International Aid Transparency Initiative

IATI DATA USERS COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE
DRAFT CHARTER

Version : 30 November 2020

This Charter is a foundational document for the IATI Data Users Community of Practice (COP). It has been designed by members of the COP to lay out its thematic scope, guiding principles and ways in which it intends to provide value. The Charter is an informal, adaptable and highly flexible document that reflects the current needs and preferences of the COP. In referencing this document, IATI COPs should be understood to be ongoing communities around standing areas of thematic interest, determined by members of the COP themselves. Membership of IATI COPs is open to anyone with an interest in the subject matter. The digital platform IATI Connect *has been developed to support all COPs' virtual engagement.*

GOALS

The initial goals of IATI's Data Users COP are defined as follows:

- **Build a network of support** for COP members to better understand how to access and use IATI data; and how to reconcile IATI data with national data and other global sources, both for country-level decision making and accountability and for global research and analysis. This will include peer-to-peer engagement mechanisms, as well as direct support from the IATI Secretariat.
- **Help shape the IATI Standard and IATI products and tools,** ensuring they take into account the diversity of data use needs and perspectives by providing inputs to consultations on IATI Connect hosted by the IATI Secretariat[1].
- Utilise the IATI Data Users COP as a **mechanism for collaboration / peer learning on enhancing the use of aid data (IATI data and other development cooperation data)** in decision-making, policy-making and budgeting more widely.
- **Membership of the Data Users COP is open to anyone with an interest in the subject matter.**

COMMUNITY NORMS AND PRINCIPLES

The following are primary guiding principles and community norms considered especially important for the Data Users' COP:

- **Inclusiveness and recognising the need to ensure space for a diversity of data use needs**, including from partner country governments, civil society actors, researchers, journalists, etc. This may necessitate creating spaces within the COP to accommodate these specific needs.
- **Collaboration and cross-fertilisation amongst COPs**, ensuring that discussions and activities are not solely confined to the Data Users' COP, but, where relevant, bring in expertise from members of the wider IATI community.

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[1] *Note: Inputs from the COP are considered as recommendations and will feed into the formal process of strengthening the IATI Standard and digital estate that will be undertaken within IATI's official governance mechanism (e.g through a formal Working Group, with approval by the Governing Board or Members' Assembly). As such, these inputs should not be seen as binding, but will constitute an important input into these strategic discussions.*

- **Provision of a mutually beneficial space** for data users and IATI, where knowledge-sharing and other value is gained by COP members and IATI is also able to source information on how to meet the needs of key data users.
- **Transparency** to ensure that all shared information is open and freely accessible to all.
- **Membership** of the Data Users COP is open to anyone with an interest in the subject matter.

IMPACT

Success of the Data Publishing COP will be predominantly assessed by:

- **KPIs / metrics** - e.g. by measuring the contribution of the COP to the wider IATI Strategic Plan Results Framework, to the extent possible.
- The **number of actively engaged members**, e.g. through discussion threads or participation in COP activities on IATI Connect.
- Demonstration that **conversations in the COP have influenced positive change** for IATI or individual COP members.
- An increase in the **sense of a shared interest** and common identity (qualitative).

VALUE FOR COP MEMBERS

- **Shape and provide input into official IATI products and tools**, ensuring they are fit for purpose for the data user community and that a diversity of voices is present in their development.
- **Share successes and challenges with peers** and create a space where knowledge-sharing supports colleagues to better understand and use aid data.
- **Network with peers** for professional development.

ORGANISATION

The COP structure should be largely flexible and informal, however, the following preliminary organisational structure is proposed:

- Working with the support of the IATI Connect Facilitator (Secretariat member), the Data Users COP will establish a **small and voluntary "core team"** to help expand the community and support initial substantive work. This core team will work with the IATI Connect Facilitator to ensure inputs from the community are filtered into the governance mechanism / decision-making bodies of IATI, as appropriate. A light Terms of Reference for this volunteer group will be approved by the Governing Board. Nominations for these roles will be sourced through IATI Connect. There is also desire within the COP to explore how and if paid moderation roles could be beneficial to the COP.
- Any consultations held within the Data Use COP sponsored by the IATI Secretariat (e.g. to gain feedback on a specific issue, tool, etc.) should **conclude with a synthesis of conversations drafted by the Secretariat** that can be shared with the Governing Board, Members' Assembly or relevant Working Group, as and when appropriate, to ensure a relevant feedback loop between the COP and IATI's governance structure. To the extent possible, the governance mechanism (Board, MA, Working Group) should seek to respond to recommendations from the COP, including where they will be taken on board, and where they will be declined (and why).
- Members of the COP are also free to spearhead conversations on areas of interest, and the IATI Connect Facilitator will help ensure cross-fertilisation with other COPs and with the IATI governance mechanism, where

appropriate.

- In addition, the Data Users COP underscores the need for additional **substantive support by the IATI Secretariat** to ensure a responsive and well-organised community.

WAYS OF WORKING

- ❖ Following relevant demand, the COP may choose to host **'all hands meetings' at most every quarter**, in preparation for a dedicated space at the annual IATI Community Event.
- ❖ The Secretariat will share **regular updates** with the COP via IATI Connect as to ensure members stay up to date and have the opportunity to engage with the wider community.