

Document updated as at January 20th to address feedback received from members (tracked changes removed)
IATI Theory of Change external and internal assumptions

Theme	Numbering	External Assumptions	Internal Assumptions	Possible Risks	Evidence ¹
Overall context/ achieving effective development	A1	<p>Inclusive partnerships, local ownership, accountability and transparency are key components for achieving goals including effective development, fighting poverty and achieving the SDGs.</p> <p>The international community continues to commit to improving quality of data for greater effectiveness in supporting the achievement of Agenda 2030.</p>	<p>The IATI community works together to increase the scope of open data to cover development resources and results.</p> <p>Improved understanding and use of IATI data by governments, development partners, CSOs and other stakeholders will facilitate achievement of all sustainable development outcomes. SDGs 1, 5, 10, 11, 16 and 17 are highlighted particularly as they have a data component.</p>	<p>Political risks (transparency/IATI/effectiveness is no longer a priority for key members of IATI)</p>	

¹ Examples of evidence: **Cross-agency final evaluation** of MDGs identifies increased availability of disaggregated data as a factor that particularly facilitated achievement of MDGs in the areas of gender equality and maternal health, eg an **impact evaluation** commissioned by DFID shows the proposed approach to X is associated with significantly higher rate of publication by countries, eg a **research report** published by Publish What you Fund identifies political peer pressure/expected future funding/XX as the factor most frequently identified by Government officials in YY type of country as driving their decision to join IATI, eg IATI 2015 **annual review report** notes IATI **secretariat staff experience** that delays in payment of IATI contributions directly limited ability to implement planned upgrades to system to enable additional field requested by new members in 2015, eg **anecdotal evidence** from IATI secretariat members based on discussions at X international seminar indicates some Governments prefer to access/publish data using N system and have not joined IATI because they see it as incompatible and therefore duplicating effort to publish to both.

Importance of transparency/ accountability	A2	<p>Transparency creates better feedback from beneficiaries to donors and taxpayers which drives trust and support of donor governments and taxpayers for continuing aid expenditure.</p> <p>Transparency enables all actors to see how development resources move through the system.</p> <p>Availability of open data increases coherence of development activities and reduces duplication amongst development actors.</p>	Transparency is critical to improving effectiveness and value for money of resources by making information about development spending easier to access, understand and use which enables taxpayers and citizens to more easily hold donors and recipient governments to account for appropriate use of resources.	<p>By trying to achieve both development effectiveness (by advocating for financial data to be fully published and used by partner countries to inform policies and decisions to reduce poverty), and functioning as a container for quality data- IATI risks having a diverse focus which makes it less effective and efficient in fighting poverty.</p> <p>The initiative might be considered donor-led.</p>	
Partnerships	A3	Engagement of key development stakeholders, such as governments, civil society, NGOs and the private sector, in	IATI's inclusive multi-stakeholder approach and diverse membership- means it can work across the breadth of development/aid/humanitarian and other actors, to capture a	Governance process fail to adapt to stay effective and efficient in the context of a growing membership.	

		evidence-based development dialogues increase the relevance and sustainability of the national development outcomes.	more diverse and useful range of data that meets the needs of a wider range of stakeholders.	A consensus driven multi-stakeholder approach might not be able to focus on IATI's core business	
Use	A4	IATI is seen as a reliable source of good quality data on development cooperation and other resource flows, especially in the context of Agenda 2030.	<p>Increased data use opens up to more opportunities for dialogue between users and providers of data, which in turn promotes improvement in the completeness and quality of the resource data.</p> <p>Use of IATI data by stakeholders, particularly partner countries, increases incentives to continuously improve the quality of future published data.</p> <p>The IATI system contains information that is relevant to the intended users, and is easily accessible.</p> <p>Targeted national stakeholders are interested in using the kind</p>	<p>Resistance to using IATI data by national governments because it poses a threat to existing data collection functions and jobs.</p> <p>IATI data does not meet the needs of potential users (is not forward looking, the quality is not good enough, data is not easily accessed) which severely limits its use and undermines IATI's credibility.</p> <p>The machine-readable data remains difficult to access and compare for the majority, (not</p>	Number of countries using IATI data

			<p>of data accessible through IATI.</p> <p>Targeted national stakeholders are aware of what IATI data exists and are using it to support decision-making and policy formulation.</p> <p>All stakeholder governments and organisations find value in using and improving IATI data.</p>	<p>technicians) of potential data users</p> <p>System integration is not in place at country level to enable IATI data to be imported into existing country systems (e.g. AIMS).</p> <p>Original assumptions around partner country data requirements are no longer valid, and the data is therefore not useful.</p> <p>Lack of awareness/misunderstanding of IATI data content and applicability, could lead to it not being used by national governments.</p>	
Data quality	A5		<p>As published IATI data provides more complete coverage of all countries the value and therefore the use of IATI data will increase.</p>	<p>Technical support capacity is not sufficient to help enough publishers improve data quality.</p>	

			The quality of IATI data is continuously being improved and responds to the needs of all stakeholders.		
Capacity	A6	<p>The IATI community is able to identify and reach the most relevant producers and users of IATI data to target with capacity building support.</p> <p>Capacity building support offered by the IATI community meets the needs of target users.</p>		IATI capacity building support does not fully address the needs or other barriers to use of potential producers and users of IATI data.	
Membership	A7	Transparency remains a high political priority which sustains peer pressure for all countries to become members.	<p>Members trust IATI and believe that membership equals value for money as well as political and reputational benefits.</p> <p>By letting members have a voice in the direction of IATI</p>	<p>Key stakeholders might not be members which has a negative effect on IATI and what it is able to achieve.</p> <p>Lack of engagement/non-</p>	

			<p>and an oversight capacity, exercising political influence-stable funding and a sustainable financial structure is ensured.</p> <p>IATI's good management, branding and its perceived value to global open data objectives contributes to maintaining its good reputation, which encourages more stakeholders to become members and publish. IATI attracts engagement from all key development stakeholders within Agenda 2030 (bilateral and multilateral donors, national governments, national and international NGOs, private companies, private foundations, financial institutions etc).</p>	<p>payment of fees of partner country members weakens the IATI use-case and leads to donors having more power in the initiative, reducing relevance of IATI to partner countries.</p>	
Coherence of open data Standards	A8	Effective collaboration with wider open data movement, and maintaining the interoperability of the IATI Standard,	Relevance of IATI Standard to data user needs in the context of the data revolution is critical for increasing IATI membership and continuing commitment to publish to IATI.	IATI and other open data standards are competing with each other and create a threat to incentives to publish and use open	

		maximizes the usefulness of IATI data and avoids overlap.		data.	
The IATI Standard	A9		<p>The IATI Standard was initially made for bilateral/ multilateral donors and national governments. Continuous evolution will help serve a changing development landscape and a wider range of publishing organizations.</p> <p>Relevance of IATI Standard to data user needs in the context of the data revolution is critical for increasing IATI membership and continuing commitment to publish to IATI.</p>	<p>Reduced support for continued evolution of the IATI Standard.</p> <p>Financial resources for technical development do not increase</p>	

Internal governance structure	A10		<p>A strong governance structure helps maintain a good reputation for IATI, through careful management and use of available resources to deliver the activities in its agreed work plans.</p> <p>Inclusion of a broad range of stakeholders including partner country representatives in the governance structures of IATI help to ensure that it remains relevant for all constituencies.</p> <p>Transparent and sound financial management of IATI ensures that members live up to their obligations and pay their membership fees on time.</p>	<p>Coordination between the five agencies in the Secretariat might lead to higher transaction costs and negatively affect operations.</p> <p>Challenges with capacity, connectivity or commitment of secretariat consortium members leads to imbalance in the decision-making processes.</p>	
IATI financial model and structure	A11		<p>The revised funding model will cover all necessary funding requirements now and in the future.</p> <p>Existing members remain committed to IATI and</p>	<p>The funding model does not sufficiently reflect the different budget realities of funders and their abilities to pay in full or on time, and activities</p>	

			<p>continue to contribute financially.</p> <p>Transition to long term institutional arrangement is timely and smooth. A sustainable funding and hosting model is in place by September 2018.</p>	<p>cannot therefore be delivered.</p> <p>Insufficient financial commitments by donors, which affect IATI's ability to achieve the set objectives due to lack of financial and human resources.</p> <p>There is insufficient investment in the technical infrastructure of IATI to accommodate increased volume of data from higher publisher numbers.</p>	
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