



Improving the visibility of local and national actors

13th October 2021

Background

The limited visibility of local and national organisations in humanitarian open aid data adds to the challenges of meeting and tracking the global commitments to provide more direct support to local and national actors.

Project launched in late 2020 - as part of DI's support to the Grand Bargain transparency workstream - to identify potential technical solutions to enable increased the visibility of local and national actors in IATI, without placing any additional reporting or technical burdens on those organisations.

Our pilot project on Somalia, aimed to identify existing data sources at the local and national levels and explore the potential for data interoperability with IATI data.

The first pilot phase has been completed and we're now seeking feedback on our recommendations and next steps.

Potential benefits

Our interviews identified that increasing the visibility of local actors in open data could have numerous potential benefits e.g.

- **Greater recognition:** Greater visibility could enable greater recognition of the critical role of local and national actors at the international level
- **Enhanced coordination:** Local and national actors could get a clearer picture of who is funding what, where and identify others working on similar issues
- **Enhanced accountability:** Greater traceability of funding and activities could enable greater accountability to affected people and tax-payers
- **Enhanced progress against commitments:** Donors could find information and build trust to meet Grand Bargain Localisation direct-funding commitments

Summary of data availability in Somalia

Local actors in Somalia are not easily visible in IATI alone, but by combining IATI and UN's Somalia 3W (Who, What, Where) data, we get a much richer picture of the network of aid actors, including the local part.

IATI: 80 organisations have published 1,076 Somalia activities since 1 January 2020

- all publishers are international
- a few local actors listed as implementing partners, but not well coded

3W: 153 organisations have published 23,943 Somalia activities in the latest monthly report

- many publishers are local actors
- other publishers often list their local partners and upstream donors

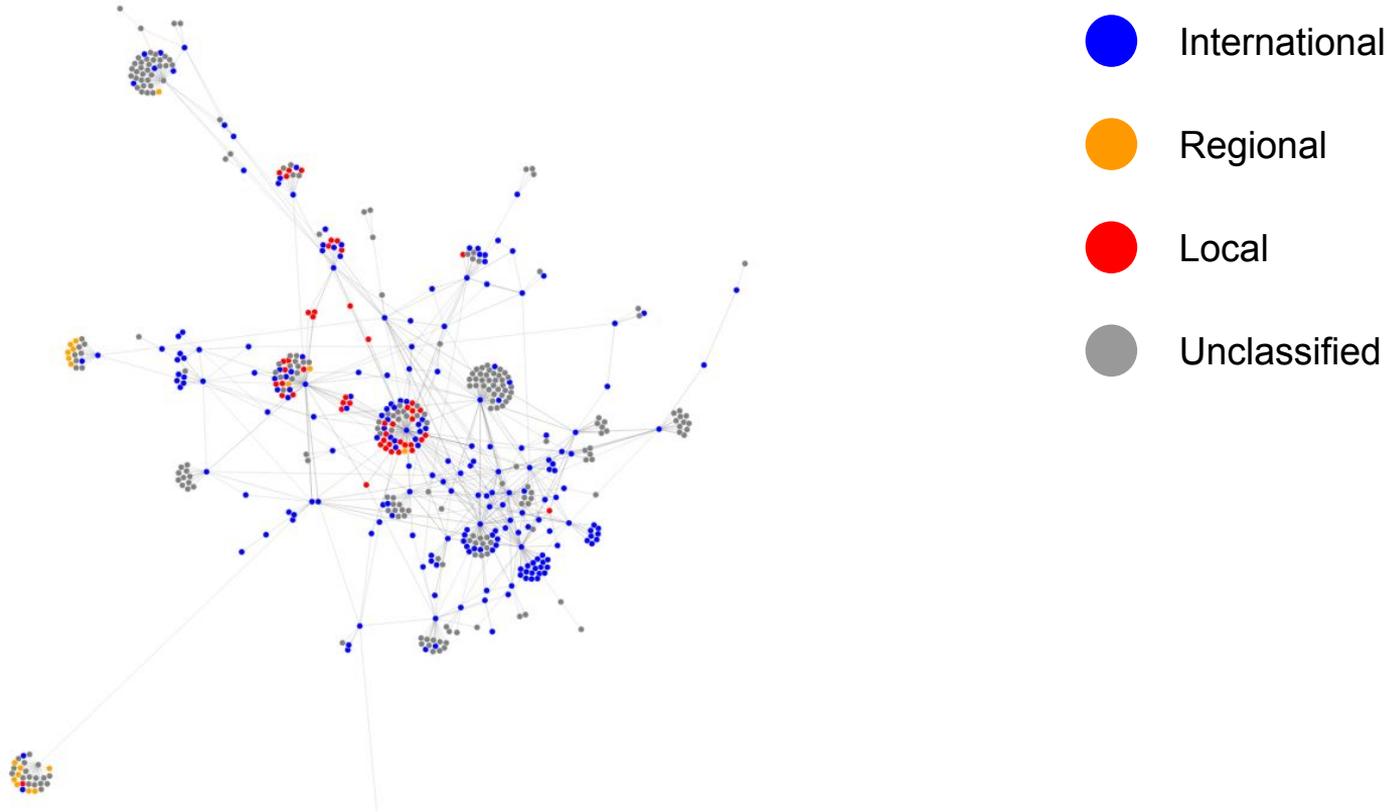
Where are the local actors in IATI data?

In 1,076 IATI activities for Somalia since 1 January 2020 (collected May 2021):

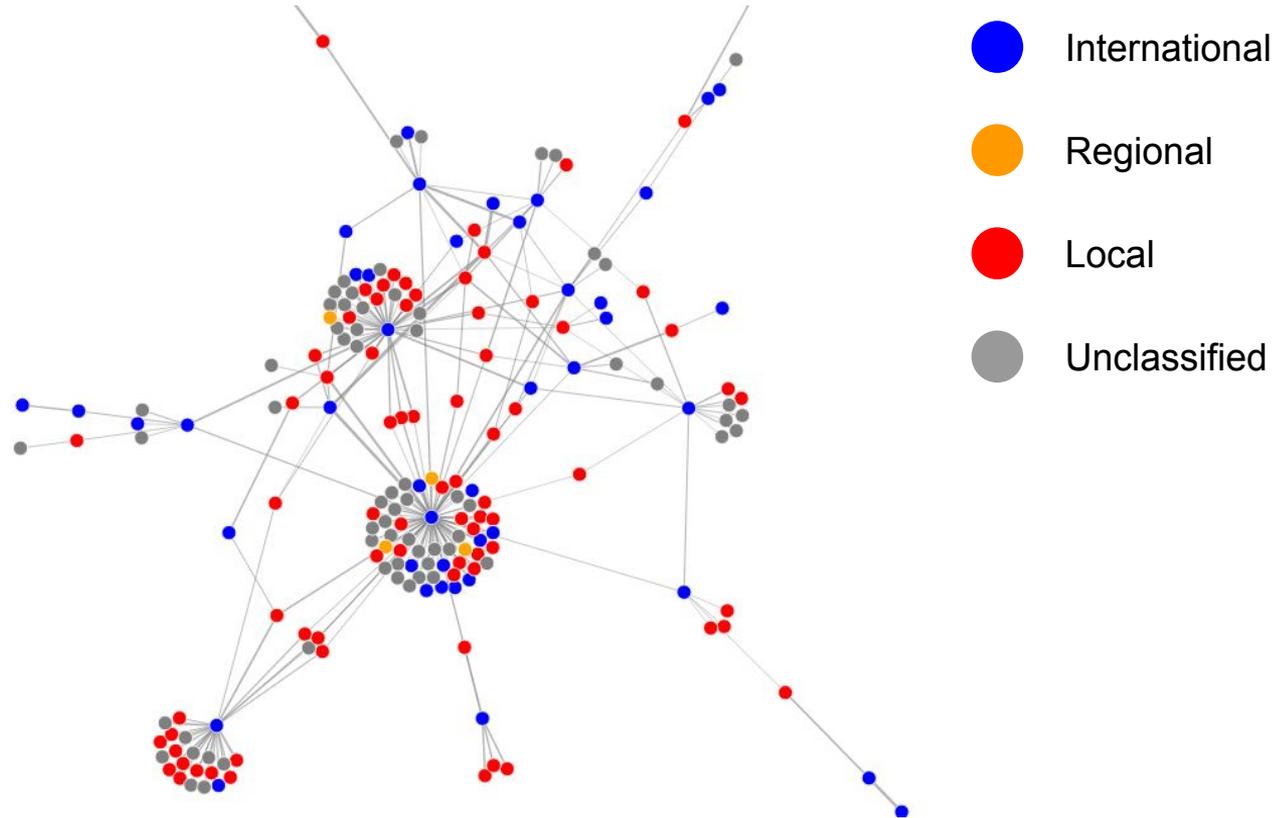
- none of the 80 **reporting organisations** identified itself as local
- a **participating organisation** was identified as local in 38 out of 3,822 mentions
- no transaction **provider** or **receiver organisation** identified as local, out of 17,215 mentions

But that's not the whole picture. There *are* local actors mentioned in IATI data, but not necessarily coded clearly.

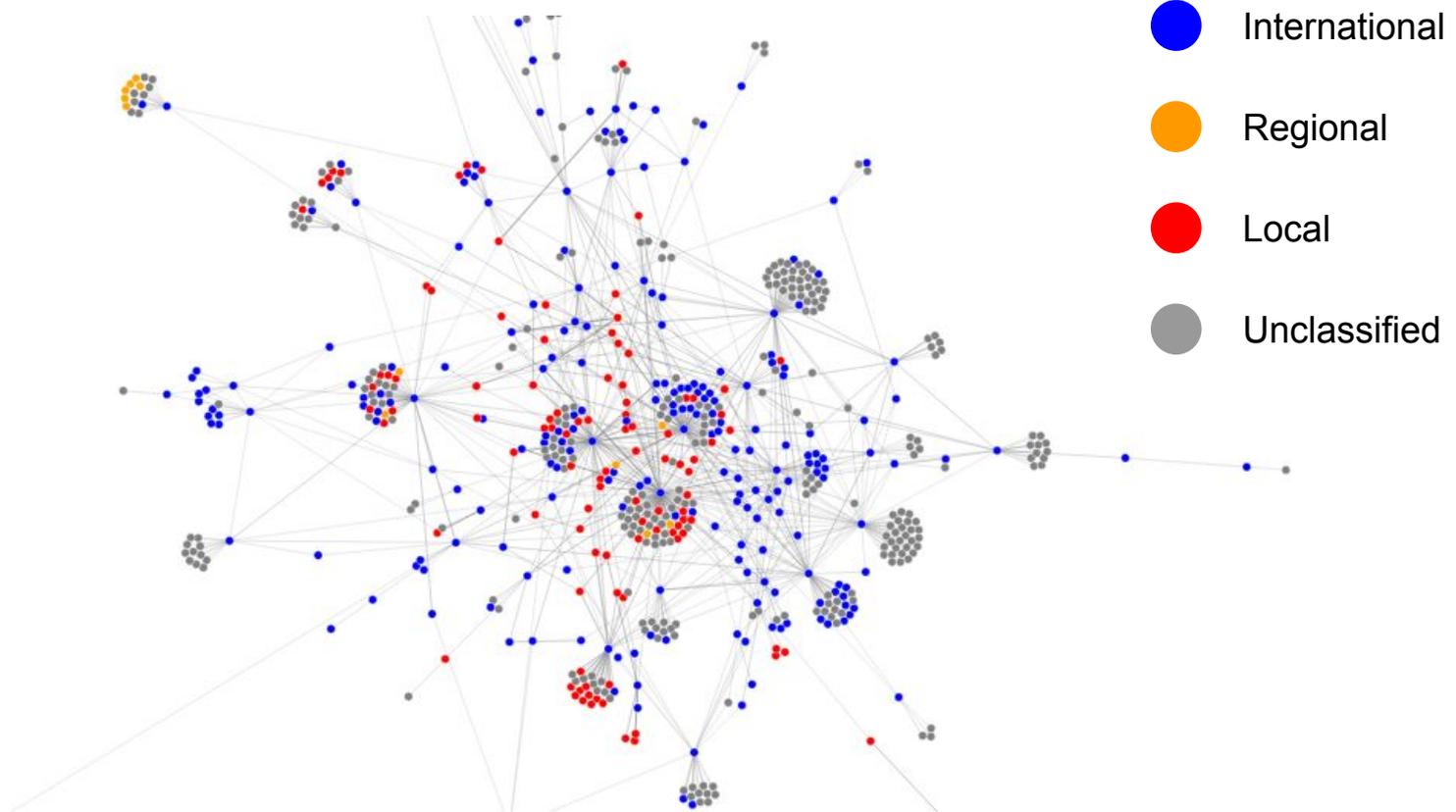
The IATI perspective



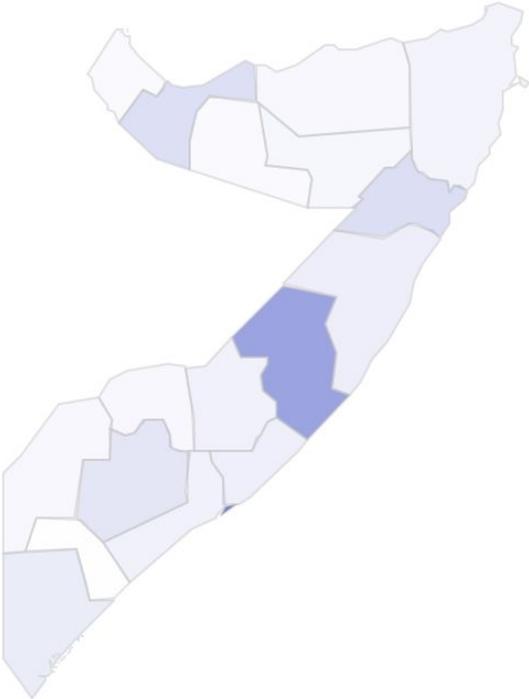
The 3W perspective



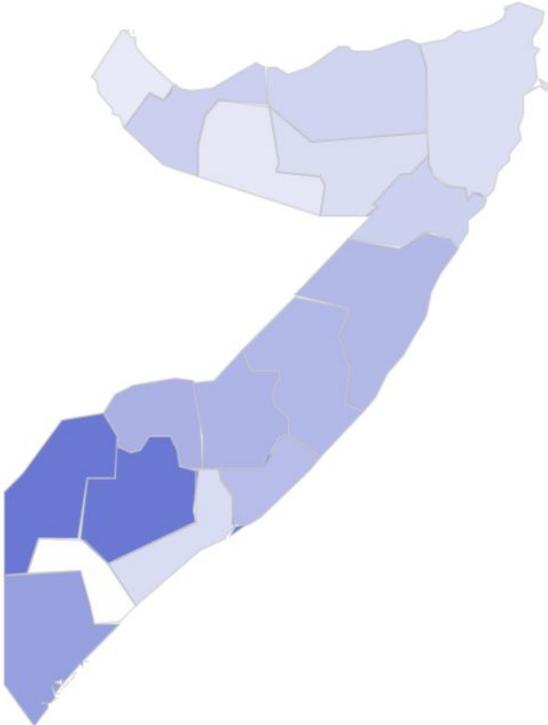
IATI and 3W combined



IATI for Somalia



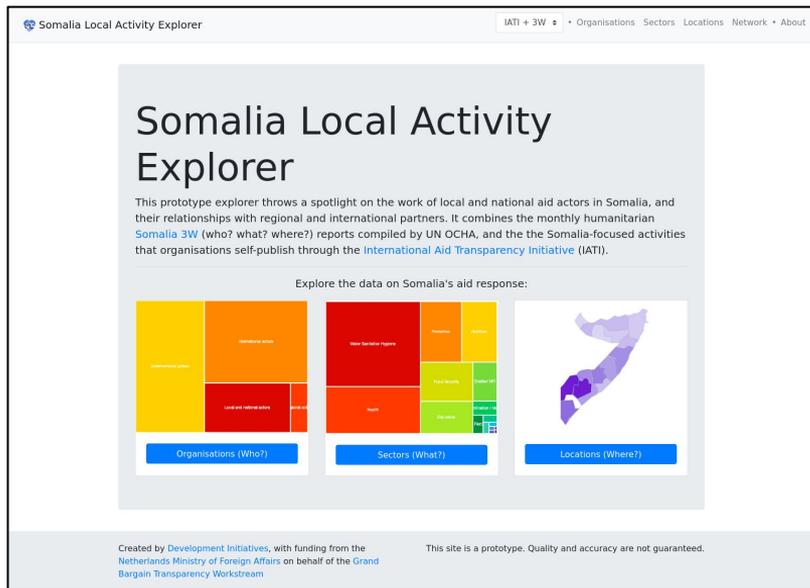
IATI+3W for Somalia



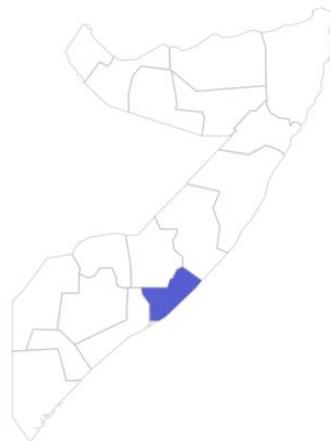
Darker = more activities

Our prototype

iati-3w.humportal.org



Regions where WOCCA works



Middle Shabelle Region (320 activities)

Balcad District
92 activities

Cadale District
38 activities

Jowhar District
186 activities

Recommendations

In order to increase the visibility of local and national actors, IATI publishers need to:

- Consistently state the name of your implementing partners
- Credit all local partners you work with for an activity, both as participating organisations at the activity level, and as receiver organisations at the transaction level.
- Label those organisations with an unambiguous local code from the Organisation Type code list: 24 (Partner Country based NGO) or 72 (Private Sector in Aid Recipient Country).

We also recommend some **enhancements to the IATI Standard** itself:

- Add unambiguous Organisation Type codes for Governments and Local Governments in the aid-recipient country (the current codes 10 and 11 can refer to a government or local government in any country).
- OR: significant improvement in (methodology and) use of organisation identifiers.

Next steps: identifying the value of and appetite for interoperability

We would go a long way to enhancing the visibility of local and national actors through the concerted efforts of IATI publishers to improve their publication.

However, the prototype identified some unique benefits of bringing together IATI and 3W data through enhancing the breadth of information on local activities whilst not increasing reporting burdens on local and national actors.

The process was very labour intensive and currently only connects the data on sectors and location, not activity. For interoperability to be more automatic and at an activity level, it would require significant investment:

- Standardisation of 3W outputs
- IATI publication to just above the level of the 3W data

Discussion questions

- Where should we take this next!
- What information is needed at / about the local and national level to enhance visibility, coordination, accountability and monitoring
 - can IATI alone achieve this or does 3W data provide us with valuable insights?
- How can we incentivise IATI publishers – especially traditional intermediaries like INGOs and UN agencies – to improve their publication
 - e.g. stating the name of the local implementing partners in their activities (as Oxfam-Novib does) and flag them as local (e.g. 24 – Partner country NGO)?
 - consistently using organisation identifiers
- How do we balance the need for more local and national level activity data with a desire to not create additional reporting burden on front line actors. Does interoperability provide part of the solution? Should we be considering a “last mile” version of the IATI Standard?

Thank you!

- Visit the Somalia Local Activity Explorer: <https://iati-3w.humportal.org>
- Provide your feedback: humportal@devinit.org

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