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# IATI Validator

IATI Secretariat

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# IATI VALIDATOR

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The [IATI Validator](#) is a tool for assessing data using the rules and guidance of the IATI Standard. It also provides information on how to improve the quality of IATI data to ensure it is accessible and useful to anyone working with data on development and humanitarian activities, resources and results.

Files can be uploaded to the Validator for assessment via [the Validator website](#) . Validation usually takes a few minutes.

A link to data on the Web can be provided, and the IATI Validator will download the file before assessing it. This relies on the data being publicly available: advice on identifying and resolving download issues can be found on the [IATI Standard Website](#).

Reports on any published IATI file can be found in the [Public Data Viewer](#). Reports are available a few hours after the data has been updated.

Validation and reports are also available via the [IATI API Portal](#).

The methodology used by the Validator and the meaning of the reports can be found in the [IATI Validation](#) section.



## **DONOR REQUIREMENTS**

A number of donors have their own requirements for their grantees; the IATI Validator does not check for these. For assistance, contact the relevant donor. IATI does publish [donor reporting requirement guidance](#) , which represents IATI's most current information.



## HELP & SUPPORT

Get in touch with any questions relating to publishing, using or improving IATI data. There is an active community of IATI publishers and users on [IATI Connect](#)

### 2.1 Validation Overview

Validation is the process of assessing a file using the [IATI Standard](#). Both the schema and the rulesets are used in validation.

Validation only covers areas of the standard that can be checked by a computer: some requirements of the IATI standard (such as that text is descriptive) are subjective and therefore are not included in validation.

Validation only checks the structure of the data: no attempt is made to verify that the data is true or accurate.

The result of this process is a report, which shows the *status* of the file, and details of any issues found. Issues are grouped into *categories* for ease of comprehension.

### 2.2 Categories

Checks carried out by the validator are grouped into categories, depending on what they're checking. The categories are:

#### 2.2.1 classifications

Checks relating to classifications, such as sector codes.

#### 2.2.2 financial

Checks relating to financial aspects, such as budget splits and financial type codes.

#### 2.2.3 geo

Checks relating to geographic aspects, such as ensuring that percentage splits between countries or regions sum to 100%.

#### 2.2.4 iati

Checks relating to dates, such as checking that end dates come after start dates.

### 2.2.5 identifiers

Checks relating to activity identifiers, such as formatting and allowed characters.

### 2.2.6 information

Checks that relate to the structure of the data in ways that cannot be enforced in XML schema, such as where one of two fields must be present.

### 2.2.7 organisation

Checks relating to organisation identifiers, such as formatting and allowed characters.

### 2.2.8 participating

Checks relating to participating-organisation information, such as allowed characters and important fields.

### 2.2.9 performance

Checks relating to indicators, such as ensuring that quantitative indicators have baselines.

### 2.2.10 relations

Checks relating to related activities, such as formatting of identifiers.

## 2.3 Statuses

### 2.3.1 Success

If there are no errors or ways in which the file varies from the IATI standards and guidance, then the report will show the file's status as "Success".

Otherwise, the file's status will be shown as one of **Critical**, **Error**, or **Warning**. Validation might result in issues being discovered at multiple levels of severity: the file's status is shown as the level of the most severe issue found.

### 2.3.2 Critical

**Critical** status means that the file does not validate against the XML Schema for the Activity or Organisation standard, as appropriate. The XML schema defines the field names, mandatory fields, and field formats.

Any schema validation error will result in a file having **Critical** status.

**Critical** status means that tools that expect to make use of the data cannot do so, because it doesn't use the expected format.

### 2.3.3 Error & Warning

**Error** and **Warning** statuses are generated by applying the [IATI Standard Rulesets](#) to the file. The Rulesets describe rules for IATI data that cannot be expressed in XML Schema, such as that certain percentages must sum to 100%.

If the rule states that a certain condition **MUST** be met, then failure to meet that condition results in an **Error** status.

If the rule states that a certain condition **SHOULD** be met, then failure to meet that condition results in a **Warning** status.

### 2.3.4 Success (with advisories)

The IATI Validator also carries out checks that go beyond the requirements of the IATI Standard in order to highlight ways in which the data can be made more useful. These are not errors, but addressing them will improve the utility of the data. If a file has no errors but does have advisories, then it will have the status “Success (with advisories)”.

## 2.4 Workspaces

When you use the Check Data function on the IATI Validator, a personal workspace is created for you. You can record the link in your browser’s address bar, and return to it later to carry on your work. You can also share the link with others to allow them to see the validation results.

Workspaces will be deleted periodically for maintenance. There is no fixed schedule for this, but you should not rely on them existing forever. Individual files cannot be removed from a workspace, but the workspace can be cleared with the Clear Workspace button.

You can start a new workspace by opening the IATI Validator in a different browser, or using the private browsing mode of your browser.

#### Note

When you provide the URL of file, the workspace stores the validation results for the moment that you used the Check Data function. In order to check the file again, you should use the Check Data function again.

Validation reports contain a link to the workspace that contains the report. Therefore, if sharing a report, be aware that the recipient can see other reports in the workspace, add files to the workspace, or clear the workspace.

#### Hint

If you intend to share a validation report, open the Validator in your browser’s Private Browsing (or “Incognito”) mode. This will create a new workspace.

Your workspace contains a link to the data, but does not contain the data itself. The feedback may contain extracts from your data. If a validation report contains data that should be removed from public view, you can delete all validation reports in the workspace using the Clear Workspace button on the workspace page.

## 2.5 IATI Validator API

All functions of the IATI Validator are available via an API.

API documentation is available on the [IATI API Portal](#)