**IATI surgery – Mon 16:15-17:30, Room 3**

**Led by Mandy Burrows, David Carpenter and Steven Flower**

*This was an open discussion for anyone to raise issues around implementation or any questions related to it. Questions are in italics*

Collecting the data to start with was raised as an issue. Help partners to collect data to manage and report to donors. Also important now to report to IATI registry. A lot that’s not necessarily relevant to CSOs – what’s the core sector?

Basic activity level activity identifiers, etc – country in which organisation based, then registration number.

Herman Van Loon (Dutch MFA) – said that for their implementation they focused on what they could do, as a phase 1. First part is easy, second part is harder...

***Validation*** *of xml currently quite loose – more robust validations? Any areas that people have found interesting or challenging...?*

HVL – how to publish on receiving organisations, how to get organisational identifiers right (challenge) – just built DAC reporting module. Forward-looking information is critical, political issues – lots of work to do.

*How have people used* ***IATIstandard.org****...?*

Example of xml standard downloaded, added some columns to see where taking information from, and how it would be used. (Lars Barasinski)

Basic validation – does it validate against the schema? Can say in implementation schedule i.e not publishing transaction level data within 12 months, is this compliant? Probably. Difficulty of saying whether data is compliant...

**Compliance** is against what you say in your implementation schedule – the mechanism for feeding back. As long as there is a clear explanation why things aren’t there, and when they will be there, that seems ok. Also have bear in mind commitments already made, such as Busan commitments.

How to close the feedback loop of responding to data, making changes etc to improve the data. How to continue the loop and make it happen quickly – next step.

‘Data quality assessment tools’ rather than compliance.

Staff are looking at website, cleansing the data.

Definition of level of activity – units of aid

*How to choose what the* ***unit of aid*** *should be?*

Can start at one level, and then go down to more detailed level.

Example – where they took their DAC codes from. Each contract could be a project in itself

Nicholas George (UNOPS) – A project for them not as broad-based as for a donor country. Wanted to give transaction as every type of data.

Make it clear in implementation schedule how you define that – the implementation schedule is a living document, you can change it if necessary later on.

Unit of aid always context specific.

*Processes for* ***publishing*** *on website, and notifying the registry – as a concept and practically?*

Automatically updated on the IATI registry (happens overnight) – monitors what is published on your own website. Also RSS feed to see what files have been updated.

Jorge Seoane from Spanish government spoke about difficulty and length of time uploading multiple docs – DC replied that there’s now a bulk upload tool to automatically upload them all.

*How do publishers know if people are using your data, are you tracking it?* Not at the moment. Might be useful when management ask if it is any use! No-one seems to be currently tracking use/downloads of file.

When **code lists change**/**parts of standard change**, hasn’t been great in past – thoughts on version control/changes to standard. Standard migration script only please!

Not been helpful in past, no notification of changes – no response to emails.

Not open/transparent – no announcements, discussions, consultations – must be better for an international standard. Timeliness needed in consultation of changes, and giving plenty of time to do this.

**Traceability** is key element to bring resources and users together. Need some kind of measure of whether we are getting better at traceability.

Useful to have process of standard revision to see how many people can do it, too much frequent change can put people off*.*

Any thoughts on how IATI fits in with the financial accounts of the company...IATI and accounts won’t fit – done on different basis.

Recently able to match disbursements with commitments.