# *Upstream* Data Use?

**Reid Porter**
DevResults
7 minutes

iati
International
Aid Transparency
Initiative

# Ensuring ~~Downstream~~ *Upstream* Data Use

- Open aid data should be useful, useable, in-use© - absolutely.

- Public shame, peer pressure, and donor requirements are powerful incentives to improve *downstream* quality, sure.

- Self-interest and -- *ahem* -- laziness are stronger incentives, by far. Building an IATI file incrementally as a team, and deriving value from it well before publication, is critical.

# Front-loading publication

*"Most organisations use a publishing tool or service to create their data…*
*Another option is to…[take] the data directly from your internal systems…"*

- *All* data comes from internal systems, but for most organizations (even big ones), 'system' is a generous term.

- Not everyone can afford fancy software. Publication is never free, even with free software.

- But everyone needs a system of some kind, even if that system is Excel-centric.

# Build for the long haul

- Organizations need to be better incentivized to get their data management act together from A to Z.

- This goes well-beyond IATI. M&E data, targeting and project design, risk management, learning, etc.

- Somehow it's still OK to tinker around with blockchain and AI while your staff fill out paper timesheets.

- Obviously we at DevResults care about development IMS systems, or we'd do something more lucrative. But many organizations still think they can operate in 2019 with quant data in a Word doc.


So what can we do?

# Friends don't let friends do bad data

- If you're a donor : set expectations for partners from the procurement-stage on.

  - GIS was once considered an expensive luxury, but donors kept asking for maps, and now geospatial analysis is becoming much more common.

- If you're an implementer : don't settle for "everyone do their own thing"; spare the poor associate wrangling all those spreadsheets.

  - There's much value to gain (shared measurement, inter-organizational learning, etc.) from even modest investments in internal data infrastructure.

- If you're a vendor : abstract-away the elements, attributes, and XML.

  - It's on us to make publishing data hurt less.

...and if you want to learn how you can publish IATI data in 5 clicks or less, come talk to me.

# Thank you for listening