The Governing Board, with a newly established Institutional Working Group of IATI member representatives) developed two sets of Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the hosting of IATI, with one focused on Policy and Technology (Host), and the other on Operations and Legal (Provider). An open selection process invited proposals against the ToRs from IATI's wide ranging and diverse community of stakeholders. The organisations of the current hosting consortium were also encouraged to bid. By the end of 2022, the selection process was on track for new hosting arrangements to be identified in time for a vote at IATI's Members' Assembly 2023 (March, Copenhagen).

To ensure a smooth transition of responsibilities to the future Secretariat hosts, the Governing Board approved a revised 2022 workplan and budget. This involved pausing planned activities with a medium- to long-term horizon until new hosting arrangements for the IATI Secretariat were in place in 2023. The workplan also introduced a range of transition activities for the existing hosts, such as documenting institutional knowledge. To manage the process of transition, the Board also recruited a Transition Manager to work with existing and future hosts in delivering all transition activities. For more information on IATI's Transition Budget and Workplan, see IATI Financial Report 2022.

Looking ahead

During 2023, new hosts will deliver Secretariat services for a period of five years. The Governing Board is scheduled to conclude the selection process by mid-March (with IATI members voting on the new hosting arrangement) and the new host(s) expected to take up their role from June 2023.
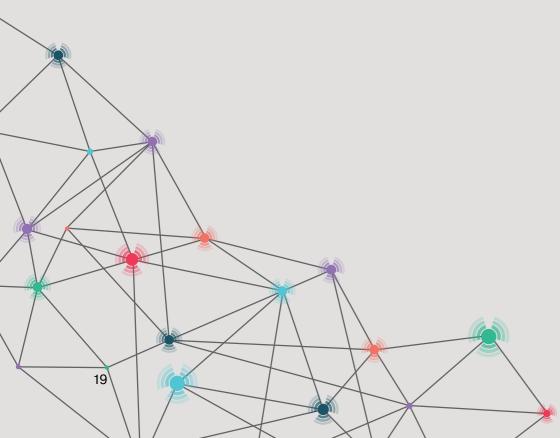

A strong priority for the initiative is to ensure a smooth transition of responsibilities from the existing and new Secretariat, with little or no disruption to IATI services. The Governing Board will work closely with the IATI Transition Manager to ensure a successful handover is achieved.

Although much of the focus for the initiative will be on the hosting transition, IATI will continue to maintain and foster online and in-person engagement with its valuable stakeholders. This includes training and follow-up sessions for the participants of the 2022 partner country workshops, ensuring that their journey to use IATI data continues to progress. The initiative will also return to delivering community events in-person. In March, the Members' Assembly 2023 and a Community Exchange takes place at UN City, Copenhagen. It marks the first in-person event for the community and membership since the start of the Covid-19 Pandemic (with virtual access provided for participants preferring not to attend in-person).

IATI will also continue important work to deliver online training for understanding, using and publishing IATI data. While preparations started in 2022, in 2023 a 'pilot course' for a new online IATI Academy will be launched. The course will be offered on IATI Connect, primarily for civil society organisations wishing to use IATI data to inform work on accountability, coordination, advocacy and funding opportunities.

In 2023 the Governing Board plans to strengthen the voice of members and IATI's community through three working groups that will focus on improving IATI's technical, data use and publishing services. The Board will also lead a mid-term review of the IATI Strategic Plan in 2023, to ensure that IATI remains focused on delivering its key objectives and understands what action is needed to bring the initiative closer to implementing the ambitious Strategic Plan by 2025. This activity was deferred from 2022 to prioritise the hosting selection process.

Annex: IATI Annual Report statistics and methodology

All budget, spending, humanitarian, SDG, and Covid-19 data presented was pulled from the IATI Registry on 1 February 2023. This data was processed using both Python and R studio. Climate and gender data were pulled from IATI Datastore Search on 1 February and 8 February 2023 respectively. The number of organisations publishing to IATI presented in the report was counted as of 1 February.

Budgets: Activity budget data has been analysed in t he report. When an original and revised budget has been reported for the same period, only the revised budget has been used. Data for budgets commencing in 2023 reported as of 1 February 2023 has been analysed. Only budgets with recipient countries reported at the activity level have been included.

Spend: For the spend analysis, transaction types (3-disbursement and 4-expenditure) with transaction dates in 2022 have been analysed.
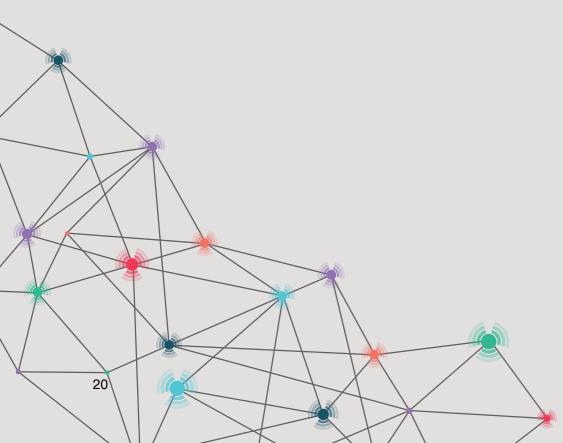
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): For the SDG analysis, SDGs reported at the sector, tag, and result indicator levels have been used. All activities including SDG data as of 1 February 2023 have been counted.

Humanitarian: Activities have been classified as humanitarian if the humanitarian flag has been used at activity level. For the analysis of GLIDE and HRP, any activities that have used the humanitarian scope element and humanitarian scope vocabulary 1-2 (GLIDE) and 2-1 (HRP) were included. Emergency and appeal activities numbers have been counted by using the humanitarian-scope type.

COVID-19: Activities or transactions are included in the analysis if they follow the guidance on Publishing data on COVID-19 using the IATI Standard.
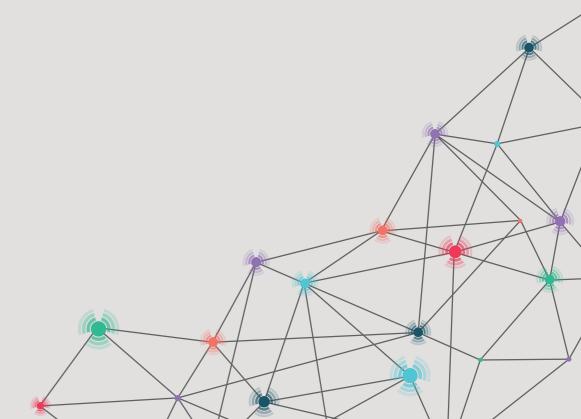
Climate action: Climate data was pulled from the Datastore Search on 1 February. Data for activities pertaining to climate change adaptation and mitigation were collected. Activities were included in this classification if they included the policy marker code 6, "Aid Targeting the Objectives of the Framework Convention on Climate Change - Mitigation", or policy marker code 7, "Aid Targeting the Objectives of the Framework Convention on Climate Change - Adaptation" as a "principal" or 'significant' objective.

Gender Equality: Gender data was pulled from the Datastore Search on 8 February. Data for activities pertaining to Gender Equality were collected. Activities were included in this classification if they included the policy marker code 1, "Gender Equality" as a "principal" or "significant" objective.

Acknowledgements

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