

UK Aid Match IATI Guide

What is the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)?

[IATI \(opens in new window\)](#) is a global, open data initiative that provides information on aid spending and effectiveness in one common standard of structure and format. A wide range of organisations use it, from donors and governments, to aid practitioners and project partners, to track aid spending.

The following film helps to [explain what IATI is and why donors require grant holders to publish to IATI \(opens in new window\)](#).

Compliance with a Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) accountable grant

FCDO places great importance on transparency compliance, and project information must be published every quarter, in line with the [IATI standard \(opens in new window\)](#) and FCDO's minimum requirements for publishing.

As Fund Manager for the UK Aid Match grant, we are required to monitor and provide support to ensure that UK Aid Match grant holders are IATI compliant over the project implementation period.

Please refer to Condition No. 40 of your Accountable Grant Arrangement (AGA) with FCDO or view it here:

The Partner will publish to the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standard on all its FCDO funding within six months of the start of this Arrangement. FCDO expects the Partner to publish to the IATI standard on all its non-FCDO funding and for Downstream Partners to publish to the IATI standard on their funding. The intention of this commitment is to allow traceability throughout the delivery chain.

A downstream partner is an organisation that receives disbursements from the main UK Aid Match grant holder for the implementation of project activities.

It is important to note that the first sentence in this transparency clause is contractually binding and MannionDaniels will be monitoring grant holder's timely publishing of their data on their UK Aid Match grant in line with FCDO's minimum requirements. Grant holders will be required to fill out a quarterly compliance statement as part of the quarterly claim submission and reporting process. This compliance form requires organisations to self-report their last date of publishing and provide the URL link to the relevant data set.

MannionDaniels will use this compliance form to check the project data is up-to-date and

meets FCDO's minimum standards. Non-compliance could result in suspension of grant payments until IATI compliance is achieved.

It is expected that grant holders support their downstream partners to publish where possible and MannionDaniels will provide support and guidance resources to assist organisations to support their downstream partners to publish their IATI data. Grant payment suspensions will not, however, occur for non-compliance of downstream partners. Grant holders are expected to consider the context in which their partners are working and detail whether there are any factors that will specifically prevent or limit the downstream organisation from publishing their data. MannionDaniels will make a note of these contextual details, as well as the ways in which the grant holder plans to support their downstream partners to publish and will share with FCDO for their records.

While it is also expected that grant holders publish IATI data on their non-FCDO funded projects, this will not be monitored by MannionDaniels.

The goal of IATI is to transparently reflect to the public, the development activities being undertaken across the delivery chain. The overarching purpose of IATI is to ensure that development resources are used more effectively and efficiently in reducing poverty, and recipient governments often use the data to map and plan what development activities are occurring or needed in their countries. Therefore, grant holders should consider their role and responsibilities within the development setting and how important it is that they are transparent and accountable to donors, taxpayers and beneficiaries.

IATI publishing can also be beneficial to the publishing organisation. When data is published correctly it will be visible on [D-Portal \(opens in new window\)](#) and [DevTracker \(opens in new window\)](#), FCDO's development portal. These two platforms visualise IATI data in a more user-friendly format. For example, D-Portal provides a search function and information by country or by publisher on development activities and budgets published to the IATI Registry. This search function can be used to find organisations or projects working in similar contexts and to potentially identify new streams of funding.

Journalists have also been known to use DevTracker when writing articles on development, therefore it is paramount that data is of high quality and up to date to ensure that the correct information is being communicated to the public. It is hoped that IATI publishing is perceived in this broader, more positive context than simply as another compliance mechanism.

Publishing your data and guidance resources

There are several ways in which you can convert your data into XML - the standard data format - so that it can be picked up by the [IATI Registry \(opens in new window\)](#). However, [AidStream \(opens in new window\)](#) represents the most straight-forward tool in terms of

actual publication. AidStream simplifies IATI publishing by offering a simple form structure to be filled out by publishers. The form fields can be filled in at the organisation's leisure, saved within the system, and then finally converted to XML and sent directly to the IATI Registry with a push of a button.

Bond provides the following useful resources for understanding and completing these first steps of IATI publishing:

- a [guide to the IATI Registry \(opens in new window\)](#)
- [clear and simple guidance on how to set-up and link your IATI Registry and AidStream accounts \(opens in new window\)](#)
- Bond's guidance resource on IATI identifiers - you will need to register both accounts with a unique organisation identifier code based on your organisation's registration details.

Annex A of this IATI Guidebook has been developed to simplify the publishing process for both grant holders and their downstream partners. The template follows the structure of the AidStream form fields and outlines the relevant fields that need to be completed to ensure your data meet FCDO's minimum requirements for publishing. Some consistent code fields have already been populated for UK Aid Match grant holders in Annex A, particularly the codes that you need to assign to participating organisations and transactions when referencing FCDO and MannionDaniels. Correct code referencing in IATI data is paramount to ensure traceability and correct attribution within the delivery chain. Your project data will not be visible in the correct places on DevTracker or may not pull through and link correctly in D-Portal if the relevant codes are not referenced against the required fields.

It is recommended that organisations populate the rest of the template and then keep it on record for their own and their colleagues' future reference. The idea being, if there is staff turnover, or the codes and references have been forgotten between quarters, anyone can refer to the template record for guidance and institutional memory. It is expected and highly recommended that grant holders share and discuss this template with their downstream partners.

While most grant holders tend to update their data through the simple form format of AidStream, there is also a mass upload function for transaction and results data within the system. MannionDaniels has created templates with instructions for both the results and transaction mass upload function. These can be shared with grant holder upon request.

MannionDaniels support

As Fund Manager for UK Aid Direct and UK Aid Match, MannionDaniels has a dedicated IATI contact for all grant holders, and the details are as follows:



Transparency and Operations Manager: Stephanie Schlipper
Email: stephanie.schlipper@mansiondaniels.com

Additional support

Bond

Bond, the UK network for organisations working in international development, offers a range of IATI publishing support resources:

- two hours of free 1-2-1 support via telephone or Skype. To arrange the free 2 hours support email: support@iatistandard.org
- one-day face-to-face introductory workshops on publishing to IATI in their London office every second month. [More information on this workshop \(opens in new window\)](#).
- Bond has also recently set up a flexible online IATI publishing training course that runs for around 8 hours over 2 weeks. This online course is particularly useful for organisations based in more remote regions or southern countries. [More information on this course \(opens in new window\)](#).

IATI Registry

If you have a question or issue with registering or publishing on the IATI Registry contact support@iatistandard.org.

AidStream

If you have a question or issue with registering or publishing through AidStream contact support@aidstream.org.