EITI data strategy

2023-2029

Catalysing extractives data generation, access and use through EITI implementation

Introduction

The EITI aims to translate transparency into accountability in the governance of the energy and extractive industries through the disclosure, accessibility and use of data. Data accessibility and use is a global priority for the EITI which enables the organisation to progress its mission and mandate.

By prioritising timely, usable and accessible data, EITI multi-stakeholder groups can play a key role in informing decision-making, fostering independent analysis and promoting public debate on natural resource governance.

The EITI's data strategy aims to support these critical functions through a digital transformation which places open data at the centre of the EITI process at the national and international levels.

The strategy has three main objectives:

1 | **DATA USE**
Catalyse the regular use of EITI data by key audiences including multi-stakeholder groups for their strategic activities, aligned with the EITI's strategic priorities.

2 | **DATA ACCESS**
Improve the quality and public availability of structured open data that meets key audiences' needs and access preferences.

3 | **DATA GENERATION**
Support the transition to timely systematic disclosure of information required by the EITI in policy and practice, aligned with national priorities and reducing the need for standalone EITI data collection.

The strategy was informed by extensive feedback from data users and EITI stakeholders spanning development partners and donors, government, companies and financial institutions, civil society organisations, media and academia. It aims to address the data needs of key audiences and support the achievement of the EITI's strategic priorities globally.

Key principles

The EITI's data strategy is underpinned by five key principles.

Open access
Provide open and free access to all data that the EITI publishes and/or re-publishes.

Interoperability
Ensure that any changes to centrally published data enhance complementarity and interoperability with existing data sets.

Capacity building
Foster ownership of data in EITI implementing countries and strengthen understanding of how to use data for diagnostics, communication of findings and problem-solving.

Partnerships
Build on existing partnerships to ensure that key audience groups are aware of the data that is made available through the EITI and its potential use.

Cost-effectiveness
Avoid investment in expensive bespoke solutions by leveraging existing infrastructure in implementing countries where feasible.

Data strategy

This strategy envisions a digital transformation whereby open data is placed at the centre of the EITI process at the national and international levels.

It comprises three main objectives: catalysing data use, enabling access to data and accelerating the systematic disclosure of data reported through the EITI. The strategy includes activities which aim to support each objective; however, these activities may evolve based on context, organisational priorities and user needs.

The vision of each main objective:

Catalysing data use	Enabling access to data	Accelerate systematic disclosure of data
Stakeholders, including MSGs, use EITI data effectively, with full access and understanding. The EITI will be a trusted source of energy and extractives data globally. Locally, it will empower civil society and communities, enriching public debate, governance, and combating corruption. Investors and rating agencies will rely on our company data for performance metrics, informing their processes through data aggregators.	A growing community of stakeholders use EITI disclosures by accessing the EITI's various data products. EITI data is systematically disclosed by governments and companies, monitored for quality and accessibility. National websites guide stakeholders to country-level information. The International Secretariat aggregates core data, offering tailored access through databases. Routine tracking informs work planning and reporting, supporting policy discussions across EITI countries.	The EITI Standard sets the benchmark for energy and extractives companies' data publication. Governments and parastatals digitise their industry governance, facilitating near real-time or regular data publication. MSGs ensure data access and use, supporting government digitisation efforts. Incomplete digitisation prompts regular data submissions to the EITI database in open format. The International Secretariat's digitised workflows track implementation and progress towards key performance indicators for stakeholders.

Catalysing data use

The EITI aims to enhance the use and analysis of its disclosures to support policy debate and reform. A key challenge is that stakeholders often lack clarity on the governance issues they aim to address with the EITI and how to use information on energy and extractives.

To tackle this, the EITI will develop and disseminate data use cases that address key extractive sector governance challenges. By showcasing how existing EITI disclosures can inform analysis, dialogue and reform, the EITI International Secretariat seeks to inspire countries to adopt more data-driven approaches.

Key activities:

MAINSTREAM DATA USE

- Develop a public repository of data use cases.
- Enhance capacity of EITI staff, national secretariats and multi-stakeholder groups to create data analyses addressing governance risks and priorities.
- Support countries in integrating data generation, use and accessibility into their work plans.
- Encourage the use of time-series and project-level data in EITI Reports and communication products.

BUILD A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

- Establish a community of energy and extractives data supporters to meet quarterly, identifying emerging research areas and promoting dataset interoperability.

INFORM AUDIENCES

- Highlight data products, including data use cases, EITI Reports and studies, via the EITI's communication strategies on a routine basis.
- Participate in research conferences to promote EITI data.

PARTNER WITH ORGANISATIONS

- Demonstrate data use and highlight complementarities between different open datasets.
- Market EITI data to data aggregators to reach investors and researchers.
- Collaborate with partners to mentor national-level data users.
- Provide capacity building on extractives data use through project-specific funding and thematic focuses, supporting the EITI's strategic priorities.

Enable data access

The EITI aims to enhance the quality and accessibility of open energy and extractives data to meet key audience needs. Despite the availability of structured data on the EITI website and via its API, access tools are limited, and awareness of this data is low.

Improving access requires developing user-friendly tools and products to meet the emerging data needs and access preferences of key audiences.

Key activities:

IMPROVE DATA ACCESS

- Provide an overview of available open EITI Report datasets and improve access to summary data, annexes and PDFs.
- Clean and publish summary EITI reporting data promptly, redesigning the workflow for efficiency.
- Update the summary data template (SDT) to align with the 2023 EITI Standard, ensuring it meets key audience needs.
- Develop and publish a systematic disclosures portal with links to government websites.

DEVELOP DATABASES

- Create a company database linking parent companies, subsidiaries and SOEs.
- Develop data analysis tools, including thematic dashboards, Validation outcomes and company data analysis.
- Combine EITI Validation data with country implementation performance indicators (KPIs) in the EITI Outcomes dataset.
- Create the EITI Administration Database for internal efficiency.
- Build the EITI Countries Database, integrating summary data and a new EITI Reforms Tracker for updated information on EITI-attributable reforms.

ADAPT DATA ACCESS TOOLS

- Enable API queries for customised data sets on countries, companies and outcomes.
- Allow tailored dataset downloads on the EITI website based on feedback.
- Standardise API queries in tabular (.xls) format for common data requests.

Accelerate systematic disclosure of data

The EITI aims to expedite systematic data disclosure in line with national priorities, thereby reducing standalone data collection. Many countries mistakenly believe that expensive IT systems are necessary, leading to underused and poorly maintained technologies.

Often, recommendations from feasibility studies are not implemented due to unclear priorities and responsibilities This has shifted focus away from low-cost improvements to costly solutions, creating bottlenecks. Despite one-third of required EITI data already being systematically disclosed, concerns about data quality persist.

To address these challenges, the International Secretariat can enhance systematic disclosure by demonstrating its business case, providing clear guidance, and facilitating peer learning and partnerships to support digital transitions.

Key activities:

PROMOTE BEST PRACTICES

- Collect and showcase exemplary systematic disclosures, highlighting strengths and featuring them on the EITI website.
- Integrate best practice examples and business case demonstrations into implementation support and guidance notes.
- Leverage donor-funded projects to disseminate best practices on reforms and strategies that support systematic disclosures, both regionally and globally.

ADVANCE MAINSTREAMING AND SUPPORT

- Focus efforts on advancing mainstreaming on a low budget, working with a small group of countries to showcase outcomes through webinars or other communication tools with partners.
- Develop practical guidance for identifying and implementing reforms to enhance systematic disclosures, with input from technical partners.
- Assist countries in updating national EITI open data policies, providing guidance on data publication standards and formats.

SUPPORT TRANSITION AND DISSEMINATION

- Support MSGs in transitioning from conventional EITI reporting to centralised access of systematically disclosed data. Pilot approaches and guidance with select countries, scaling to all EITI countries as applicable.
- Disseminate updates and highlights on systematic disclosures through the EITI's communication channels to encourage countries and share best practices.

Strategic partnerships

The actions envisaged in the EITI's data strategy are catalytic in nature and will be amplified through strategic partnerships to enhance implementation across the following areas:

BOOST DATA ACCESS AND USE

Forge alliances with key partners across EITI's target audiences to establish stronger connections and feedback channels. Collaboration with projects like the IFC's Data to Development (D2D) programme and academic institutions such as the Foundation for Studies and Research on International Development (FERDI) can promote EITI data usage, either by directly improving data quality or through research projects in implementing countries.

ENHANCE DATA INTEROPERABILITY

Partner with public and private data standard-setting agencies and energy and extractives data providers to highlight synergies with external datasets and, where useful, integrate them into EITI-curated databases. Such collaborations will also bolster guidance to EITI countries on publishing data in alignment with interoperable standards, such as Open Ownership's Beneficial Ownership Data Standard (BODS).

STRENGTHEN SYSTEMATIC DISCLOSURES

Collaborate with non-profit organisations like the Open Knowledge Foundation (OKFN) and OGP to accelerate reforms in target countries. These partnerships, leveraging technical assistance providers, build on successful collaborations with Open Ownership in the Opening Extractives programme, which has provided targeted technical assistance and guidance to countries establishing public beneficial ownership registers.

SERVE INVESTORS WITH EITI DATA

Share structured country and company data with data aggregators like Bloomberg or FACTSET to enhance visibility for investors.

SUPPORT INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

Partner with organisations such as the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) and International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) to develop impactful stories and data use cases, promoting transparency and good governance of natural resources. These partnerships aim to build journalists' capacity in using open energy and extractives data, drawing from experience with Open Ownership in the Opening Extractives programme.

FACILITATE ACCESS FOR RESEARCHERS

Form strategic partnerships with organisations like the Wharton Research Data Services (WDRS), Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA), and the Quality of Governance Institute to provide researchers with access to open-source datasets.

Key audience needs

The priority audience needs identified in this document emerged from consultations with over 50 stakeholders spanning development partners and donors, government, companies and financial institutions, civil society organisations, media and academia.

	Data use	Data accessibility	Data generation
HIGH PRIORITY	• Access and analyse data on company payments, disclosures, and progress in meeting transparency commitments across jurisdictions • Compare country assessment (Validation) data • Access project-level information on companies • Access project-level data relevant to communities hosting extractive activities	• Access and analyse company data • Refine the EITI website bulk download function that allows tailoring of downloads of different data points and countries • Compare country assessment (Validation) data • Disclose information relevant to local stakeholders in implementing countries • Encourage interoperability of beneficial ownership data	• Understand where data is disclosed through the EITI
MEDIUM PRIORITY	• Compare country data on revenues, production and export	• Ensure interoperability of government revenue data	• Access coverage of disclosures by country and by sector
LOW PRIORITY	• Track evolution in availability of systematic disclosures over time	• Track evolution in availability of systematic disclosures over time	• Track evolution in availability of systematic disclosures over time • Provide practical technical and financial support for systematically disclosures

EITI

We believe that a country's natural resources belong to its citizens. Our mission is to promote understanding of natural resource management, strengthen public and corporate governance and provide the data to inform greater transparency and accountability in the extractives sector.