Find organisations involved in humanitarian responses

Author of this query: IATI Secretariat

1. Query
Which organisations are involved in the humanitarian response in Lebanon?

2. Description
Source of query (hypothetical or actual): Local NGO looking to coordinate with other organisations.
Intended use of the data (hypothetical or actual): Find list of organisations to engage with who are supporting the humanitarian response.

3. Steps to access and / or analyze data

Data needed: Names of organisations

Data access tool(s) recommended:
● iati.cloud
● Windows version of Microsoft Excel (includes power query)

Steps suggested:

Part 1: Locate humanitarian activities happening in Lebanon
1. Using the iati.cloud, download humanitarian activities in CSV format. Most of these activities include the humanitarian flag and can be found by filtering activities for the inclusion of this flag.
   ○ In Core Filters, select Recipient Country as `LB: Lebanon`.
   ○ In Additional Filters, select Add Filter and select 'Humanitarian' and set the value to `1: True`.
   ○ In Output Format select one activity per row by selecting ‘Each Unique Activity’. In ‘Column elements to include: activities’ select ‘Participating organisation’ and ‘Reporting organisation’.
   ○ Note: further filtering can be done either in the Query Builder or by downloading all columns and then filtering in Excel. For example, by sector classification or activity date.

2. In Results, download all the data in CSV format. Note: you’ll need to change the setting under ‘Choose sample size’ from 50 rows to all rows.

   Further information can be found in the iat.cloud’s query builder user guide.

Part 2: Clean data
1. Check that your data has downloaded correctly. Do this by highlighting all the data and then adding a filter.
   ○ Check that the values in column ‘reporting_org_type_code’ are all double digit numbers. If not, select the rows which are no double digit numbers and delete these rows.
   ○ Highlight the ‘participating_org_narrative’ column. Using Find and Replace (ctrl+H), replace \n with a blank space, and double spaces with a blank space. Note: you may spot other inconsistencies which need to be cleaned/removed.

Part 3: Generate list of reporting & participating organisations

1. Column ‘reporting_organisation_narrative’ contains one organisation per row/cell. This can be turned into a pivot table to list each organisation once. This gives you the list of all reporting organisations.

2. Column ‘participating_organisation_narrative’ contains one or more organisations per row/cell. These need to be split out into separate cells before they can be turned into a single list.
   a. Copy the ‘participating_organisation_narrative’ column into a new tab.
   b. Highlight the column, in the toolbar at the top of the page select the ‘Data’ tab and choose ‘Text to Columns’.
   c. Choose the setting ‘Delimited’ and click Next. Then select just ‘Comma’. This will split the text in the column each time there is a comma. Click Finish.

3. Select all the split data, note there may be 20+ participating organisations for an activity so you may need to highlight more columns than expected.
   a. If using Excel on a Windows laptop, selecting a cell in the first column and clicking ctrl+a will highlight all columns with data.
   b. Once highlighted, go to the ‘Data’ tab, select ‘Get Data / From other sources / From Table/Range’.
   c. Create your table, specifying that your table has headers.
4. Power Query will open. This will allow you to easily manipulate the columns.
   a. Select all columns (ctrl+a).
   b. Select the ‘Transform’ tab, then ‘Unpivot Columns’.
   c. This will turn your many columns into a single column.

5. Close the Power Query window, choose ‘keep changes’, or ‘Close & Load’ depending on your Excel version.
6. Highlight the two columns and insert a pivot table.
   a. Add ‘Value’ in the ‘Rows’ box and this will create a list of unique participating organisation names.
   b. Add ‘Value’ in the ‘Values’ box and this will show a count of how many times each organisation appears in the downloaded IATI activities.

4. Result

List of organisation names

5. Caveats / Considerations / Challenges

- Organisations refer to each other differently in IATI data e.g. FCDO and Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office. This means there will be duplication within the final list of participating organisations.
- Data quality issues may also split names into different rows, you will need to sense check the data outputted.
- Using the ‘humanitarian’ filter on iati.cloud will pick up the majority of humanitarian activities. However, the search can be replicated to instead include: DAC humanitarian sector codes or the presence of a humanitarian-scope classification from organisations not using the humanitarian flag.
- Further work can be done to link organisations to the type of organisation e.g. local NGO or multilateral.