The Grand Bargain workstream 1 – Greater Transparency

DRAFT

The Grand Bargain recognised that greater (data-driven) transparency is essential for building trust, improving the visibility and accountability of donors and aid organisations and for enabling a more coordinated and effective response towards affected populations. In the light of the unprecedented scale and impact of the pandemic, digital platform and service providers are working together to improve data-driven transparency and tracking of the international humanitarian and development response to the COVID-19 crisis.

This document aims to provide an overview of what is currently being done and is based on initial conversations between digital platform and service providers and the Netherlands and the World Bank as co-conveners of the Transparency Workstream.

Collaborative initiatives to track the global COVID-19 response

- UN OCHA’s Financial Tracking Service (FTS) is tracking the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP), in addition to the overall humanitarian funding reported by donors and recipient organizations in relation to COVID-19. A new COVID emergency page has been set up which includes funding to UN agencies, NGOs, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and bilateral funding to affected governments. Any flexible funding provided by donors is being tracked on the COVID emergency page until organizations are able to determine whether or which part of the funding will contribute to planned activities/countries.

- WHO has developed a COVID-19 Partners Platform aiming at centralizing all operational information related to the crisis. Once registered, users can see incoming contributions/pledges for WHO appeals. It also allows Member States and/or operational partners to request funding from the appeal.

- The Centre for Humanitarian Data is bringing together partner data related to the COVID-19 response on the Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX) platform. The data from WHO, WFP, UNESCO, the World Bank and others is available through a dedicated COVID-19 Pandemic page which includes a visualisation showing the increase of COVID-19 cases and deaths in locations with humanitarian operations.

Addressing a data use gap: comprehensive tracking and visualisation

There is currently no comprehensive and up-to-date overview of humanitarian and development spending and activities on COVID-19.

As a pathway towards more comprehensive tracking, the co-conveners of the Grand Bargain workstream have brought together digital platform and service providers including WHO, UNHCR, OCHA, the OCHA Humanitarian Data Centre, OCHA FTS and IATI for an initial conversation. A prototype is being developed to visualize the overall response to COVID-19, including what activities are being financed in affected countries. This visualisation will initially be based on FTS and IATI data. It will soon be shared for wider feedback with the Grand Bargain transparency workstream to assess interest in taking the prototype to scale to provide insights on the international humanitarian and development response to COVID-19.
Aligning guidance on how to publish data and report on funding

UN OCHA, WHO and IATI have collaborated to align guidance on how to publish and report information on humanitarian and development spending and activities on COVID-19. These include using the same GLIDE and Humanitarian Response Plan codes as COVID-19 markers within their data.

Increasing interoperability and reducing the reporting burden

UN OCHA’s Centre for Humanitarian Data and FTS are supporting participating organisations (currently the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and member of the Dutch Relief Alliance, DFID, OCHA’s CBPF and UNHCR) in improving automated data sharing between organisations. They will be using the emerging guidance from IATI to further check, test and use published IATI data with the FTS system. New data that is explicitly referencing COVID-19 will be used to test the usefulness of the FTS-IATI ingestion module.

Publication of COVID-19 data to IATI

To date, 17 organisations have published data to IATI on their COVID-19 activities, including CAFOD, CERF, Denmark, DFID, EC (DEVCO and ECHO), the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Oxfam Novib and UNHCR. For more information on how Grand Bargain signatories are publishing their data, please see the IATI Humanitarian Data Portal.

How can donors and aid organisations provide a more comprehensive picture of the international COVID-19 response?

- Publish data on all humanitarian and development activities and spending using the IATI standard guidance for COVID-19 at least monthly and preferably daily, where possible.
- Report to FTS in a timely and accurate manner and using the aligned guidance, in particular on the allocation of funding across countries and to activities that are part of an interagency plan. Organisations are encouraged to verify that data they report to FTS mirrors their IATI publication.

Further information

WHO
- WHO Programme budget web portal: http://open.who.int

FTS
- COVID emergency page : https://fts.unocha.org/emergencies/911/summary/2020
- COVID GHRP page: https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/952/summary

Centre for Humanitarian Data
- https://data.humdata.org/event/covid-19

IATI
- IATI publishers are encouraged to review the guidance https://iatistandard.org/en/news/publishing-data-covid-19-using-iati-standard/ feed in to the consultation on IATI Discuss and contact the IATI tech team if they require support support@iatistandard.org
- D-portal: http://d-portal.org/ctrack.html#view=search
- IATI CSV Query Builder: https://iatidatastore.iatistandard.org/querybuilder/core-filters
- IATI Registry: https://www.iatiregistry.org/