

## Draft report: IATI Technical Advisory Group 2018

13-15 November, Kathmandu

This report is a draft and participants are invited to submit additional discussion and action points not already reflected by emailing [support@iatistandard.org](mailto:support@iatistandard.org)

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) 2018 was held in Kathmandu on 13-15 November 2018 and gathered IATI's technical community in Asia for the first time. The meeting:

- attracted IATI's highest number of registrations - almost a 25% increase from TAG 2017;
- engaged in Nepal's rapidly expanding open data community;
- promoted the relevance of the Standard in a humanitarian crisis, specifically relating to the Nepal earthquake 2015;
- strengthened the commitment to IATI at the highest level of government - with Nepal's Minister of Finance opening the meeting; and
- established important relationships across the region, for example with the Government of Viet Nam and the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation in India.

### Core objective: Using IATI data in a country context

The [TAG 2018 meeting objective](#) focused on improving the systematic and routine use of IATI data to help achieve sustainable development outcomes, in line with the five themes of the [Data Use Strategy 2017-19](#). As with previous meetings, the three-day agenda was led by IATI's community who delivered sessions to discuss key challenges, showcase their work, and strengthen future collaboration with participants.

#### Theme 1 – Awareness Raising

With over 60% of participants attending their first IATI meeting, the TAG 2018 raised basic awareness about the benefits of using IATI data. Introductory sessions such as using the IATI data visualisation tool [d-portal.org](http://d-portal.org), helped generate interest from participants in using the data. For example the Ghana Institute of Journalism now plan to create an IATI learning module for trainee journalists and UN Environment plan to train their project managers on using IATI data to better inform the planning and coordination of programmes.

#### Theme 2 – Data Quality

The TAG 2018 provided valuable insights on the data quality issues that users encounter. One of the most cited issues was on the need to improve the availability of geolocation data. Discussions and best-practice was shared on addressing well-known issues, including double counting of transactions and improving harmonisation between data published by a donor HQ and their country offices (casestudy provided by UNICEF and Madagascar). USAID shared recent work on improving their data quality by rolling up their small administrative and operating expense activities into larger activities.

#### Theme 3 – Tools

Publish What You Fund used the TAG meeting to launch [IATI Decipher](#), a new tool that specifically visualises data published in the IATI Organisation file, allowing users to easily view

organisational-level information. Key discussions took place on how the community could build tools to visualise results data, and IATI's technical team met with Zimmerman and Zimmerman in the fringes of the meeting to kick off the IATI Datastore project.

#### **Theme 4 – Guidance**

Development Gateway showcased a new IATI Tool Guide, funded by the IATI Data Use Fund. The tool guide helps user groups identify which tools are relevant for their needs, and provides guidance and examples on how to use them. In the session participants were also provided with guidance on a number of new tools available.

#### **Theme 5 – Aid Information Management System (AIMS) Integration**

Development Gateway showcased their enhanced IATI import tool and the government of Nepal learned more about how to integrate IATI data into their new AIMS. A key issue raised by the Government of Rwanda was on the varying level of support amongst different AIMS providers. He called for the IATI community, AIMS providers and governments to work together on this issue.

### **Other key discussions/actions**

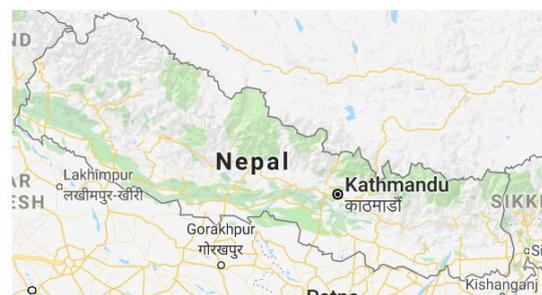
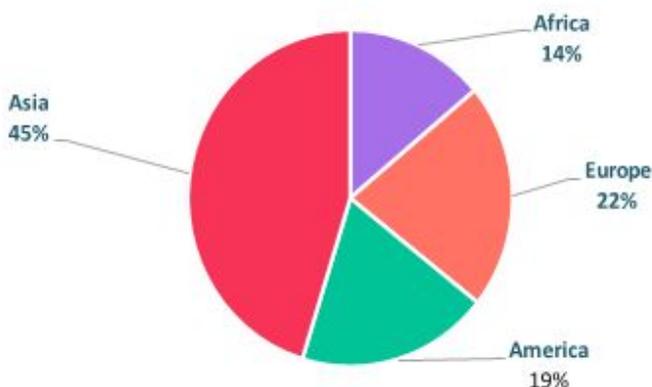
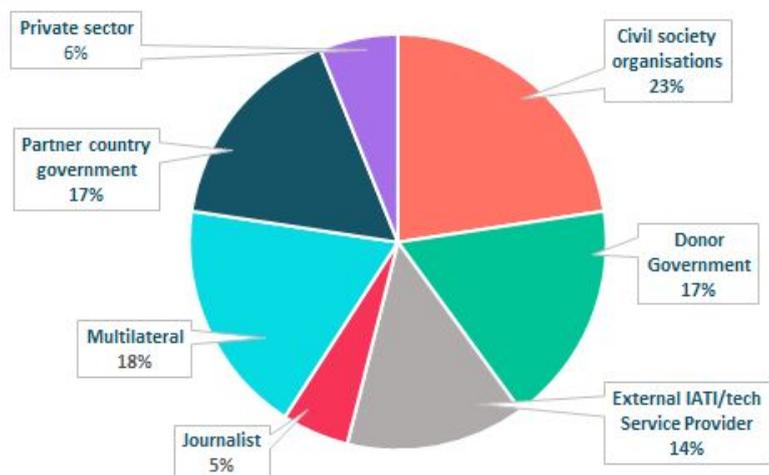
At the TAG meeting, participants also held discussions and planned future actions on other key IATI issues:

- **Deprecation of IATI Standard version 1** - The TAG community agreed that version 1 of the Standard should be deprecated by 30 June 2019. The IATI technical team will then no longer support publication at version 1, however the deprecated version would not be deleted. Publishers still using version 1 were urged to move to using an updated version of the Standard.
- **Establishing an SDG reference group** - Participants agreed to set up a reference group to share, develop and review good practices, with a view to building guidance on publishing data on the resources and results of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **Technical team priorities** - the IATI technical team set out their work on improving the IATI Standard with new rulesets, consolidating the Standard's Single Source Of Truth repository and providing a translated version of the [iatistandard.org](http://iatistandard.org) website into French. Their upcoming priorities include supporting the build of the new IATI Datastore and developing the Terms of Reference for a new IATI validation tool.
- **Publishing and using humanitarian data** - participants took part in an interactive session on how IATI data can improve coordination and relief efforts in the context of humanitarian crises, using Nepal earthquake as an example. Presentations were also delivered on the efforts made by Grand Bargain signatories in committing to transparency as well as progress made to date on integrating IATI with UN OCHA Financial Tracking Service. Publishing organisations were encouraged to put themselves forward as possible candidates for the 'next' phase of the FTS-IATI pilot

- **Growing collaboration with the private sector** - Microsoft Philanthropies presented their work on collaborating with IATI to create an extension to their common data model for the nonprofit sector. A key outcome of this effort will be to improve interoperability and data transparency.
- **Changes to the IATI Standard**
  - A number of sessions discussed potential changes to the IATI Standard. These included how to link budgets between activity and organisation files and make better use of budget data.
  - Participants explored the current issues with hierarchies caused by the lack of guidance and different organisation perspectives. Participants concluded that the IATI community needs to agree the purpose of hierarchies, before a technical solution can be found.
- **Technical priorities for IATI strategic planning** - IATI Secretariat coordinator, UNDP presented in plenary the process of developing the initiative's three year strategy (2020 -23), including how the TAG can feed in their views. A kick-off meeting gathered initial views on technical priorities for the strategy. Participants discussed how IATI continues to keep-up with and benefit from advances in tech, learns best practice from other data standards and works on interoperability to ensure it remains relevant in the development and humanitarian open data sectors.

### TAG 2018 meeting participant breakdown

The TAG meeting represented a diverse community of publishers, developers, data users and transparency advocates from across the globe, with significant local representation from government, donors and civil society organisations.



48 participants from Nepal