

IATI publication exclusion policy

This policy highlights the key principles and modalities MSI has chosen for publication of data in the IATI registry and sets the criteria for excluding data from publication as well as the process for doing this.

IATI publication overview

Open data

Open data are data that anyone can freely use and share. The aim of publishing open data is to globally improve the availability, accessibility and further use of information and as a result achieve universal access to information. Open data is seen as a strong tool for effective development cooperation.

IATI

The International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) is a voluntary multi-stakeholder initiative that seeks to increase the transparency of development cooperation and consequently improve its effectiveness.

At the centre of IATI is a data standard (<http://iatistandard.org>) a technical publishing framework allowing data from different publishers to be accessed and compared. A growing number of governments, foundations, private sector and not for profit organizations around the world have been publishing their projects and programmes data in the IATI standard since 2011.

The IATI Standard is split into two parts:

- 1) The Organisation Standard is used to describe the publishing organisation
- 2) The Activity Standard is the space where organisations can publish data on their development cooperation programmes

Open license

For all the data published in the IATI Standard, MSI will apply an “Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike” open licence. This license lets others remix, tweak, and build upon MSI work non-commercially, as long as they credit MSI and license their new creations under the identical terms.

Exclusion principles and processes

Exclusion principles

MSI is committed to publishing project data in the IATI Registry, when this is required by our donors.

However, the nature of MSI' work and mission ("children by choice, not by chance") implies that our programmes often address potentially sensitive or contentious issues, such as abortion, contraception, and women's rights to mention a few. Our global and country strategies are based on careful considerations and great attention to the local socio-political context and legal framework. This requires that information and data is handled with extreme care, to avoid that any of our programmes are put in jeopardy.

With this exclusion policy, MSI lays down a number of principles, based on which project information and data can be excluded from publication in the IATI registry.

Exclusion principle 1: Commercial sensitivity

MSI will not publish commercially sensitive information, such as funding agreements, detailed budgets, staff salaries & benefits, consultant fees, commercial fees, etc.

Exclusion principle 2: Cost effectiveness

MSI will not publish data if the publication process (including obtaining the data) has disproportionate financial or time implications. As a general rule, data of funding to MSI worth less than £ 200,000 will not be published.

Exclusion principle 3: Safety and security

MSI will not publish data that can in any way pose a risk to the safety or security of an MSI person (employees, contractors, trainees, volunteers, sessional workers or agency staff), its clients, donors, partners or sub-awardees.

Exclusion principle 4: Operational continuity

MSI will not publish any data that may result in MSI - or its partners, donors or sub-awardees' - operations being banned, restricted or suspended.

Exclusion principle 5: Reputational and relational sustainability

MSI will not publish any data that might affect its or its partners' reputation or produce a negative image, which would jeopardise the relationship with local governments, local organizations or other key stakeholders.

Exclusion principle 6: Privacy and data protection

MSI will not publish any data considered of private or confidential nature, on the basis of relevant data protection laws as well as MSI or partners' internal policies.

Scope and procedures for exclusion

The six above principles may be referred to in order to exclude data at different levels:

- a) Entire projects or programmes (defined as “IATI activities” in IATI)
- b) Projects components (either programmatic or geographic) within an IATI activity
- c) Specific data within an IATI activity (a specific “field” in the IATI standard)

It is the responsibility of the MSI person or team in charge of the project / programme requiring publication in IATI to decide whether one or more of the above principles applies in each individual case.

The decision must be documented in writing, through a memo, and communicated to the MSI person or team responsible for the publication on IATI. The memo will indicate what principle or principles for exclusion are applied as well as the scope of the exclusion as per above mentioned levels (a), (b) or (c).

Exclusion for partners

At the core of the IATI standard is the attempt to enhance transparency in international aid. Cross-referencing information provided by different organisations; tracking how funds are flowed down to partners; avoiding double counting are all key features of the IATI model. In light of this, MSI will request its partners – and notably its sub-awardees - to publish on IATI when this is required.

However, MSI acknowledges the interests of its partners to exclude sensitive data from publication. Where a partner is under an obligation to publish in IATI within the framework of their sub-award agreement with MSI, they may submit a request for exclusion using the template provided in Annex 1. In the request, the partner will make reference to the principles and levels of exclusion indicated in this policy. In addition, the partner may refer to additional principles for exclusion as indicated in their own exclusion policies, if any.

Annex 1

Request for exclusion

I want to exclude specific project data from being published by MSI on the internet through the IATI registry.

Name of my organization / department :

Name of the project/programme :

The **reason** for requesting for data exclusion from IATI registry is:

[Indicate which exclusion principle(s) apply]

:
:
:
:
:
:
:

The **scope** of the request for data exclusion is:

(please tick one or more boxes)

A full IATI activity (full project or programme):

.....
(please mention the activity)

One or more project / programme component within an IATI activity:

.....
.....
.....
(please mention the Activity and which component should be excluded: e.g. geographic or programmatic component)

One or more specific IATI fields of an IATI activity:

.....
.....
.....
(please mention the Activity and list all the fields to be excluded)

Name

Function

Date

Signature