IATI and Aid Transparency at USAID

WHAT

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. IATI is an open data standard and a technical publishing framework that allows data to be compared across a wide range of publishers including traditional bilateral donors, multilateral organizations, foundations, and civil society organizations. IATI requires two types of data files to be published in Extensible Markup Language (XML) format; an organization file, which is used to describe the reporting agency/organization, and an activity file, designed for reporting the details of individual development cooperation activities/projects.

CORE PRINCIPLES:

- **Increase transparency and accountability**
- **Improve the efficacy of development programs**
- **Publish data quarterly**

In November 2011, the United States became a signatory to IATI. Late in 2012, the U.S. Government published its IATI implementation schedule and first IATI-compliant data files, which included a timetable and frequency of data publication as well as an overview of the types of data to be published.

In Spring 2015, USAID also began working on a cost management plan which outlines a four-phased approach to fulfill USAID's IATI commitments, elaborating on the necessary requirements (for example, political movement/discussions, technical work, system upgrades), estimated level of effort, and proposed timeline for implementation. USAID implemented Phase One of the plan earlier this year, including reporting an additional 16 IATI data elements, which resulted in USAID moving to the "Good" category in the Publish What You Fund Aid Transparency Index mid-year review. USAID will begin work on Phases Two and Three in Fall 2015 which will amend USAID's current reporting structure to streamline and further institutionalize USAID's quarterly reporting process to IATI, and allow the Agency to report on an additional 11 IATI data elements. These changes will bring USAID much closer to fulfilling its IATI commitments.

WHY

Increased transparency will improve effectiveness, efficiency, reduce burden, strengthen evidence-based learning, and support anti-corruption measures. Quality information and timely reporting about development cooperation is helping all stakeholders—governments, civil society organizations, private citizens, and donors alike—to manage and monitor aid resources more effectively.

HOW

USAID data is available at www.iatistandard.org. Data can be downloaded in XML or CSV format which can be opened in a standard spreadsheet application. Information on how to use the data can be found at www.iatiregistry.org/using-iati-data.

CONTACT

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