Using IATI data to analyse funding flows
ActionAid Bangladesh Covid-19 response in 2020

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Welcome!

Please make sure your Zoom display name includes your full name and organisation.

Ask questions via the chatbox

Live interpretation is available in (ENG), (FR), (ESP)
Before we start….

• This is not a fancy IATI data analysis piece!
  The primary purpose of this learning brief is to encourage other members of the ActionAid Federation to become IATI publishers by presenting a tangible and accessible data use, so we have kept things really simple.

• We haven’t followed ‘best practices’ in IATI publishing!
  We have started engaging colleagues in Bangladesh in the second half of 2020 and therefore the data publication wasn’t timely, but it served our purpose.

• We haven’t shared the learning brief internally yet!
  We are finalising the report design and we will share it with the rest of the Federation in the next few weeks. This means that we won’t be able to tell if the exercise has been successful but we are happy to take feedback and hear from others if they have had similar experiences.

• We won’t talk about AAB’s Covid19 response!
  The focus of this presentation will be on how the brief came about, how we produced it, what we learned and how it will be used. We are also interested in hearing others’ experiences.
Some information about ActionAid

- **ActionAid** is a global federation including 40 members from around the world.
  - With the main headquarters in Johannesburg called Global Secretariat which supports and guides all members to achieve shared goals.

- **ActionAid’s mission**
  - To achieve social justice, gender equality, and poverty eradication by working with people living in poverty and exclusion, their communities, people’s organisations, activists, social movements and supporters.

- **Our work is driven by:**
  - Feminist leadership principles
  - Human Rights Based Approach
  - The Humanitarian Signature
  - Feminist Research Guidelines
ActionAid’s commitments to Greater Transparency and Localisation

- **ActionAid is a Signatory of the Grand Bargain since 2018**

- **Our work on Transparency**
  - Investment in dedicated resources (IATI Specialist at AAUK)
  - Awareness raising and training on IATI
  - Participation in external events
  - Active efforts to increase the number of IATI publishers within the Federation

- **Our work on Localisation**
  - Promotion of the localisation agenda through the Humanitarian Signature
  - Active participation in the forums promoting localisations
  - Influencing work through humanitarian policy publication promoting crucial role of women’s rights, women-led organization as well as women leadership in response to emergency
  - Work on monitoring funding flows to local women’s rights and women-led organisations

ActionAid’s actively participates in forums such as:
- Grand Bargain
- Charter for Change
- Core Humanitarian Standard
- Grand Bargain Friends of Gender
- IATI Members’ Assembly, Technical Workshops and Data Use Working Group
- BOND Transparency Working Group (UK)
The IATI Learning Brief

Objectives and aim of the report

- Present a clear use case for IATI data to encourage more Federation members to publish
- Showcase AAB’s commitment to localisation and partnership with WROs and WLOs
- Reflection and recommendations
The process

Step 1 – IATI training

Step 2 - Data collection and publication:
The learning brief is based on data extracted from the financial system by the ActionAid Bangladesh finance team. The data was collated using a template designed around IATI’s key fields, namely:

* basic project information: name, description, start/end dates, status, amount, participating organisations, local or national partners, etc.;
* budget information;
* allocations and disbursements to local partners;
* AAB expenditure.

The data was published using AidStream.

Step 3 – Desk based research on AAB’s local partners

Step 4 – Data analysis
We downloaded the data from AidStream and used MS Excel to analyse it and Power BI visualise it (although most graphs can be done on Excel).
## Our learnings

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<tr>
<th>Benefits</th>
<th>Challenges</th>
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<tr>
<td>Opportunity to extract information at portfolio level</td>
<td>Lack of prioritisation of data and information management across AA</td>
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<td>Preparing the data for publication can improve data quality</td>
<td>Organisation type ‘Partner Country Based NGO’</td>
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<td>Having evidence to support our commitments can contribute to strengthening partnerships</td>
<td>Inability to track funding flows to WROs and WLOs using the IATI Standard</td>
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<td>Data analysis does not require complex processes and tools</td>
<td>Lack of clarity about the use of gender marker</td>
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<td>We are getting ready to fulfil donor requirements</td>
<td>Suitability of IATI ‘tools’</td>
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<td>Publishing to IATI enables us to showcase our work on a well-known global platform and to foster collaboration, increase efficiency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publishing to IATI simplifies data analysis processes</td>
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How we will use the brief – ActionAid UK and Federation

● We have included recommendations addressed to Global Secretariat, AA Members who are IATI publishers and those who aren’t publishers.

● We have extracted some learning that we have used in our policy work around the future of the Grand Bargain.

● We will have an internal launch event and we will keep promoting the brief to generate more interest/engagement around IATI.

“The learning brief will allow us to increase reporting to IATI within the Federation members and contribute to our localisation and transparency commitments. This will create tangible proof of the strong and equal partnerships between ActionAid and its partners during humanitarian response. Moreover, the brief will emphasise the benefits of shifting the power to local organisations, especially women’s rights and women-led, such as more effective, efficient and gender-inclusive humanitarian response.”

Mike Noyes | Deputy Director - Humanitarian Policy and Practice | ActionAid UK
How we will use the brief - ActionAid Bangladesh

- It will help us rethink and refine our financial data management processes.
- It will help us consider further rollout of IATI publication.
- We will use it to highlight our contribution and progress on Grand Bargain commitments and the localisation agenda to different agencies and other stakeholder.
- We will use it as part of the evidence to showcase AAB’s transparency efforts.

“Being engaged in this process, we came to know about the initiative of IATI, its objective and process. We are sharing data of some projects but still many project to cover to mainstream this in the organisation. For that need dedicated human resource which is a challenge.”

Md. Abdul Alim | Head – Humanitarian Response | ActionAid Bangladesh
Discussion & Q&A
Thank you for attending and please get in touch if you have any further feedback or question

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