

WHO's commitment to increased transparency

WHO committed to increased transparency through joining the International Aid Transparency Initiative in 2017. Following this commitment, we have implemented the IATI standard by offering easily accessible country data with all relevant information such as budget, funding and expenditures of the four Strategic Priorities and their constituent Outcomes and Outputs which together make up WHO's results planning.

WHO's business model

WHO is a multilateral organization that mainly provides technical assistance to its Member States through a network of country offices. These country offices are staffed by WHO personnel and implement planned biennial activities as part of agreed Country Cooperation Strategic frameworks.

WHO additionally responds to acute health emergencies in the context of global humanitarian appeals for humanitarian situations, whether resulting from natural or human-caused events. Occasionally – still in the context of humanitarian assistance – WHO provides grants to third-party implementing partners, for the delivery of very specific programmatic items.

As such, in the context and the definitions of the International Aid Transparency Initiative, WHO is an implementer rather than a donor of development/humanitarian assistance.

WHO Programme Budget

WHO operates on biennial programme budget cycles, within the strategic direction set as part of its General Programmes of Work (covering multiple biennia). The main particularity of WHO's Programme budget is its integrated nature, bridging both result and organizational structures together with different sources of funding. Country office levels are presented at a consolidated level within their respective regions (either Africa, the Americas, South-East Asia, Europe, the Eastern Mediterranean or the Western Pacific).

Given the strong regional component of its organizational structure and governance, WHO's Programme budgets are not approved at the level of the country. This dimension becomes effective once the Programme budget is approved by the World Health Assembly and the bottom-up operational planning process is completed. The outcome of this operational planning process is the rollout of country offices' budget allocations for the upcoming biennium.

In essence, WHO's work is planned within an organization-wide results-based management framework, as opposed to being project-based. Any planned activity is contributing to a standardized output, irrespective of the location where it is carried out. The main benefit of approving a consolidated ceiling at the country level is that it leaves sufficient managerial discretion to re-programme across countries within a region in response to any unforeseen circumstances which might occur over the course of a biennium.

WHO's IATI publication model

1. Open license principle

Data is published under an open license and strictly refers to the implementation of WHO's biennial Programme budgets. Hosted Partnerships are excluded from WHO's publications.

2. Definition of an Activity

WHO chose to publish IATI-compliant data at the output level, which is the organization-wide standardized expected result. It represents WHO's country offices' planned contributions to each output, for a given biennium

3. Projects and dates

Projects (workplans) follow a biennial cycle in order to be in line with WHO's approved Programme budget. Projects start on 1 January of the first year of a given biennium and end on 31 December of the second year of the biennium.

As a result, planned and actual project dates are known in advance.

This operational logic is based on WHO's business model of providing technical assistance to its Member States.

4. Conditionality applying to funding

As a recipient and direct implementer of development and/or humanitarian assistance, WHO implements funds received within its organizational structure (whether at country office, regional office or headquarters level).

Documents related to the conditionality of these funds are understood as being published by the donor.

Consequently, WHO does not publish conditions as part of its IATI data.

5. Procurement

Similar to all United Nations entities, all WHO tenders are published openly on "UN Market Place".

Procurement activities being run globally, it is impossible for WHO to provide a clear linkage to the country-specific activity, as published according to the IATI standard.

6. Funding has no transaction date in the WHO system, defaulted to first day of the biennium

As WHO's ERP system allows no transaction date for the "Incoming Funds" dimension, this information is defaulted to the first day of a given biennium in WHO's IATI publications.

7. Activity (country) level documents

The Country Cooperation Strategy - which represents the multi-year commitment of WHO to a given country for the provision of technical assistance - details a set of priority outcomes and deliverables which the country office agrees to deliver throughout the duration of the plan.

Country Cooperation Strategies are not set at the activity level, hence their publication at the country level, without being linked to a specific activity. These documents are also delivered through the Organization file.

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