

Updating the measure of timeliness of IATI data – 2024 consultation

This consultation brief sets out the suggested changes to the Timeliness measure which affects the *frequency of publication* part of the assessment and would only take effect for the 2026 Aid Transparency Index.

The aim of updating the frequency assessment period is to improve the measurement of regular and consistent IATI publication in between the periods of the bi-annual Index assessments. We have noted that publication can drop in this period and, where agencies are publishing regularly, we want this effort to be reflected in Index transparency scores.

These updates are being consulted on now due to the timeframes which the updated measure will need to take into consideration. Publishers of IATI data should be aware that with this change to the frequency measure the Index will look at data published over the two years prior to the Index assessment, replacing the current one-year timeframe. For the 2026 Index final assessment this timeframe will be April 2024 to April 2026.

Whilst we acknowledge that the timing of this consultation is not ideal (coming in the middle of the 2024 Index process) it is necessary to start consultation now in order that agencies have prior knowledge of the new approach before measurement begins in April 2024. The consultation welcomes feedback on the suggested *approach* to the frequency extension. For example, we are particularly keen to hear back from agencies on how to manage planned IATI data publication outages if, for example, an agency is updating their publishing systems. The proposed approach will include some leeway that should allow for such planned outages.

What is Timeliness

Timeliness refers to how often an organisation publishes information on its development activities to the IATI Registry (frequency), and how up to date information is (time lag). In the Aid Transparency Index, the timeliness measure works as a multiplier of points awarded across indicators for publication of IATI activity data. The *frequency* assessment ranges from monthly to quarterly or less than quarterly and time lag ranges from one month to a quarter or more than a quarter. When calculating Index scores, an average of these two measures is taken to determine the multiplier. Note that only IATI activity data is scored on timeliness, as there are clear machine-readable logs of when data is changed, and therefore it is possible to assess timeliness.

Current publication timeliness assessment

After awarding the IATI percentage to points (awarded for IATI data quality) we apply the *publication timeliness* multiplier. For monthly publication frequency and one-month time lag the multiplier is 1 (meaning a maximum of 100 points can be scored for the indicator). For quarterly frequency and a quarter time lag it is 0.925 (allowing a maximum of 95 points) and for less than quarterly frequency and more than a quarter time lag it is 0.625 (allowing a maximum of 75 points).

Where publication frequency and time lag differ, the average (mean) of the two multipliers is taken and used as the multiplier, as illustrated in the below table:

Timeliness multiplier table	Monthly Frequency	Quarterly frequency	Less than Quarterly Frequency
One-month time lag	1.000	0.963	0.813
A quarter time lag	0.963	0.925	0.775
Less than a quarter time lag	0.813	0.775	0.625

Current frequency assessment

The frequency of publication is assessed using the [IATI Dashboard methodology](#). This dashboard takes a one-year timeframe with the following frequency categories:

For publishers of 1 year or more

Updates reported in ...	Assessment
7 or more of the past 12 full months AND data updated at least once in last 2 full months	Monthly
3 or more of the past 12 full months AND data updated at least once in last 4 full months	Quarterly
2 of the last 6 months period	Six-monthly
1 of the last 12 months	Annual
None of the last 12 months	Less than annual

For publishers of six months or more

Updates reported in ...	Assessment
4 of the last 6 months	Monthly
2 of the last 2 quarters	Quarterly
1 of the last 12 months	Annual

For publishers of three months or more

Updates reported in ...	Assessment
3 of the last 3 months	Monthly

Updates reported in ...	Assessment
1 of the last 6 months	Annual

For publishers of less than 3 months

Updates reported in ...	Assessment
1 of the last 3 months	Annual

Proposed update to frequency assessment

We propose to stretch the time period of frequency assessment from one to two years where a publisher has been publishing for that length of time. An additional assessment criterion will be added as shown below:

For publishers of 2 years or more

Updates reported in ...	Assessment	Frequency multiplier
14 or more of the past 24 full months AND at least 7 in each year AND data updated at least once in last 2 full months	Monthly	1
6 or more of the past 24 full months AND at least three in each year AND data updated at least once in last 4 full months	Quarterly	0.925
4 of the last 24 months AND at least two in each year	Six-monthly	0.625
2 of the last 24 months AND at least once in each year	Annual	0.625
None of the last 12 months	Less than annual	Publisher will be assessed in the manual survey

Consultation deadline

We aim to collect initial comments on this proposal for the next two weeks until the date 8th March 2024. Following this we will consider feasibility of implementing the proposal.

Consultation comments can be sent to tracker@publishwhatyoufund.org