

# Joined Up Data: Turning more data into better information

## Project Proposal

**2014**  
September

Development Initiatives  
exists to end  
absolute poverty  
by 2030



[www.devinit.org](http://www.devinit.org)

### The ultimate goal

All data producers adhere to an agreed international framework that sets out guidance to ensure all information published (national and international) can be joined-up at all levels. This will be possible when all datasets share a common time and space definitions that can be merged and compared: on one timeline and one map. As a result, all data users – civil servants, politicians, the media, civil society organisations (CSOs) and citizens – will be able to compare information on all resources going into and coming out of a country, using tools drawing on compatible, machine-readable open data sources. A true data revolution will have no data silos, resulting in interoperable, joined up information and thus exponentially improving development impacts.

### The barriers

Despite the potential that open data holds, it is important to recognise that data alone are not enough and that more data does not always mean better information. Data need to be combined, contextualised and explained in order for it to be turned into information that people (whether governments, politicians, businesses, CSOs or individual citizens) can act upon. For example, a health minister cannot effectively plan how to best programme a limited domestic health budget without complete understanding and information on resources available and where they are being targeted.

Key barriers to turning more data into better information for ending poverty:

- Data publication often meets the needs of producers rather than users of information; for example, published data are often aggregated, when many users need data to be as granular as possible;
- Data are often inaccessible and in formats and using language that many users don't understand;

- Data from different initiatives and different sectors are not comparable, and can't be joined up;
- Data are not published in a timely manner.

As a result, the ability to follow the money across international and domestic systems down to final delivery point is limited, preventing a complete picture of financial resources from being mapped and hindering the impact of development decision making. Furthermore, different users want to combine data from different sources to make them more meaningful for them and also provide a more holistic view. However, lack of standardisation and data silos prevents users from combining and contextualising the data in order to build a complete picture.

## The solution

Turning 'more data' into better information to end poverty requires two fundamental system shifts:

### 1) Joined up data

1. **Find the intersections:** Financial data, demographics, and social and economic indicators contain intersections that allow disparate datasets to be combined and for one to enrich the understanding of another
2. **Use the same definitions:** If the intersecting fields are commonly defined and categorised across datasets – i.e. global standards creating common reporting codes and protocols for time, money, geography, organisation identifiers and functional classifications – then joins between datasets become possible
3. **Do it the same way:** If the authors of standards and reporting languages adopt interoperable protocols it will become possible for these joins to be executed automatically. However, all standards and data collection bodies will need to adopt the same framework for this to be possible from the global down to the local level.

### 2) Improved access to information

1. **Clear analysis:** Useful data, particularly joined up data, are often complex, and extracting clear analyses and easy-to-understand narratives can be a challenge
2. **Informed translation:** Without the informed translation of data into information that has meaning for those who need to use it – most of whom are not skilled analysts – the untapped potential of the open data movement will not be met
3. **User need:** Lightweight collaboration, focussed on user need, is required to make sure data can be connected together and converted into accessible, relevant information as

easily as possible. Data has to be responsive to the requirements of the users – granular, comprehensive, timely and language-sensitive

This programme of work will seek to build the buy-in from all key global actors who are the main authorities on data generations (World Bank, IMF, UNStats, OECD etc) to deliver a new international framework which will allow data to be joined up. To do this we will need to work in both of the above two areas, application and building-blocks level, to a) build the political support and momentum for joined up data among target stakeholders who are essential in establishing a new data collection framework which will allow data to be joined up; b) demonstrate how data can be joined up (small prototypes in specific areas); c) establish an international framework required to improve data publishing; and d) inform data publishers of user needs and support the development of tools that make data more accessible. As part of this programme we will also assess the data available for joining up and determine if it is fit for purpose.

We will do this by working at two levels: the application layer and the building blocks layer.

- The **application layer** consists of activity-specific data frameworks. There are two types:
  - Publishing standards, such as IATI, Open Contracting, Humanitarian Data Exchange and SDMX, that prescribe formats in which data should be released
  - Mash-ups, such as OpenSpending, that provide a common format for developers to manipulate existing non-standardised data into comparable formats.
- The **'building-block' or global standards layer** consists of datasets and methodologies that define common approaches to the global reporting of data elements such as time, space, money, organisations, socio-economic activities, etc
  - ISO country, currency and language codes and date rules are examples of how good global data standards can function. Similar approaches are needed to define geographical areas, classification of activities (sectors), unique identification of organisations, etc
  - As in the application layer there are two types of approach: to agree on common standards, or to create usable mappings between competing standards

DI's Joined Up Data programme will seek to work at both levels to establish a framework which will allow all datasets to share common time and space definitions so that they can be merged and compared. We believe this is of particular development value for sub-national monitoring and planning. DI will not be joining up global data nor undertaking mash-ups ourselves, this can be done by others, but we will be undertaking a major stakeholder engagement project to create

a new global framework under which all data shall be collected to ensure it can be joined up. The mash-up community can then take the data and join it up as required.

## The context

The drive for open data and greater transparency is spearheaded by a number of global political processes and commitments, as well as local demand for information and data.

The World Bank and the High Level Panel (HLP) on the Post-2015 Development Agenda have both set the deadline of 2030 for ending extreme poverty (below \$1.25 a day).

The calls for more open data grow every day:

1. *"We need a transparency revolution, so citizens can see exactly where and how taxes, aid and revenues from extractive industries are spent."*<sup>1</sup>
2. *"We call for a data revolution for sustainable development."*<sup>2</sup>
3. *"Governments should publish information on laws, budgets, spending, national statistics, elections and government contracts."*<sup>3</sup>

The UN Secretary General has also set up an Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development, who will advise on measures required to close the data gaps and strengthen national statistical capacities. Their recommendations will inform the post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Transparency initiatives in sectors such as aid, extractives and construction as well as government budgets are leading to a step change in the amount of data being published on the resources that can help to end poverty. New technologies are making it easier to collect, publish and share information. Networks such as the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and standards such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), Open Contracting and the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) are taking hold. A growing number of governments and organisations are also adapting the way they do business, recognising that greater transparency and participation leads to more effective, efficient and equitable management of scarce public resources. Better access to information is enabling citizens to hold institutions to account and make more informed choices about their daily lives. In addition, more and more social impact data are becoming available to measure the impact of programmes and resources to improve development outcomes.

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<sup>1</sup> *HLP report section 4 of the executive summary May 30 2013*

<sup>2</sup> *HLP report section 5 of the executive summary May 30 2013*

<sup>3</sup> *G8 Lough Erne declaration June 18 2013*

As this trend accelerates, we also risk building ‘data silos’ within different initiatives and sectors. These data silos will prevent the tracking of money from source to locality; they will hold back comparing results data against spending data; they will prevent the complete mapping of financial resources at the international or national level; and they will prevent decision makers from fully utilising data to interrogate policies and programmes and inform better decisions. Furthermore, there is a real danger that, as the transparency of resources becomes increasingly important, different standards will be created that are difficult to align or data is published in non-standard formats. This will make it impossible to compare internationally – and therefore to hold global actors, such as multinational corporations, effectively to account – as well as within a country or community context.

For the data revolution to deliver real change, it is vital that the data disclosed is not only used, but used for the purpose of achieving the end of extreme poverty. This means building a complete picture that reflects the reality of people’s lives – combining information on financial resources with accurate service information, census data, poverty statistics, broader human development indicators, population demographics, administrative infrastructures, policy information (rights) and feedback from citizens – in order to deliver better results.

To maximise the impact of the global and national initiatives it is essential to ensure that the standards and data that underpin them are joined up and result in better information on all aspects of poverty. The user must be able to easily combine and re-purpose information from different sources to meet their needs.

## **Programme of work**

To make the shift from more data to better connected and accessible information, Development Initiatives (DI) have partnered with Publish What You Fund (PWYF) to develop the below proposed programme of work called ***Joined Up Data***. With our experience of working closely together on launching and institutionalising IATI as an international standard, we are familiar with the challenge of building a new international data standard. DI and PWYF play two different but complementary roles: DI is the ‘insider’ providing solutions on how to overcome practical problems and supporting governments, institutions and organisations to build support internally for opening up data and supporting them to do it. PWYF is the ‘outsider’ organisation, creating public awareness and political buy in at national and international levels for open, transparent, usable data and ensuring political commitments are made and adhered to.

The ***Joined Up Data programme*** will spearhead a global conversation underpinned by robust evidence and proof-of-concept work on how to join up existing global standards and establish guidelines for future standards and local initiatives. We will also bring sector-specific initiatives

(official data collection and open data) closer together, identifying priority areas for action in both governance and technical collaboration.

The activities outlined below form Stage I of a 4-year programme that seeks to reach the ultimate goal (as stated at the beginning of this document) at the end of the 4-year period. Stage II would follow-on at the beginning of 2017 (if all went to plan in the first two years) and would focus on delivering the recommendations of the Working Group established at the end of Stage I.

Stage I of the programme will be based around four specific phases of work:

- 1. Data and stakeholder analysis and feasibility study:** This first stage and the consultation stage of the programme will primarily focus on the building-blocks layer and specifically focusing on specific subject areas for example geographical areas. During this stage we will build a comprehensive stakeholder and data landscape analysis and publish a 'lessons learnt' document from the IATI standard; develop proof-of-concept models that cross-map data using international standards to show how data can be joined up. So for each subject specific area (sectors, geographic regions and organisations) we will produce a study that describes the problem, identifies all stakeholders and proposes a solution that leads to a consultation and a subject specific Working Group i.e. Africa regional working group. The stakeholder mapping work will identify the target stakeholders who will need to be represented on the Working Group, as well as identify potential blockers to joined up data. Other stakeholders will be identified who are 'enablers' and will assist in reaching our targets. At the early stage of the programme, an informal alliance of key stakeholders will also be established – the **Joined Up Data Alliance** – which would input into DI & PWYF's overall work, provide feedback on drafts, help brainstorm aspects of the strategy and also amplify the programme's advocacy strategy. DI is already in the process for formalising relations with CoST and Humanitarian Data Exchange and IATI to establish the basis of this Alliance. The Alliance will be expanded to include others, such as OpenContracting and EITI. All documents produced during this stage (and later stages of the programme) will be made public to ensure the community at-large can benefit and be informed by the analysis conducted. Information which may not be made public would include information provided confidentially by individuals/organisations and background intelligence gathering work and power analysis which would shape the advocacy strategy and may compromise the delivery of the programme if made public.
- 2. Consultations and engagement:** Produce a white paper emerging from the phase 1 activities setting out the plan on how to join up standards; undertake consultations with

both technical audience and policymakers to build support for the white paper and finalise using recommendations emerging from the consultations. The informal group will have been consulted during the drafting stage of the white paper for input.

3. **Development and delivery of joined up data:**

1. Technical-level development stage working closely with a few lead technical stakeholders to begin joining up different data standards following the consultations, including developing and testing an **International Framework** for joining up data.
2. In addition to advocating for the development of compatible data standards, there is an urgent need to make the best use of existing data through improved interoperability of competing standards. A joined up data online thesaurus will be launched –through which competing taxonomies can be compared and cross-referenced using linked data and simple knowledge organisation systems (SKOS) methodologies.
3. Emerging from the consultations will be a detailed strategic outreach plan to inform and build political support for joined up data standards, resulting in awareness-raising ‘roadshows’ that can be delivered globally to show what can be achieved and how standards and data are joined up.
4. Communication materials (FAQs, targeted briefs, brochures, etc.) aimed at non-technical stakeholders from multilateral organisations, governments and civil society.

4. **Joined Up Data Working Group:** A multi-stakeholder grouping, the Joined Up Data Working Group will include technical experts and senior level decision makers who are critical to start the implementation of joining up data standards globally and nationally as part of the global Data Revolution to support the implementation of the new SDGs. Group members will also include proponents of joined up data, and representatives from the Construction Sector Transparency Initiative (CoST), EITI, Global Initiative for Financial Transparency (GIFT), IATI, Open Contracting and OGP. It will also include individuals with an understanding of public financial management and the technical issues we are seeking to address. The Working Group will include sub-groups for geographical regions and subject specific areas to advance joining up data in specific areas. Membership of the group will be targeted and high level representation will be essential to ensure the success of the Working Group. It will remain focused and manageable in terms of its size and scope, with regular meetings on specific issues; but members will be encouraged to consult externally with their own networks and contacts

as appropriate. Many of the members will also have been part of the **Joined Up Data Alliance** grouping feeding into the programme from the early stage. The Working Group will be established with clear terms of reference to establish a global framework for collecting and publishing data which can be joined up and implementing the framework within the institutions. Upon established, we will aim to have the Working Group issue a declaration at a global moment that all future standards will be joined up.

The programme will split into two streams of work, the technical and advocacy. These two streams are complementary and in many cases programme activities will inform both work streams and, at times, converge. However, the division is important for clearly defining the outreach and public awareness campaign and what it will achieve, as well as developing the delivery of technical work without being distracted by and embroiled in discussions around the political barriers. It is essential to get buy-in from both the technical and political communities, as well as ensure their expertise and priorities are taken into consideration and recognised throughout this programme of work to ensure the final success of the project. Constant engagement with – and peer-to-peer learning with – both stakeholder groups will also build momentum for better and more joined up standards, as well as act as a ‘pincer move’ to tackle the issues from both directions. As a consortium, DI and PWYF are very aware of the importance of making sure political discussions are informed by technical detail and know-how, and that technical development is informed by political requirements. Therefore the two organisations will work very closely together to ensure joint delivery of this programme.

### **Technical stream**

The technical stream of work will be led and delivered by DI. With our wealth of experience of setting up and delivering the IATI standard, and the lessons we have learnt along the way, we are well equipped to manage a programme to define where international standards can technically be joined up to overcome data silos and increase their relevance and use for social impact.

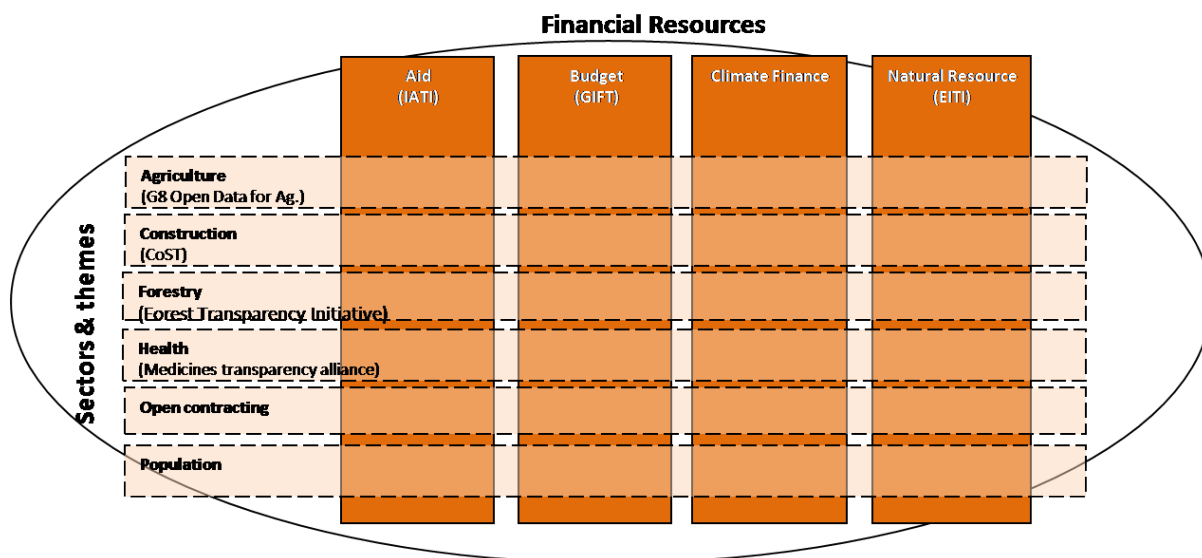


Figure 1: All global data standards currently gather data in their own silos. However, these data sets could be linked across the standards to ensure that all information about health, for example, can be accessed from all data standards and joined up across the same field types to ensure interoperability.

DI will firstly undertake an extensive mapping and analysis exercise to better understand where the possibilities for alignment are around existing standards, field terms and data platforms. The mapping and analysis phase will require a forensic approach to compare all standards and their datasets, as well as important datasets that are not currently standardised, to establish the similarities and differences. We will undertake joined up data pilots that cross-map data sets from key global standards and data platforms – for example, to check how UN geographical areas cross map against OECD geographical datasets, or how aid sectoral classifications align with domestic budget classifications. These will assess the feasibility of interoperability and identify where the challenges really lie at the micro level when data starts to be joined up. Once the data have been mapped, DI will test the pilots selected local areas (where we are already operational), to ensure the joined up data are and will be relevant and applicable for national and local decision makers. Linking joined up global standards to national needs and open data platforms will be critical in bringing to life the ‘Data Revolution’ to support the new SDGs.

This work will also be supported by continued consultation with the informal JUD Alliance and constant outreach to ensure all dots are connected and the pilot is fully tested by key stakeholders to ensure early level buy-in and support.

Whilst looking at global governance standards and how we join them up, DI will retain a critical eye on how they are relevant and useful at the local level. This will require constant engagement with local level actors through surveys and consultations to better understand what information they need from global data standards, how they would like to compare and contextualise this information and where the current barriers lie. To complement our global standards analysis, we will run small ‘proof-of-concept’ pilot projects at the national level to

explore how joining up global data standards and national level social impact data can benefit local decision making. As part of this, we will explore different ways of packaging and visualising joined up data to make it accessible and useful to decision makers and those looking to hold them to account. This will also help to bring the subject to life in order to engage key stakeholders in the subsequent consultation phase.

The analysis and cross-mapping work from both the data analysis and the political stakeholder mapping will feed into a **white paper** that will set out the policy plan on how to bring the data standards together, and why and how they will ultimately contribute to change. DI will be the main author of the white paper and instrumental in driving forward the consultations that will take place around it to build greater support and momentum for joining up data standards. The JUD Alliance will also be used to promote the white paper as well as other stakeholders and networks such as the Follow the Money Network, Transparency and Accountability Initiative, Governance Data Alliance, etc. The white paper will build on the work already done by DI in a scoping paper published in October 2013<sup>4</sup>, which suggested a building blocks approach to joining up data standards. The 2013 scoping paper looked at practical solutions to join up certain international data standards – i.e. [CoST](#), [EITI](#), [GIFT](#), [IATI](#) and [Open Contracting](#). The white paper will address the global framework required to allow for standards to be joined up and provide practical insights on how this can be done. It will be an important policy document that will inform discussions and build support around the need for joined up data. It will integrate the work already completed as part of the DI scoping study in October 2013 and build on it by providing much more depth and insight following a much wider consultation and analysis period.

**Consultations** will be conducted with both the technical (pre-paper technical consultations specifically with global organisations such as the IMF and UNSTATS to get early buy-in for the project) and political stakeholders around the white paper (more information about how we will approach the political audience is below). DI will also build a number of prototypes of small data set from different sources which demonstrate different subject-specific joined up data examples. For example the joining up sub-national geographic standards may be well illustrated by DI's Uganda district work (more information on this on page 19), joining up sectors could be demonstrated by aggregating IATI data into SDMX format and comparing it with, say IMF or national budget data. In each case, DI will be prototyping working data models that can be picked up and expanded upon by others. The prototypes will be used to showcase how joined up data is possible during the consultations. This will demonstrate the value of joining up data and ensure the conversation is grounded in practicalities.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://devinit.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/JUD-scoping-study-final1.pdf>

Emerging from the consultations will be a finalised white paper, setting out policy position on how to deliver the joined up data revolution as well as an implementation plan to undertake technical level development around the following areas:

1. **Global standards:** expanding on the building blocks approach, DI will identify core areas around which interoperable protocols can be developed between leading global standards where joins in data could be possible.
2. **Geographic areas:** definition and coding of supranational and sub-national areas.
3. **Sectors:** funding classifications of activities, flows and budgets.
4. **Cross-mapping tools:** resources to allow existing, competing standards to be mapped together.

As part of the consultations, we will seek to gain insight from data users about the tools and data they currently use to access the data and the barriers they encounter to bring data sets together. We are also very aware of the importance of scoping the users of the five global standards included in the 2013 study to better understand their needs and how they would like to use data from all the standards, both now and also in the future. A key objective of this project is to lower the barriers that prevent potential users from effectively engaging with data emerging from international standards and to use it more effectively at the local level. Therefore it's important that DI also engages regularly with the community of data users ensuring we test all frameworks developed. We will also explore the design and development of cross-mapping.

A major part of the first year work will be to develop the **Joined Up Data Online Thesaurus** which will allow the user to compare competing taxonomies of standards and cross-reference using linked data and SKOS methodologies.

Part of DI's work will be to promote the thesaurus and increase its use among target stakeholders.

**What is the Online Thesaurus?** Standards and code lists are controlled vocabularies of terms. A thesaurus is a networked collection of controlled vocabulary terms that uses associative as well as parent-child relationships between terms. The (SKOS) is the most well-established standard for relating and mapping terms across thesauri. A [Thesaurus Server](#) is an online platform designed for the creation and maintenance of SKOS thesauri. There are two steps involved in adding a standard to the platform. Firstly a standard's terms and definitions are loaded (keyed in or imported) into the thesaurus server's database. Secondly the terms in one standard are mapped to terms in other standards through simple drag and drop procedures. The Thesaurus Server software turns this into a searchable, user-friendly ecosystem of cross-mapped standards.

At the end of this stage, DI will establish a coordinating digital platform to launch a formal **Joined Up Data Working Group** – a political and technical body established to build joined up international data standards.

The Working Group will be composed of key players in this field who are the global drivers of data collection and production – the multilateral institutions: UN Statistics Division, UN FAO, OECD, Eurostat, IMF and World Bank. The overall objective leading up to the creation of the Working Group is to ensure that all these organisations are represented in the Group and are fully engaged to establish the global framework which they then use to collect and publish their data. Smaller subject-specific initiatives (e.g. one focusing on sub-national administrative areas) would feed into an argument for a big picture approach. Regional alliances would also be essential and created as sub-sections of the Working Group, for example: the African Union, African Development Bank, the UN Economic Commission for Africa working together on statistical requirements for Africa feeding into the Working Group.

Therefore, the programme of work leading up to the establishment of the Working Group is essential to get buy-in and support at both the political and technical level within these institutions and ensure engagement in the Working Group is high level and results in significant change that is sought under this programme plan.

With the establishment of the Working Group, DI will seek a key global moment for the Working Group to then issue its first declaration that all future global standards will be joined up. This will be the final milestone of this stage of the project (end of the 2-year period). Stage II will look at how the Joined Up Data Working Group will start to implement the joining up of data standards across other sectors, ensuring data registries are established at the national level and link international data to national data sets and standards.

### **Advocacy stream**

The advocacy component of the project aims to build a sustained movement and partnerships in the wider transparency ecosystem, and to raise awareness of joined up data as a vital part of the follow the money agenda. This stream of work will be led by PWYF in close collaboration with DI. PWYF has a strong track record of undertaking political advocacy to build support for open data initiatives such as IATI. They will support the technical work outlined above by obtaining the necessary political buy-in for more and better joined up data. PWYF will work alongside DI on all elements of this project, providing advocacy advice on all activities and engagement.

Work will start with the **stakeholder mapping and analysis exercise**, which will focus on political decision makers and policy-oriented stakeholders. This will include a detailed mapping of potential enablers and blockers as well as identifying champions in all the relevant

organisations – governments, civil society, private sector, open data and sustainable development communities. PWYF will then prepare **targeted advocacy strategies** which will be shared with key partners for inputs. A large component of this work will involve identifying and bringing together a **like-minded coalition of supporters** that can amplify the profile and purpose of the project.

PWYF will lead on raising awareness for joined up data amongst NGOs, CSOs, infomediaries, as well as political decision makers and policy-making audiences, using material emerging from the technical research and pilot projects. They will also be responsible for developing and delivering the advocacy strategy (including all political consultations) and undertaking road shows in phase three of the project with support from DI. Activities will include:

- Targeted advocacy and building close working relationships with key actors and decision makers at political and technical levels in governments and organisations that are involved in the development of data standards. This will be conducted through face-to-face and remote engagement, targeted briefings and illustrations of the use and benefits of joined up data. PWYF will focus on educating targets about the project, the issues it seeks to address and to advocate for greater ambition, including **political commitments**. This approach will be used across all the types of organisations we engage with, but the strategy will differ based on their technical understanding, political buy-in and levels of influence.
- Active participation in agenda-setting fora and in standard-setting initiatives related to international flows. These fora include the G7, the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, OGP, the post-2015 development agenda and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- In 2015, we will capitalise on the advocacy opportunity provided by the negotiations around the SDGs and the need for a rigorous framework for monitoring delivery against commitments. PWYF will hold a **series of road shows** focusing on joining up data and emphasising the need for an international framework.
- Communication and coordination with other advocacy groups in target countries and organisations. PWYF will work with NGOs, international collaborative platforms and other interested groups to conduct targeted advocacy and campaigning. This will include joint meetings with targets; regular provision of clear messaging and analysis on joined up data for non-specialists; and advice for use in broader CSO campaigning activities.

PWYF will also contribute to updating the IATI 'lessons learnt' documents and translate this learning into a range of targeted advocacy and communications materials in order to build buy-in for joined up data within these stakeholders. These will take in to account the blockers/

enablers analysis and highlight the demand for interoperable data, including evidence-based examples and country or sector specific briefings.

PWYF and DI will work together to establish the Joined Up Data Working Group, including identifying suitable members, bringing them on board, building a community of support, raising awareness of the group's work and engaging with relevant national and international stakeholders and fora. The second stage of this programme will then operationalise the Working Group to agree international framework and implement it.

## **Partnerships**

This project will require working in partnership with several organisations. This will involve setting up informal alliances and consultation groups in the early part of the programme to ensure partners are informed of the project, input into drafts of papers and are also able to benefit from emerging papers, learning documents and pilot data work. These can be grouped under three broad categories:

### **1) Organisations working on the development of open data standards** (the application layer organisations):

There are six key coalitions working on open data standards that we would need to engage with on this project – CoST, EITI, GIFT, IATI, Humanitarian Data Exchange and Open Contracting. The key partnership goal is to build upon the existing close working alliance between IATI, Open Contracting and Humanitarian Data Exchange and extend this to other standard bodies. This alliance should be founded on common methodologies and a common approach to the 'building blocks'. All these organisations would be informed of the project and regularly updated and consulted. Representatives from each organisation will be invited to participate in the Working Group and to comment on other outputs including the pilots, the White Paper, the repository of tools, advocacy and communication materials and the prototype.

### **2) Organisations working with open data and/or requesting open data for specific flows:**

It is important that the project outputs meet the needs of different end-users. This ranges from international and national organisations looking at specific flows to government budget experts to transparency and accountability organisations. Representatives from these different constituencies will be consulted as part of this project, not only to identify their specific needs and concerns about data interoperability, but also to understand potential blockers and enablers to this work and to identify potential champions within the different constituencies.

### **3) Similar platforms working on following financial flows.**

There are several platforms focusing on following financial flows and opening up data as part of a more sustainable development agenda. These include DI itself with its new [All Resources digi-platform](#), [Follow The Money](#), [Governance Data Alliance](#), [Tax Justice Network](#) and the [Transparency and Accountability Initiative](#). The project will engage with these various platforms, including consulting with them on the development of technical work and advocacy plans; inviting representatives to join the informal Joined Up Data network; and identifying shared approaches and collaborating on advocacy opportunities as appropriate.

## Key outputs and milestone table

Technical milestones	Advocacy milestones	Year 1									Year 2														
		M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8	M9	M10	M11	M12	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8	M9	M10	M11	M12
<b>Phase 1: Data and stakeholder analysis</b>																									
Establish a Joined Up Data Alliance starting with 7 key data standard bodies and bring on an additional 8 in the second year (also continue informal dialogue with the additional 8 and others too)																									
Data map cross referencing data fields in standards completed																									
Data analysis report published																									
Pro-types of joined up data examples produced																									
Online joined up data thesaurus launched																									
Stakeholder map completed																									
Stakeholder analysis report published																									
Lessons learnt from IATI published																									
<b>Phase 2: Consultations and engagement</b>																									
6 pre-White Paper consultations completed especially targeting IMF, UNSTATS and a bi-lateral government to bring them on board early as an advocate for joined up data																									
White Paper on joined up data published																									
White Paper findings promoted through presentations at key panels and meetings (OGP, ON Open-Up meeting, Data Revolution meetings etc)																									
Targeted advocacy and communications strategy completed with implementation plan and materials developed																									



## What has already been achieved on joined up data by DI?

### Global standards

DI's work as part of the secretariat of IATI (DI is the technical lead) has provided useful insights into access to information needs.

Key lessons include:

1. Information needs to be published in a way that **meets the needs of users**, rather than the needs of the providers
2. Different users need different types of information for different purposes, so information needs to be published in an **open format** that allows users to re-purpose the data
3. Simply putting information "out there" is never enough: *how* information is published makes a huge difference, and **publication to a common standard** is essential to ensure that information from many different sources can be compared, combined and analysed
4. Access to information about **all financial resources for poverty reduction** (not just aid) needs to be made available and published to similar common, open standards, with interoperability between these standards
5. Users want to be able to **link aid information to other data sets**, for example, poverty, health or education data, to maximise its usefulness.

During the summer of 2013, DI commissioned the Open Knowledge Foundation to conduct a scoping study into the intersections between five different transparency initiatives. The study compared the work of these five initiatives, mapping their differences and similarities and suggesting areas in which first collaborative steps could be taken. The initiatives have much to learn from each other. The challenges EITI has overcome to standardise country-level reporting has much to inform top-down activities such as IATI. Implementation strategies differ from sector to sector. The five initiatives cover the full-spectrum of approaches to standards: from GIFT's development of principles down to IATI's highly structured publishing schema.

The scoping study recommended:

1. **Three building blocks:** initial focus should be placed on seeking common political and technical solutions to three areas of concern to a range of initiatives: organisational identifiers, sub-national geodata and contracts
2. **Shared learning:** initiatives have much to learn from each other's diverse expertise and experience in the governance and implementation of standards
3. **Joined up for all:** collaboration on the above will provide lessons, experience and a common platform to engage and advocate for the adoption of joined up data and

common standards for all publishers committed to transparent and accountable procedures

Participating in the study were the CoST, EITI, GIFT, IATI and Open Contracting.

## DI and IATI

The IATI Standard offers a means of publishing data from all international development finance actors to a common standard. DI is working closely with the IATI secretariat to demonstrate the importance of IATI as a means of implementation for the post-2015 financing framework.

The IATI Standard is relatively new – the first organisations only began publishing their data in 2011. Since then, it has grown rapidly, and nearly 300 organisations are now publishing to IATI. This includes traditional donors, multilateral institutions, national and international CSOs, philanthropic foundations, development finance institutions and private sector consultancies. The IATI Standard has demonstrated that it is flexible enough to capture data on many different types of international development finance flows. Work is already underway with South-South Cooperation (SSC) providers and with the humanitarian community in order for the IATI Standard to reflect their specific needs. With further adaptation, it could provide a means of publishing data on all international development finance flows.

The below table sets out which international development finance flows are already being published to IATI, which additional flows the Standard is already technically capable of capturing, and where the Standard would need to be further developed in order to cover all international flows. It confirms that the current Standard could potentially be used to capture a range of additional flows including military expenditure, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), short and long term debt and remittances. The only extension that would be required for IATI to capture all of the flows listed in the table would be the development of a debt and equity management module.

International Resource Flow	Reporting Organisation	Activity	Transaction	New IATI modules
Official development assistance (ODA)	All participants in delivery chain	Programme, project, contract, etc	Aggregated monthly/quarterly	Debt & Equity management
Other official flows (OOFs) including export credits	All participants in delivery chain	Programme, project, contract, etc	Aggregated monthly/quarterly	Debt & Equity management
Development finance institutions (DFIs) [non-ODA activities]	DFIs, IFIs, MDBs, and Private Sector partners	Contract	Initial commitments and total final disbursement (when legally permitted)	

Climate financing (mitigation and adaptation) [non-ODA activities]	All participants in delivery chain	Programme, project, contract, etc	Aggregated monthly/quarterly	
Private development assistance	All participants in delivery chain	Programme, project, grant, etc	Aggregated monthly/quarterly	
Humanitarian assistance	All participants in delivery chain	Additional humanitarian descriptions and classifications	As close to real-time reporting as is possible	Humanitarian
South-south cooperation (SSC)	All participants in delivery chain	Programme, project, contract, etc	Quantification and valuation of time, people and skills	Technical cooperation
Carbon market finance flows	Provider	Programme, project	Aggregated monthly/quarterly	
Military expenditure	Provider	Programme, project	Aggregated monthly/quarterly	(Technical cooperation)
Foreign direct investment	Providers (and receivers) of equity	Investment	Purchase and sale of equity (when legally permitted)	Debt & Equity management
Long-term debt	Provider	Loan agreement, disbursements	Aggregated quarterly	Debt & Equity management
Short-term debt	Provider	Loan agreement, disbursements	Aggregated quarterly	Debt & Equity management
Remittances	Agents	Worst case defined as country-quarter. Best case country-district-month.	Aggregated monthly/quarterly	

Key: green = already published to IATI; yellow = work in progress; orange = additional flows easy to capture using IATI. Areas where new work would be required are indicated in the right-hand column as new IATI modules.

### National level joined up data – Uganda

DI is also undertaking a proof-of-concept project in two districts of northern Uganda to map all resource investments in agriculture, education and health with a view to testing their comparability/joining up possibilities with social data that exists in the same sectors. This programme of work began in February 2014; all data has now been collected from the two districts and is currently being placed into the Ugandan open data portal ([www.opendevelopdata.org](http://www.opendevelopdata.org)), established and administered by DI with its Ugandan partner Development

Research and Training (DRT). The data collected comes from the recent Uganda census, the budget, the health management information system, IATI, UNICEF's atlas on service delivery, and locally collected data. Once the data are digitally available (by October 2014), DI and DRT will work with local decision makers in the two districts to test the new joined up data and what information it now provides to aid sub-national decision makers to improve their ability to budget and allocate resources. Making this data transparent at this level in a digital format will be a powerful achievement. However, maintaining and regularly updating the data will be essential, as well as ensuring it is accessible.

## Joining-up data 2: transformations

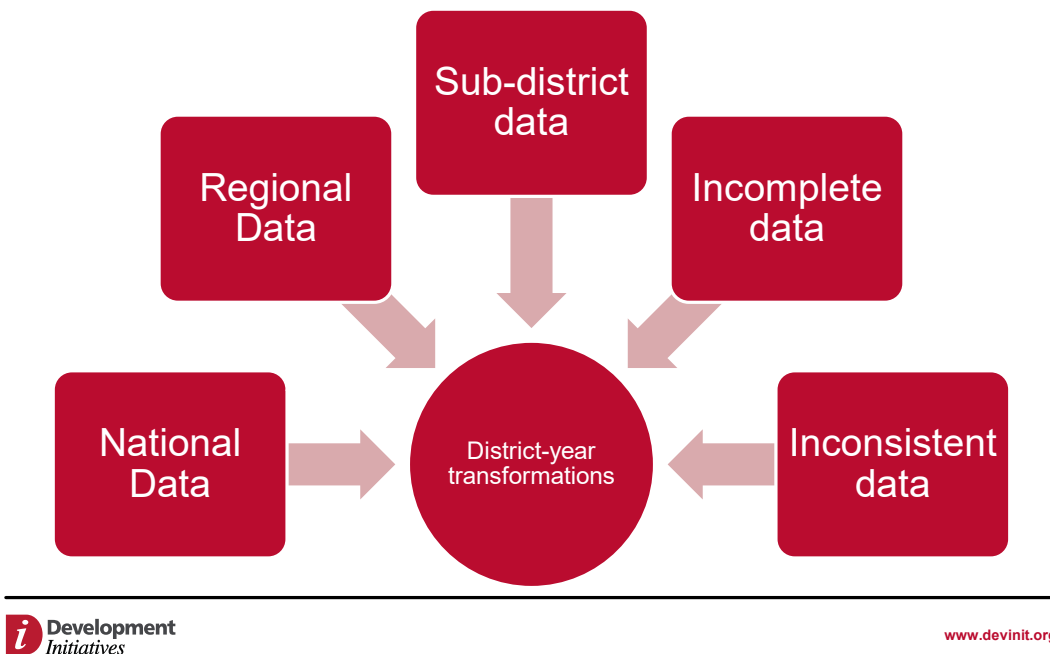


Figure 2: DI's strategy for joining up local level data to regional and national level data in Uganda involves standardising all the data sets into a single, compatible time-space framework

### Why Development Initiatives?

DI is well qualified to play a central role in driving forward the realisation of the joined up data vision for the following reasons:

1. We have **built** a standard (IATI)
2. We are **operating** a standard (technical lead to IATI as part of the international consortium)

3. We **facilitate** convening groups and operate at multiple levels (policy, technical, international and country level)
4. We have **initiated** work in this area through the Joined Up Data scoping study <http://devinit.org/report/joined-data-building-blocks-common-standards/>
5. We are piloting **concrete plans** of the concept of Joined Up Data in Uganda building the first joined up data portal <http://opendevedata.ug/>

## About DI

DI works to end extreme poverty by 2030 by making data and information on poverty and resources transparent, accessible and useable. We help decision makers to use information in order to increase its impact on the poorest people in the most sustainable way.

We work at every level:

1. Supporting local partners in East Africa and Nepal to use data. For example, we have trained community budget trackers in northern Uganda to increase the use of information at local level
2. Providing information and analysis to inform national and regional decision making. For example, our Investments to End Poverty programme maps global resource flows and makes them accessible on and offline
3. Offering technical and political support to help improve international systems. We are the technical lead of the IATI secretariat supported by the governments of Sweden and Ghana, the UNDP and the UNOPS.

We are an international organisation with staff in Brazil, Kenya, Nepal, Uganda, UK and the US. This model allows us to be agile and flexible in our approach to driving change. We also provide consultancy services – undertaking analysis, editing reports and presenting data through infographics and digital visualisations.

We are funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and national governments, including Canada, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom. We provide consultancy to NGOs, CSOs, philanthropic foundations, governments and multilateral agencies.

DI's Progress Report is attached to provide more details about our vision, work and also financial accounts.

## Why Publish What You Fund?

PWYF is a highly regarded watchdog organisation with experience of successful, high-level advocacy around transparency and open data. We understand how and when to bring technical

and political conversations together in order to drive change and are regarded as a leading organisation on advising on the development and implementation of open data standards. We complement DI's skills and experience in the following ways:

1. We have pushed governments and the world's major donors to **engage** meaningfully with IATI, the only open data standard that is currently being used
2. We know how to **advocate** at senior levels in order to get the necessary buy-in to new, multi-stakeholder initiatives and ensure they remain high on the political agenda
3. We **operate at multiple levels** within organisations so we understand different viewpoints and can engage closely both with political and technical discussions
4. We have built a **network** of 50+ partner organisations that work with us on advocating for open data and who understand the importance of data standards
5. We **advise** governments and international organisations on increasing their transparency and know how to drive change through large institutions

### **About PWYF**

PWYF is the global campaign for aid transparency. Our mission is to achieve a significant increase in the availability and accessibility of comprehensive, timely, comparable and accessible information about development flows. We believe that progress towards increased development effectiveness is impossible without transparent information about aid; more high-quality data are needed in order to improve cooperation, democratise decision making, empower citizens and ultimately reduce poverty. Our primary focus is advocacy for the publication of information in common, open, accessible formats. Our ultimate goal is to improve access to, and use of, open data in order to maximise the impact and effectiveness of development flows and to increase accountability.

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