



Key topics in transparency

International Development Sector Transparency Panel
Abercrombie House, East Kilbride
5th March 2015

Purpose of discussion

To review DFID's current priorities and next steps in transparency, and discuss the Panel's ambitions for the international transparency community in the next three years.

Progress to date

DFID publishes data to IATI once per month, including a description, the location and budgets of our projects, as well as details of incoming and outgoing funds for each. Documents including business cases, annual reviews and logframes are also published for many of our projects. We were ranked second in the [Aid Transparency Index](#) in 2014.

Our IATI data is used on [Development Tracker](#), which visualises the UK Government's ODA spend to make it more accessible and interpretable to citizens in partner countries and to UK taxpayers. Data from some other Government departments, including the Department of Energy and Climate Change, and DFID's implementing partners is also included.

DFID is working with our partners to ensure full traceability of our expenditure. We are assisting more government Departments to publish IATI data, and have introduced a requirement to publish in all new contracts with private suppliers and centrally-funded civil society organisations (CSOs). By October 2014, approximately 60% of CSOs receiving funding through UK Aid Direct and the Civil Society Challenge Fund, and approximately 95% of those being funded through Programme Partnership Arrangements, were publishing.

In common with other government Departments, we also publish data on all expenditure over £500, Ministerial travel and interests, and staff organograms and pay details.

Current priorities and next steps

Data quality and quantity

We believe continuing to improve the quality and quantity of our data is crucial to harnessing IATI to improve development outcomes. We plan to focus on the following areas to do this:

Geocoding

Continuing to promote geocoding internally and amongst our partners to increase the number of projects coded.

Document publication

Ensuring all projects publish the required documents (logframes, annual reviews and business cases), and that these use plain English and are understandable to the public.

Traceability

Continuing to drive traceability down our supply chain by assisting our suppliers and partner-CSOs to publish and to ensure their data is high-quality and meets our [minimum standard](#).

Data usage

Whilst more and more organisations are publishing comparable, accurate data, there remains little evidence that IATI data is being used to encourage accountability and improve development outcomes; this is particularly true at a community level. We are considering the following work to help tackle this:

Developing data use case studies

With Integrity Action, developing case study examples of the use of aid data at a community level to improve development outcomes

Development Tracker

Undertaking an exercise to gain feedback on the Development Tracker to understand both who is using it, and how it is being used. Longer-term, to develop better visualisations and improve the level of detail available.

Suggestions for discussion of DFID priorities:

- How should we make choices between priorities? What should the balance be between data quality/quantity and encouraging usage?
- What should be our future priorities?
- What are the gaps in our current plans?
- What are the other key challenges and risks?
- How can the Panel influence others to do more?
- How else might we meet the key challenge of using open data to improve development outcomes?

Ambitions for the international community

An open discussion around key areas in transparency, Panel ambitions for the next three years, and how we can achieve these.

Prompts for discussion

- What will be the most important issues in the global transparency agenda in the next three years?
- Three years from now, what would the Panel hope the international transparency community will have achieved?
- How can the Panel and Department encourage the international community to work towards these goals?
- What will be the biggest barriers to these ambitions and to progressing transparency more generally?