

Tracking Humanitarian Assistance and Gender Equality Financing





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Prepared by

Beverley Hatcher-Mbu

Development Gateway, Inc.
1100 13th Street NW Suite 800
Washington, DC 20005

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Acronyms Glossary

CBPF	Country-Based Pooled Funds
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
FTS	Financial Tracking System
GAM	Gender with Age Marker
GHO	Global Humanitarian Overview
HDX	Humanitarian Data Exchange
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IATI	International Aid Transparency Initiative
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD DAC	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's Development Assistance Committee
OCHA	The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UN	United Nations

Executive Summary

Friends of Publish What You Fund, Publish What You Fund, and Development Gateway (DG) seek to understand where funding for gender equality and humanitarian assistance overlap, with a focus on three countries: Kenya, Guatemala, and Nepal. This report looks at seven common funding data sources that are used to track financing to understand if this information is accessible and which sources are more reliable. It also reviews how Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs) are used by stakeholders to track activities and financing during an emergency.

In particular, this work looks at the Organisation for Economic Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD DAC) gender equality policy marker in comparison to the Gender with Age Marker (GAM). The OECD DAC gender equality policy marker is used by the OECD Creditor Reporting System (CRS), the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) Datastore Query Builder, and the IATI d-portal, while the GAM is used by the Financial Tracking System (FTS) and the Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPF) data sources. The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) does not use a gender policy marker.

It was not possible to do a full comparison of how the two markers are used by the respective data sources, because the target countries of this research do not currently have active HRPs in place. In the absence of an HRP, data sources such as CBPF and FTS do not gather data or tag activities with the GAM for these countries during the years of research in question (2018-2021).

Analysis of the OECD DAC gender equality marker usage showed that in the OECD database approximately 32% of all humanitarian activities were tagged with the gender equality marker, accounting for 25% of humanitarian disbursements made in the three countries for projects active in 2018 and 2019. By contrast, the IATI d-portal showed 11% of all humanitarian activities are tagged with the gender marker, making up 16% of humanitarian disbursements within the 2018–2021 time frame. The IATI Datastore Query Builder showed 9% of activities screened with the gender marker, totaling 52% of humanitarian disbursements. There was no disbursement information for multiple years, for multiple countries, which likely skewed the IATI Datastore Query Builder results regarding the percentage of disbursements. In the absence of a gender marker, it is difficult to track targeted gender equality humanitarian assistance funding more broadly.

The research uncovered other general trends around humanitarian assistance funding targeted at gender equality. Assistance is implemented by a mix of UN agencies, international NGOs, and national NGOs. Gender equality activities often occur in the protection, health, and gender-based violence sectors. Four out of seven data sources

had fields for disbursement and commitment information, but quality (defined as completeness) varied, ranging from 100% filled (CBPF and d-portal) to 20.5% complete (IATI Datastore Query Builder). Disbursements are available in most data sources at the country level, with subnational level information available in the CBPF, OECD CRS, IATI Datastore Query Builder, and the d-portal. Reliable results data is largely unavailable, except for countries with data in the CBPF.

A strength of the humanitarian assistance funding system is that at least half of the data sources reviewed make data available in real-time, or at least quarterly. A weakness of the system is, in the case of the UN-managed data sources, limiting the use of the GAM to emergencies that have an HRP in place. This meant that there were no gender tagged activities for the target countries from those data sources in this research, even though humanitarian assistance funding continues to take place in all three locations.

The research concludes with several recommendations that apply both across data sources, and to specific data sources in question:

- Streamline definitions of key terminology across sites;
- Make it easier for users to find gender filters/pre-set reports;
- Improve ease of navigation for sites, especially for new users looking for guides or tutorials;
- Make subnational fields mandatory to improve disaggregated location information;
- Make total humanitarian assistance funding figures easy to find. This is critical for benchmarking the share of assistance targeting gender equality (and improving the share of disbursements in the future);
- CERF should adopt the OECD DAC gender equality marker and/or the GAM; and
- CBPF should include in its standard reports an option to pull country assistance that has been tagged with the GAM.

Introduction

The Gender Financing Project of Friends of Publish What You Fund in collaboration with Publish What You Fund aims to improve the publication of gender-related financial and programmatic data to improve development outcomes. As part of this work, Friends of Publish What You Fund, Publish What You Fund, and Development Gateway (DG) seek to understand where funding for gender equality and humanitarian assistance overlap, with a focus on three countries: Kenya, Guatemala, and Nepal. This report summarizes research into common humanitarian assistance funding sources to answer two core questions:

- To what extent can the public track humanitarian assistance that targets gender equality within Kenya, Nepal, Guatemala, and globally?
- What are the entry points to improve the publication of gender-related humanitarian assistance?

Defining Humanitarian Assistance

Humanitarian assistance generally refers to material and logistical support to “save lives, alleviate suffering, and maintain human dignity in the [immediate] aftermath of man-made crises and natural disasters.”¹ At any given time the sector is dense with actors funding and implementing a range of emergency responses around the world. Increasingly, the bulk of humanitarian assistance is coordinated, implemented, and tracked by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and its relevant funds, such as the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).²

Common Funding Sources

As a result of the UN’s primary coordination role, a number of the most common sources for tracking humanitarian assistance funding are managed by OCHA. These include: the Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPF); the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF); the Financial Tracking System (FTS), and the Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO).³ In addition to OCHA-managed tracking services, humanitarian assistance funding is also tracked in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Creditor Reporting System (CRS) database, and by the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) accessible in both the IATI Datastore Query Builder and the d-portal. Universally across data sources, humanitarian funding is Official Development Assistance (ODA) in the form of grants.

¹ Principles and Good Practice of Humanitarian Donorship, OECD, pg. 50 available at <https://www.oecd.org/dac/peer-reviews/12lessons.pdf>

² UN Delivers Humanitarian Aid, available at <https://www.un.org/en/sections/what-we-do/deliver-humanitarian-aid/>

³ We also reviewed the Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX), but it was determined that HDX is a catalogue of humanitarian data, and not a database that contains aid-financing information. As a result HDX has been excluded from review in this paper.

The Role of Humanitarian Response Plans

Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs) are the central planning framework that the global humanitarian system uses to support effective coordination and the rapid, targeted allocation of funds to meet emergency response needs. HRPs are “required for any humanitarian crisis requiring the support of more than one agency and are prepared by [UN] humanitarian country teams (HCTs) based on a humanitarian needs overview.”⁴ OCHA has extensive documentation on guidance, templates, and standard ratings to mark the level of severity of an emergency, all of which determine whether a country HRP is put in place (or not).⁵

The presence of a country’s HRP is important because it determines whether (and to what extent) a country’s humanitarian assistance financing is tracked in several OCHA databases. For example, FTS has a page for each active response plan/HRP and links all available funding information to the requirements of the active response plan/HRP.⁶ Without an active HRP, data may not appear in FTS.

A Note About HRPs and COVID

In light of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, there is a Global HRP as well as several country specific HRPs to coordinate COVID-19 responses. At the time of this research, there is an Intersectoral COVID-19 Response Plan for Kenya,⁷ but neither Nepal nor Guatemala have an active COVID-related HRP in place. From limited research, it is not immediately clear whether the UN system’s usual standard for developing HRPs applies in the COVID-19 pandemic, or how the decision-making process prioritizes which countries should have a COVID-related HRP put in place.

Comparison of OECD DAC Gender Marker and the Gender with Age Marker

The analysis of the common funding sources for humanitarian assistance targeted at gender equality highlights the OECD DAC Gender Marker and the Gender with Age Marker (GAM) as the two primary markers used to tag activities aimed at gender equality across the sector. Although both markers share the same goal of improving tracking of gender equality focused activities, they are each defined in different ways,

⁴ Strategic Response Planning: Overview, OCHA Service, available at <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/programme-cycle/space/page/strategic-response-planning>

⁵ Humanitarian Response Planning: Guidance and Templates, OCHA Services, available at <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/programme-cycle/space/strategic-response-planning-guidance-templates>

⁶ Appeals and Response Plans, Financial Tracking Services, available at <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/overview/2021>

⁷ Kenya Intersectoral COVID-19 Response Plan 2020, Financial Tracking System, available at <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/1000/summary>.

and used by different platforms (to varying effects). The table below summarizes the key differences:

Table 1. Comparison of OECD DAC Gender Marker and GAM

	OECD DAC Gender Marker ⁸	GAM ⁹	No marker
Scoring system	Principal (2): gender equality is the main objective Significant (1): important, but not the principal reason Not Targeted (0): Not targeting gender equality	0-4 rating 4 - Intends to contribute to gender equality, including across age groups AND/OR people with disabilities 3 - Intends to contribute to gender equality, but without attention to age groups AND/OR people with disabilities 2 - No attention to gender equality, though intending to address age AND/OR disability differences 1 - Does not respond to differences based on gender, age or disability; does not consistently pay attention to specific groups of concern.	
Data sources using the marker	OECD CRS IATI Datastore Query Builder and d-portal	CBPF FTS	CERF
# of projects in all 3 target countries screened w/ the marker	OECD CRS: 469 IATI d-portal: 155 IATI Datastore Query Builder: 144	CBPF: N/A* FTS: N/A*	CERF: N/A
% of projects in all 3 target countries screened w/ the marker	OECD CRS: 32% IATI d-portal: 10.5% IATI Datastore Query Builder: 9%	CBPF: N/A* FTS: N/A*	CERF: N/A
% of funding in all 3 target countries screened w/ the marker	OECD CRS: 25% IATI d-portal: 17.8% IATI Datastore Query Builder: 52%**	CBPF: N/A* FTS: N/A*	CERF: N/A

* The marker is in use, but data was not available for the target countries in this research.

** This result is likely skewed by the fact that there were several years for Nepal with no disbursement data, no disbursement for 2021 data, and the overall availability of disbursement data was very low.

⁸ DAC Gender Equality Marker, available at <https://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/dac-gender-equality-marker.htm>

⁹ Gender with Age Marker Overview, available at <https://www.iascgenderwithagemarker.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/GAM-coding-logic-EN.pdf>

IATI Datastore Query Builder and d-portal have more years of available data for potential screening in comparison to OECD CRS sector-specific OECD CRS aggregate information is published in April for the previous fiscal year, and details of recipient countries and sectors are not published until December, causing a year delay in reporting. However, CRS data does have a higher rate of tagging with the gender marker (and thus a higher percentage of overall funding marked as going towards gender equality humanitarian assistance). The analysis in this report is hampered by the lack of available data for the target countries in data sources in which the Gender with Age Marker (GAM) is in use. Without data, it is hard to make a proper comparison of usage between the OECD DAC gender equality marker and the GAM.

Beyond the markers, it is difficult to track targeted gender equality activities. Each platform has its own definition of what gender-focused activities are and what humanitarian activities cover. Between the varied search terms for gender and for humanitarian assistance, it is difficult for a user to get an accurate picture even when trying to combine data across multiple sources.

As mentioned earlier, the grey area between when an emergency shifts from a humanitarian need to longer-term development assistance means that it can be particularly difficult (for publishers and data users) to understand which data best applies to humanitarian assistance.

Funding by Data Source

This section summarizes the results from attempts to track financing for humanitarian assistance that targets gender equality through seven commonly used data sources. The research focuses on Kenya, Nepal, and Guatemala from 2018 to 2021 where the data is available, but in some cases explains broader use of data sources when necessary (where data for the target countries could not be found).

Sources Using the OECD DAC Gender Marker

OECD DAC

The OECD DAC promotes the coordination and improvement of financing in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Secretariat, among other activities, gathers and disseminates data on development financing for OECD members and partners, providing an overview of country and sector-specific funding.¹⁰

With new minimum criteria introduced in 2016, the OECD DAC gender equality marker is a statistical tool based on a three-point scoring system.¹¹ Each activity is analyzed to determine

¹⁰ Development Finance Data, OECD DAC, available at <http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-data/>

¹¹ Definition and minimum recommended criteria for the DAC gender equality policy marker, OECD, available at <https://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/Minimum-recommended-criteria-for-DAC-gender-marker.pdf>

whether an activity: has gender equality as a principal focus (2 rating); has gender equality as an important focus, but not the sole purpose of the activity (1 rating); or does not target gender equality at all (0 rating). Funding that is not assigned a gender marker score is considered to be untagged.

Table 2. Query Values and Search Filters

OECD DAC Search Filters	
To access the OECD CRS dataset users can download the dataset for each year (2018, 2019) in a zip file and analyze the data one year at a time, or can download multiple years at a time from the general CRS platform.	
Country Filter	Kenya, Guatemala, Nepal
Sector Filter	Emergency Response, Reconstruction Relief, and Disaster Prevention

Table 3. OECD CRS Results

OECD CRS Results: Taken March 12, 2021		Kenya	Nepal	Guatemala
2018	Number of Humanitarian Projects - 2018	254	270	101
	Number of Identified Gender Focused Projects - 2018	99	149	38
	Percent of the Number of 2018 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused	39%	55%	38%
	Total Value of Humanitarian Projects - 2018	197,578,895	179,518,175	18,060,599
	Total Value of Identified Gender Focused Projects - 2018	39,782,675	69,286,391	5,105,224
	Percent of the Value of 2018 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused	20.14%	38.60%	28.27%
2019	Number of Humanitarian Projects - 2019	443	308	96
	Number of Identified Gender Focused Projects - 2019	85	74	24
	Percent of the Number of 2019 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused	19.19%	24.03%	25.00%
	Total Value of Humanitarian Projects - 2019	277,605,527	192,085,300	27,770,666
	Total Value of Identified Gender Focused Projects - 2019	36,914,920	65,703,187	2,329,832
	Percent of the Value of 2019 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused	13.30%	34.21%	8.39%
Total	Total Number of Humanitarian Projects 2018-2019		1,472	
	Total Number of Identified Gender Focused Projects 2018-2019		469	
	Percent of the Number of 2018-2019 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused		32%	
	Total Value of Humanitarian Projects 2018-2019		\$892,619,163	
	Total Value of Identified Gender Focused Projects 2018-2019		\$219,122,228	
	Percent of the Value of 2018-2019 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused		25%	

Search adjustments and challenges:

- OECD CRS data are currently only available up to 2019, with the expectation that the data will be updated later in 2021. OECD CRS data do not identify whether an activity is open or closed.
- Due to its size, the dataset is difficult to navigate and requires more than basic knowledge of Excel functions to filter and analyze the available data appropriately.
- Note that due to the way the CRS dataset is structured, humanitarian results are tagged to hierarchy level 2 subsectors, and not to hierarchy level 1 sectors. This means that when the user searches for “Humanitarian Aid” in the sector name filter, zero results come up. When the Humanitarian Aid subsectors (emergency response, disaster preparedness, and reconstruction) are selected, the filtered results appear. DG noted that this occurs for some hierarchy level 1 sectors in the dataset (e.g., infrastructure) but not for others (e.g., administrative costs). This is an important distinction, as it could falsely lead a user to think there are no humanitarian results in the dataset.
- An easier method to navigate the gender equality activities within the extensive OECD dataset is by using the pre-filtered report/database on aid projects targeting gender equality and women’s empowerment.¹² The drawback is that this pre-filtered dataset excludes non-OECD members, and thus gives a limited picture of funding in the sector.
- Additionally, none of the pre-set filter combinations allow users to determine how many overall humanitarian assistance projects (and thus overall funding) are in the database. In order to properly identify the total number of activities and funding, the user must run a query of the full dataset.

IATI d-portal

The d-portal explores open datasets on development and humanitarian spending by utilizing a recently designed, user friendly search engine that allows users to more easily find activities, budgets, and other financing information published by a range of funders. IATI data is published by funders according to the IATI Standard, which sets rules to facilitate the publishing of useful, interoperable data.¹³

IATI uses its own gender equality marker that replicates the OECD DAC gender marker scoring system to analyze the degree of activity focused on gender equality.¹⁴

¹² Aid projects targeting gender equality and women’s empowerment (CRS), OECD, available at https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=DV_DCD_GENDER

¹³ D-portal, available at <https://d-portal.org/about.html>

¹⁴ IATI Codelist, available at <https://iatistandard.org/en/iati-standard/203/codelists/policymarker/>

Table 4. Query Values and Search Filters

d-Portal Search Filters	
The user can download a summary of query results (and obtain more details about each activity in the search results) on d-portal.org	
Country Filter	Single Select Kenya; Guatemala; Nepal
Sector Filter	Humanitarian (select yes)
Policy Marker	Select Gender equality marker 1-1 and Gender equality marker 2-1
Date Filter	Single select 2018. It queries actual and planned dates for activities that ended after the start of the min year

Table 5. IATI d-portal Results

IATI d-portal Results: Taken April 5, 2021		Kenya	Nepal	Guatemala
2018+	Number of Humanitarian Projects – 2018+	723	429	329
	Number of Identified Gender Focused Projects – 2018+	105	38	12
	Percent of the Number of 2018+ Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused	15%	9%	4%
	Total Value of Humanitarian Projects – 2018+	2,081,536,253	610,621,403	287,097,817
	Total Value of Identified Gender Focused Projects – 2018+	427,493,782	84,000,494	19,474,410
	Percent of the Value of 2018 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused	20.54%	13.76%	6.78%
Total	Total Number of Humanitarian Projects 2018+		1,481	
	Total Number of Identified Gender Focused Projects 2018+		155	
	Percent of the Number of 2018+ Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused		10.47%	
	Total Value of Humanitarian Projects 2018+		\$2,979,255,473	
	Total Value of Identified Gender Focused Projects 2018+		\$530,968,686	
	Percent of the Value of 2018+ Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused		17.82%	

Search adjustments and challenges:

D-portal includes projects that are ongoing (end beyond 2020) and it is not clear what variable is filtered by the date filter. This may have to do with how d-portal apportions data to a particular year. D-portal's frequently asked questions note that it uses the transaction value date/transaction date (e.g., in Spend columns in tables) for a given year.¹⁵

IATI Datastore Query Builder

The IATI Datastore Query Builder allows users to search the original repository housing IATI development and humanitarian data.¹⁶ The Datastore Query Builder is in use alongside the d-portal. While the d-portal excludes some data that does not meet certain requirements as noted in their FAQs,¹⁷ the Datastore Query Builder includes more published data. As a result, this report looks at the Datastore Query Builder separately from the d-portal to explore how public users can identify the broadest amount of financing data related to humanitarian assistance targeting gender equality.

The IATI Datastore Query Builder uses its own gender equality marker (the same as d-portal) that replicates the OECD DAC gender marker scoring system to analyze the degree of activity focused on gender equality.

Within the Datastore Query Builder two separate queries need to be run to obtain disbursements and to obtain the number of projects per year. This is because one query type, transaction per row, allows the user to split apart the different types of transactions (commitments, disbursements, expenditures etc.) to filter for disbursement. Not all IATI publishers include disbursements in the data they publish, so if the user only counts the number of projects with disbursements (query using unique activity), they would be excluding projects that are reported but don't include disbursement information.

As a result, the two queries we ran for this report are:

- Report by financial transaction
- Report by unique activity

¹⁵ D-portal Technical FAQs, d-portal, available at <https://d-portal.org/faq.html#tech3>

¹⁶ The IATI Datastore Query Builder is available at <https://iatidatastore.iatistandard.org/querybuilder/core-filters>

¹⁷ D-portal FAQ available at <http://d-portal.org/faq.html#gen6>

Table 6. IATI Query Values and Search Filters by Financial Transaction

IATI Datastore Query Builder Search Filters	
The user can download the full query results from the IATI Datastore Query Builder available at https://iatidatastore.iatistandard.org/querybuilder/core-filters	
Recipient Country Filter	Kenya, Guatemala, Nepal
Filter by Date	Select yes
Add Filter	Add Humanitarian and select option “true”. Add Policy Marker and select Gender equality. Add Transaction Type and select Disbursement
Date Filter	Use the “activity budget start date from 01/01/2018”
Row Format Filter	Select “each financial transaction”
Additional Excel Configuration	Once the data is downloaded, filter (single select) by year 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 to see actual disbursements by year. Use column “transaction_value_usd” to obtain the disbursement amount

Table 7. IATI Datastore Query Builder by Financial Transaction Results

IATI Datastore Query Builder Results: Taken April 5, 2021		Kenya	Nepal	Guatemala
2018	Total Value of Humanitarian Projects – 2018	1,125,787,843	374,236,139	136,708,162**
	Total Value of Identified Gender Focused Projects – 2018	23,798,439	1,354,481*	60,968,020
	Percent of the Value of 2018 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused	2%	0.4%	45%***
2019	Total Value of Humanitarian Projects – 2019	1,125,946,986	373,043,978	167,543,409**
	Total Value of Identified Gender Focused Projects – 2019	6,880,923	3,953,161*	70,936,742
	Percent of the Value of 2019 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused	0.61%	1.06%	42.34%
2020	Total Value of Humanitarian Projects – 2020	1,124,679,107	371,267,734	51,954,863
	Total Value of Identified Gender Focused Projects – 2020	15,730,059	3,312,174	5,522,984
	Percent of the Value of 2020 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused	1.40%	0.89%	10.63%
2021	Total Value of Humanitarian Projects – 2021	976,546,972	4,272,323	20,907,229
	Total Value of Identified Gender Focused Projects – 2021	13,025,055	4,272,323	5,522,984
	Percent of the Value of 2021 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused	1.33%	100%****	26.42%
Total	Total Value of Humanitarian Projects 2018-2021		\$5,852,894,745	
	Total Value of Identified Gender Focused Projects 2018-2021		\$215,277,346	
	Percent of the Value of 2018-2021 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused		3.68%	

* For Nepal 2018 and 2019 gender humanitarian disbursements, these were only available in GBP. We used the current conversion rate on April 5, 2021, of \$1.39 to 1 GBP

** For Guatemala 2018 and 2019 humanitarian data where some disbursements were only available in CAD, we used the April 5, 2021 CAD to USD conversion rate of \$0.80 USD to CAD \$1.

*** There is a multi-country program that is skewing Guatemala's gender humanitarian numbers for 2018. The size of the transaction value seems too high to be an individual country disbursement figure.

**** For 2021 in Nepal, it appears that only data screened with the marker had disbursement data available

Table 8. IATI Datastore Query Builder Query Values and Search Filters by Unique Activity

IATI Datastore Query Builder Search Filters	
The user can download the full query results from the IATI Datastore Query Builder available at http://iatidatastore.iatistandard.org/querybuilder/core-filters	
Recipient Country Filter	Single Select Kenya, Guatemala, and Nepal
Filter by Date	Select yes
Add Filter	Add Humanitarian and select option "true". Add Policy Marker and select Gender equality.
Date Filter	use the "activity budget start date from 01/01/2018"
Row Format Filter	Select "each unique activity"
Output Format	Multiselect Activity Dates, Reporting Organization, Title, Descriptions, Participating Organization, Recipient Countries, Sectors.
Additional Excel Configuration	Using the column "Activity_date_start_actual" filter by 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021. This will allow users to filter for the number of activities that started during the selected year.

Table 9. IATI Datastore Query Builder by Unique Activity Results

IATI Datastore Query Builder Results by Unique Activity: Taken April 5, 2021		Kenya	Nepal	Guatemala
2018	Number of Humanitarian Projects - 2018	174	89	88
	Number of Identified Gender Focused Projects - 2018	33	19	5
	Percent of the Number of 2018 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused	19%	21%	6%
2019	Number of Humanitarian Projects - 2019	158	70	53
	Number of Identified Gender Focused Projects - 2019	9	1	2
	Percent of the Number of 2019 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused	5.7%	1.4%	3.8%
2020	Number of Humanitarian Projects - 2020	84	47	57
	Number of Identified Gender Focused Projects - 2020	8	6	1
	Percent of the Number of 2020 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused	9.5%	12.8%	1.8%
2021	Number of Humanitarian Projects - 2021	4	4	9
	Number of Identified Gender Focused Projects - 2021	0	1	0
	Percent of the Number of 2021 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused	0%	25%	0%
Total Number of Humanitarian Projects 2018-2021			837	
Total	Total Number of Identified Gender Focused Projects 2018-2021		85	
	Percent of the Number of 2018-2021 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused		10.2%	

Search adjustments and challenges:

- IATI is an ecosystem of open datasets, not a singular, unified database. As a result users should expect for results to be different between the IATI Datastore Query Builder and the d-portal.
- When searching for disbursement using the “by financial transaction” some transactions some “false zeroes” showed up in the “transaction_value_usd” column because the publisher did not specify a conversion rate from the original disbursement currency, or for some reason, the USD transaction showed up in the value column, but not in the USD value column. This means that the total disbursement figures can vary if the user is not careful to confirm that each line of transaction data is missing (and not simply unconverted).
- When searching for humanitarian assistance activities overall in Kenya, the downloaded information included non-humanitarian activities (activities marked “0” for humanitarian). However, upon closer inspection, there were several activities marked “0” e.g., “emergency program through World Food program” that seemed from the title to be a humanitarian activity. IATI tech support confirmed that this is because some activities are marked as humanitarian at the activities level, while others are marked at the transaction level.¹⁸ When you query the IATI Datastore Query Builder it pulls both results. As a result, DG did not filter out “0” value results.

¹⁸ Email communication between DG and IATI Tech Support, March 2021.

Sources that Use the Gender with Age Marker

Gender with Age Marker

The Gender with Age Marker (GAM) is a screening tool in the form of a questionnaire designed to encourage reflective thinking on program design and program monitoring for programs that are more gender, age, and disability-responsive.¹⁹ The GAM is managed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), one of the longest running humanitarian coordination fora gathering a mix of UN and non-UN organization heads to support humanitarian efforts.²⁰ Since 2019, all humanitarian projects seeking funding under an active HRP are required to be screened using the GAM.²¹

At the time of research,²² the GAM site is partially under construction, meaning that the public cannot access custom reports and database analysis of activities screened with the GAM. Only users who are adding or updating their own project can create reports, and only reports summarizing their own data in the system. There are a few standard reports on GAM results available on the site from 2019, June 2020, and December 2020. None of these include data on Kenya, Guatemala or Nepal.

A Quick Note About the Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO)

GHO is an OCHA-managed site that contains a high-level overview of each country with an active HRP, summarizing the key needs, targets, and funding requests for the current year.²³ Given that all active humanitarian projects under an HRP must now be screened with the GAM, GHO could be a potentially useful starting point for understanding humanitarian assistance targeted at gender equality because it provides a quick view of active HRPs. Unfortunately, this resource was not reviewed extensively because the target countries of this research do not have, as of 2021, active HRPs in place. As a result, their data does not appear on the site. Kenya has an Intersectoral COVID-19 Response Plan, but it does not appear to be treated as an HRP, as it does not appear on the GHO website.

Country Based Pooled Funds

The Country Based Pooled Funds (CBPF) is managed by OCHA and combines both CBPF and CERF funding to provide a full picture of humanitarian aid flows. CBPF encourages users to

¹⁹ GAM Overview, IASC Gender with Age Marker, available at

<http://www.iascgenderwithagemarker.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/GAM-Overview-EN.pdf>

²⁰ IASC Gender with Age Marker, IASC, available at <https://www.iascgenderwithagemarker.com/en/home>

²¹ IASC Gender with Age Marker Officially Launched, Global Protection Cluster, available at

<http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/2018/07/10/iasc-gender-with-age-marker-officially-launched/#:~:text=The%20Gender%20with%20Age%20Marker%20is%20an%20easy%2Dto%2Duse.gender%20and%20age%20in%20programming.>

²² On March 26, 2021, DG checked the GAM site and noticed a dashboard with data is now publicly available. This data was not available during earlier drafts of this research. The database can be accessed at

<http://www.iascgenderwithagemarker.com/en/gam-dashboard>

²³ Global Humanitarian Overview, available at <https://gho.unocha.org>

screen activities using GAM and makes it easy to dive into the data on humanitarian assistance screened using GAM directly from the homepage.²⁴

Interestingly, CBPF has a COVID marker/filter for its database, but it does not include the data from Kenya's COVID HRP in its breakdown by country of COVID allocations. It is not clear why this discrepancy exists between how the Kenya COVID-19 assistance data is represented in FTS versus in CBPF.

Table 10. Query Values and Search Filters

CBPF Search Filters	
The user can download reports at https://cbpf.data.unocha.org/dataexplorer.html	
Target Country Filter	Kenya, Guatemala, Nepal
Date filter	2018-2021

Results pulled on March 5, 2021:

None

Search Adjustments and Challenges

- Visualizations easily show when the GAM is in use. Unfortunately, there was no data for the target countries during the time frame selected.
- When using another country (South Sudan) to test the GAM visualization capability, the data was disaggregated by country but showed only total funding figures. There was no option to download individual activity information to learn more (e.g., sector or funding organization).
- Activity level information could be found in other visualizations/quick links to popular queries in the database, but these would require the user to use different visualizations and manually combine them (e.g., run a search of the funding organizations and then compare them against results generated by the GAM visualization). This is not very precise and could produce human error mistakes or double counting.

Financial Tracking System

The Financial Tracking System (FTS), started in 1990, is the oldest of the OCHA-managed databases and acts as one of the main curation points to centralize data on humanitarian aid flows.²⁵ FTS has maintained an open and online database since 2000. FTS data is also cross-published and is available via API in the IATI Datastore Query Builder. FTS uses the GAM to screen activities that target gender equality, which can be found (where available) under the “view by” filter on specific appeals/plans pages. See for example the Sudan 2020 response plan.²⁶

²⁴ Welcome to the Country Based Pooled Funds, OCHA, available at <https://cbpf.data.unocha.org/index.html>

²⁵ Financial Tracking System, available at <https://fts.unocha.org/content/about-fts-what-fts>

²⁶ Sudan 2020, FTS, available at <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/870/project-grouping/4-iasc-gender-with-age-marker-gam>

In the absence of a current appeal or plan, Kenya, Nepal, and Guatemala do not have available gender marker data. We searched gender-based violence as a sector in this case to see if this would generate additional gender equality activity results.

Table 11. Query Values and Search Filters

FTS Search Filters	
The user can view and download query results (and obtain more details about each activity in the search results) on fts.unocha.org	
Country Filter	Kenya, Guatemala, Nepal
Sector Filter	Gender-based violence
Date filter	2018-2021

Table 12. FTS Results

FTS Results: Taken March 4, 2021		Kenya	Nepal	Guatemala
2018	Number of Humanitarian Projects – 2018	134	29	36
	Number of Gender Projects in Gender-Based Violence Identified	5	0	0
	Percent of the Number of 2018 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused in GBV	3.73%	0	0
	Total Value of Humanitarian Projects – 2018	220,893,585	9,614,641	31,790,955
	Total Value of Gender Projects in GBV Identified	6,781,000	0	0
	Percent of the Value of 2018 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused in GBV	3.07%	0	0
2019	Number of Humanitarian Projects – 2019	154	39	14
	Number of Gender Projects in Gender-Based Violence Identified	6	1	0
	Percent of the Number of 2019 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused in GBV	3.90%	2.56%	0
	Total Value of Humanitarian Projects – 2019	209,271,350	11,931,245	22,709,289
	Total value of Gender Projects in GBV Identified	11,190,032	1,653,487	0
	Percent of the Value of 2019 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused in GBV	5.35%	13.86%	0
2020	Number of Humanitarian Projects – 2020	77	61	54
	Number of Gender Projects in Gender-Based Violence Identified	0	0	0
	Percent of the Number of 2020 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused in GBV	0	0	0
	Total Value of Humanitarian Projects – 2020	68,562,452	33,013,523	57,272,729
	Percent of the Value of 2020 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused in GBV	0	0	0
2021	Number of Humanitarian Projects – 2021	14	5	7
	Number of Gender Projects in Gender-Based Violence Identified	0	0	0
	Percent of the Number of 2021 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused in GBV	0	0	0
	Total Value of Humanitarian Projects – 2021	20,371,824	13,786,732	7,700,000
	Percent of the Value of 2021 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused in GBV	0	0	0
Total	Total Number of Humanitarian Projects 2018-2021			624
	Total Number of Gender Focused Projects Identified in GBV 2018-2021			12

Percent of the Number of 2018-2021 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused in GBV	2%
Total Value of Humanitarian Projects 2018-2021	\$706,918,325
Total Value of Identified Gender Focused Projects in GBV 2018-2021	\$19,624,519
Percent of the Value of 2018-2021 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused in GBV	3%

Search Adjustments and Challenges

- Given that the data is also available via the IATI Datastore Query Builder, with some crossover between donors who report to IATI and report to FTS, it is not clear what validation or quality steps are taken to avoid double-counting in each data source. There is, however, currently a pilot between IATI and FTS to improve the automated sharing of financial data between donors reporting in the IATI Standard and the FTS.
- There is supposed to be a Gender Marker pre-2019 (before the switch to the GAM), but it is not clear how to filter projects to locate this information.
- Starting in 2019 FTS shifted to the GAM and enabled the GAM to be viewable/filterable when looking at any country's HRP page. However, Kenya does not have an HRP for any of the years the GAM is in use. Neither does Guatemala (last HRP in 2016) or Nepal (last HRP in 2008). Kenya's current Intersectional COVID-19 Response Plan does not appear to be treated as an HRP for these purposes. Because of this, we instead searched for "gender-based violence" as a sector as this was the only other option to get an idea of gender equality humanitarian assistance projects.
- We tried to see whether other sector searches would reveal more gender equality-focused activities. We searched Health, WASH, and Shelter. Health brought up two previously reviewed results that were double-tagged with the gender-based violence sector tag. Without activity level data (to be able to read project titles or descriptions) it is not possible to determine if there are additional gender-focused activities in other sectors.
- The search function is difficult to use. Public users will probably need to run multiple queries to identify the true combination of gender projects at a given time. For example, because "gender-based violence" is the only sector option for gender related projects, searches for gender equality focused projects are severely limited.

Sources That Use No Gender Marker

Central Emergency Relief Fund

The Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) is another UN standalone coordination fund, with a specific focus on providing rapid response funding and support to underfunded emergencies to enable immediate, urgent humanitarian assistance. CERF does not screen its projects using a gender marker.

CERF does not have data for the target countries in 2021.

Table 13. Query Values and Search Filters

CERF Search Filters	
The user can view and download query results (and obtain more details about each activity in the search results) https://cerf.un.org/what-we-do/allocation-summaries	
Country Filter	Kenya, Guatemala, Nepal
Sector Filter	Protection; filter again by country for Kenya and Guatemala
Allocation Date filter	2018, 2019, 2020

Table 14. CERF Results

CERF Results: Taken March 3, 2021		Kenya	Guatemala
2018	Number of Humanitarian Projects - 2018	9	8
	Number of Identified Gender Focused Projects in Protection - 2018	2	0
	Percent of the Number of 2018 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused in the Protection Sector	22.22%	0
	Total Value of Humanitarian Projects - 2018	4,945,502	1,559,967
	Total Value of Identified Gender Focused Projects in Protection - 2018	463,197	0
	Percent of the Value of 2018 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused in the Protection Sector	9.37%	0
2019	Number of Humanitarian Projects - 2019	17	4
	Number of Identified Gender Focused Projects - 2019	2	0
	Percent of the Number of 2019 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused	11.76%	0
	Total Value of Humanitarian Projects - 2019	8,008,589	1,986,599
	Total Value of Identified Gender Focused Projects - 2019	499,984	0
	Percent of the Value of 2019 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused	6.24%	0
2020	Number of Humanitarian Projects - 2020	4	10
	Number of Identified Gender Focused Projects - 2020	0	1
	Percent of the Number of 2020 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused	0	10.00%
	Total Value of Humanitarian Projects - 2020	3,006,018	7,515,867
	Total Value of Identified Gender Focused Projects - 2020	0	150,078
	Percent of the Value of 2020 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused	0	2.00%
Total	Total Number of Humanitarian Projects 2018-2020		52
	Total Number of Identified Gender Focused Projects 2018-2020		5
	Percent of the Number of 2018-2020 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused		9.62%
	Total Value of Humanitarian Projects 2018-2020		\$27,022,542
	Total Value of Identified Gender Focused Projects 2018-2020		\$1,113,259
	Percent of the Value of 2018-2020 Humanitarian Projects Identified as Gender Focused		4.12%

Search Adjustments and Challenges

- It is not possible to filter by a gender marker. Two projects for Guatemala 2020 appear to be gender-focused projects (from reading the targeted groups mentioned in the project title)²⁷ but require the user to read each title to determine, which is not very precise and depends on the level of description in the project title.
- Protection is a sector category that can be a good proxy search for humanitarian assistance projects targeting gender equality, where the projects within these parameters (Kenya, Guatemala, 2018-2020) reflect a gender equality focus.
- Caution is advised using this term, as it cannot necessarily be reused to search other data sources to the same effect, or even ensure reliable results year to year within CERF. There would need to be a manual search to confirm that a project marked for the protection sector does in fact have gender equality activities.
- CERF data appears in CBPF, but it is difficult to determine when projects are duplicates. This is not an issue in this report since Kenya and Guatemala data were only located in CERF, but it is a reasonable question for other countries where the same, or different, data may exist in both places.
- There is no system to double tag (e.g., tagging a project so that it shows up in both the Allocation by Country and in a Regional Response). For example, there is an FAO project on desertification taking place in Kenya, but it is under the "East Africa" country search. The activity does not appear in Kenya data for the same year.

Data Source Conclusion

Humanitarian data struggles with the same themes that impact broader humanitarian work: it is a blurred line between when an emergency ends and development aid begins. Because humanitarian emergencies are not time-bound, this ambiguity is reflected in the data as researched across the funding sources. This complexity could explain why some data sources have up-to-date projects and humanitarian funding for the core countries of this research work while other data sources do not for the same period.

Further complicating matters is the cross-border nature of emergencies. For example, Kenya is not currently in a state of humanitarian emergency, but current conflicts in Ethiopia and South Sudan have spillover effects. The result is that some programming takes place in Kenya as a part of Ethiopia, South Sudan, and/or broader Horn region response programs. This makes for more work on the part of users to track humanitarian financing by multiplying the number of queries that need to be run to attempt to accurately answer the basic question: "how much humanitarian assistance is a country receiving within a set period?"

²⁷ The two project titles were: "Sexual & reproductive health emergency care services & mitigation of GBV due to malnutrition and food insecurity emergency in Huehuetenango Guatemala" and "Empowerment and access of women and girls affected by food insecurity to protection, care, support services and networks."

Ultimately there are useful datasets available, sometimes buried within the individual data sources. The problem remains that it is labor-intensive to access them, and individual data does not necessarily paint a complete picture of the humanitarian assistance funding as a whole, or the activities that target gender equality specifically.

Discussion of Research Questions

This section addresses the research questions using the analysis from the previous sections of this report. In addition to the discussion of the core questions, this section also outlines the main limitations and weaknesses present in the surveyed data sources, including how these restraints impact the quality of humanitarian and gender equality financing data available to the public.

1. To what extent is humanitarian assistance marked with a gender equality policy marker?

Table 16. Summary of gender marker usage

Data source	Is there a gender marker? (Y/N)	What type of gender marker is in use?
Central Emergency Response Fund	N	
Country-Based Pooled Funds	Y	Gender with Age Marker
Financial Tracking System	Y	Gender with Age Marker
IATI d-portal	Y	OECD DAC gender marker
IATI Datastore Query Builder	Y	OECD DAC gender marker
OECD CRS	Y	OECD DAC gender marker

Based on the activities tagged across data sources, about a third, often less, of humanitarian funding goes towards gender equality activities. There are reasons to temper this assessment, however, as some publishers are not tagging enough activities using the marker, resulting in inaccurately low funding numbers. Additionally, the target countries in this research do not have active HRPs currently, and there may be higher tagging of activities (and greater funding) for gender-focused activities in countries with an HRP.

2. What organizations are mainly delivering/implementing gender-related humanitarian assistance?

Table 17. Summary of common implementing organizations for humanitarian activities

Data source	Common delivery/implementation organizations
Central Emergency Response Fund	It is unclear whether the funder is also the implementer, as the data does not distinguish between the two. All sample size projects are from UN agencies.
Country-Based Pooled Funds	UN agencies, international organizations, national NGOs
Financial Tracking System	National government, international organizations, private foundations, UN agencies
IATI d-portal	UN agencies, international organizations, national NGOs
IATI Datastore Query Builder	UN agencies, international organizations, national NGOs
OECD CRS	UN agencies, international organizations, national NGOs

Gender-related humanitarian assistance is implemented most often by a mix of UN agencies, international NGOs, and national NGOs. UN agencies collectively are frequent implementers, but this bias could be in part because the majority of activity reporting (and database management) is conducted by the UN system. In addition to UN agencies such as UNICEF, ActionAid, SIDA, and various country Red Cross offices (Danish and British) are frequent individual implementers.

3. What sectors & sub-sectors/thematic areas do gender-related humanitarian assistance mainly target?

Table 18. Summary of common sectors for overall humanitarian assistance

Data source	Common sectors for Humanitarian Assistance
Central Emergency Response Fund	Health, Nutrition, Protection, and Shelter
Country-Based Pooled Funds	WASH, Emergency Response, Health, Protection
Financial Tracking System	Health, WASH, Emergency Shelter, Education, Food Security, Coordination and Support Services
IATI d-portal	Emergency Food Assistance, Emergency Response, Health, Relief Coordination, WASH
IATI Datastore Query Builder	Education, Emergency Response, Health, Nutrition, Protection
OECD CRS	Emergency Response, Population and Reproductive Health, Government and Civil Society, Protection; several activities do not include sector information (or the sector name is unspecified)

Gender-related humanitarian assistance typically falls under the protection, gender-based violence, or health sectors. In some data sources such as FTS, gender-based violence is a standalone sector category and is a relevant sector for tracking gender-related assistance. Occasionally gender-equality activities also occur in the agriculture, food security, and water, sanitation, and hygiene sectors.

4. To what extent can we track which humanitarian commitments have already been disbursed?

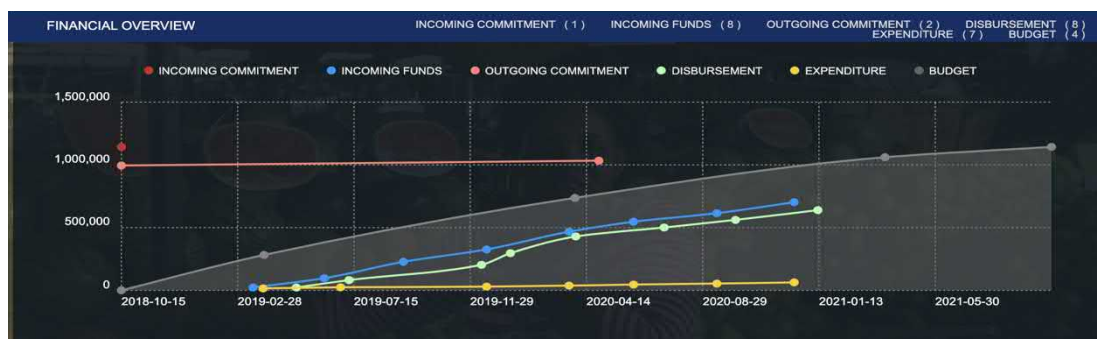
Table 19. Summary of disbursement availability & completeness of fields across data sources

Data source	Is there disbursement information? (Y/N)	% of completeness for actual disbursement field(s)	Is there budget information? (Y/N)
Central Emergency Response Fund	Y	100%	N
Country-Based Pooled Funds	N	N/A	Y
Financial Tracking System	Y*	57.4%	N
IATI d-portal	Y	99.8%	Y
IATI Datastore Query Builder	Y	99.9%	Y
OECD CRS	Y	94.5%	Y

* Assuming that paid contribution is the same as a disbursement.

Five out of seven funding sources assessed had fields (and corresponding data) on actual disbursements, while half had options to track proposed budgets. Quality varies widely in terms of whether publishers fill out the spend fields (when available) in full. FTS has two categories, commitment or paid contribution. For this research, we have interpreted paid contribution as equivalent to disbursement, although FTS does not make this distinction clear in its glossary. By contrast, the d-portal has easy-to-use visualizations tracking commitment, disbursement, and expenditures in the same chart. Several publishers in the data pulled for the target countries had furnished each of these three data points, making it easier to see what funds had already been disbursed.

Figure 1: Current ActionAid project in Kenya



This visualization shows the disbursement, expenditure, and incoming fund flows from a sample project in Kenya taken from [d-portal](#).

5. On a geographical scale, how disaggregated are humanitarian commitments and disbursements that we can track?

Table 20. Summary of geographical scale of disbursements

Data source	Global	Regional	National (Country)	Subnational (state/county/town)
Central Emergency Response Fund			X	
Country-Based Pooled Funds	X	X	X	X
Financial Tracking System	X	X	X	
IATI d-portal		X	X	X
IATI Datastore Query Builder		X	X	X
OECD CRS	X	X	X	X

Data is typically available across all data sources at a country level. IATI Datastore Query Builder and d-portal both have fields for subnational or local level data, but users who submit data under the IATI Standard rarely fill these fields. OECD CRS has subnational (state/county, and sometimes town) data. The size of the datasets makes it difficult to determine the level of completeness, i.e., how frequently project information includes a subnational location. For future searches where the target country has data in the CBPF, users could explore in more detail to what extent subnational disbursement information is available.

6. To what extent can we track the results/impact of gender-related humanitarian assistance?

Results Data

Results data are hard to find across the funding sources surveyed. Occasionally in FTS publishers include some level of output or outcome information in the description field, but it was not comprehensive or reliable. IATI Datastore Query Builder and d-portal both have fields for results, which users who submit data under the IATI Standard rarely use. Some Global Affairs Canada projects in IATI Datastore Query Builder included outcome indicators and the occasional attachment of a detailed log frame document.

One key exception is CBPF. Although it did not have data for the target countries, a search through its country report function revealed that most emergencies with active HRPs have a standard report that gathers log frame data by country. In the case of South Sudan (test case), the report download generated an Excel of outcomes by project. This report was not filtered, however, so the user would have to sort through the data manually to locate the gender-related activities within the results.

Table 21. Summary of available results data by data source

Data source	Are results data available? (Y/N)	Type
Central Emergency Response Fund	N	N/A
Country-Based Pooled Funds	Y	For available countries, log frame summaries organized by Outputs, Indicators, Outcomes, and final "targets reached" figures are available. A report can be generated by pooled fund (aka by country)
Financial Tracking System	Y	Some limited results type info in the description (sometimes)
IATI d-portal	Y	Type varies, and is not always filled out, but for example, with Canadian projects, there are some outcome indicators included. Other times a log frame may be attached
IATI Datastore Query Builder	N	N/A
OECD CRS	N	N/A

Reporting Timeliness

Timeliness of data also varies but is often available on a quarterly or real-time basis, which is a strength of the humanitarian assistance tracking system. FTS data appeared fairly consistent in being updated annually, but data are probably updated on a more frequent basis, as there was already data available for the first quarter of 2021. CERF data appear to be updated on an ad-hoc basis, but given the recent nature of the data (Q1 2021), it is likely updates are conducted quarterly or biannually. The IATI Datastore Query Builder and d-portal both include a field that auto-generates the last updated date and time for each dataset in the database. Queries showed that most activities had been updated within the last two months.

OECD CRS by contrast only has data through 2019 because it goes through a lengthy data validation process. Yearly datasets are usually updated every quarter.

Table 22. Summary of reporting frequency by data source

Data source	Annual	Biannual	Quarterly	Ad-hoc	Real-Time
Central Emergency Response Fund		X	X		
Country-Based Pooled Funds					X
Financial Tracking System			X		
IATI d-portal					X
IATI Datastore Query Builder					X
OECD CRS	X		X		

Data Completeness

Data quality varies by field across the data sources. DG reviewed how complete the data was (whether the information was available) based on key fields of interest such as financial (commitments, disbursements, expenditures), project status, sector, and implementing partner. Most platforms have a high level of completeness for sector information, project status, and implementing partner information, with mixed results on commitments and disbursements. IATI Datastore Query Builder and d-portal are the only data sources with financial transaction information available. Data completeness by data source is summarized below. For each field, the percentages are based on the total number of humanitarian activities for all target countries for all available years of data (2018-present).

Table 23. Summary of Data Completeness by Field Across Target Countries²⁸

	OECD CRS	GAM	IATI Datastore Query Builder	d-portal	CBPF*	CERF	FTS
Sample size (# of activities)	583,438	N/A	837	1,481	1,226	57	624
Commitments	76.9%	N/A	N/A**	99.8%	N/A	100%	40.7%
Disbursements	94.5%	N/A	N/A**	99.8%	N/A	100%	57.4% ***
Expenditures	N/A	N/A	N/A**	99.8%	100%	N/A	N/A
Project Status (open/closed)	N/A	N/A	90.1%	100%	100%	100%****	N/A
Sector	100%	N/A	86.1%	100%	N/A *****	100%	66.9%
Implementing Partner	100%	N/A	100%	100%	100%	N/A	93.3%
Feedback Mechanism	Generic email contact	Generic email + focal points by country	Dedicated email and GitHub	Data issues are addressed directly to publishers	Generic contact form	No dedicated contact	Dedicated email + ways to engage

* Based on South Sudan activity sample size, in the absence of target country data

** The IATI Datastore Query Builder does not permit users to sort transactions by activity. This means that one activity may have dozens of expenditures or commitments, while another activity has none. Without a better way to filter by activity, it is not possible to give an accurate percentage of completeness for commitments, disbursements, and expenditures for target country activities in the Query Builder.

*** We assumed from the FTS definition that Paid Contribution is synonymous with disbursement.²⁹ Note that FTS records either commitments or contributions, but not both for the same activity.

**** CERF sets one status for the appeal window: it is either all activities in the window are under implementation, or all of them have been completed. There is no individual project status

***** Pre-set reports are available on project summaries by cluster (which often reflect the sector). The sector can also be gleaned from most project titles

The majority of sources had some form of generic contact information to channel questions about the database overall, or problems with the data specifically. On one side, FTS had a

²⁸ These percentages are based on the sample size of search results generated for this research.

²⁹ "Contribution," FTS Glossary, available at <https://fts.unocha.org/glossary>

dedicated email with clear ways in which data users could engage in (and improve) FTS data. By contrast, the GAM does not have any way for users to provide input or ask questions regarding data quality. Instead, the GAM recommends that individual publishers and potential donors conduct spot checks of the data.³⁰ GAM does not provide feedback to individual publishers.³¹

COVID-19 Tracking

Lastly, a strength is how quickly most data sources have moved to include a filter option, marker, or in some cases a dedicated interface to track COVID-19 funding. It highlights that if these funding sources can mobilize quickly to make it easier to track financing during the pandemic, the same urgency could apply to the greater usage and ease of access to the various gender equality markers.

7. What are (current/expected) barriers to more transparent gender-related humanitarian assistance?

One clear weakness is limiting the use of the GAM to emergencies that have an HRP in place. Some appeals are "flash appeals" which appear to be of a shorter duration, but do not follow the same GAM screening protocols. As a result, Nepal, for example, had very few activities screened for gender equality across most funding sources, possibly in part because the country's last active HRP was in 2008.³² The last active HRP in Guatemala was in 2016,³³ while in Kenya the last active HRP was in 2013.³⁴

The data across most funding sources are not granular enough. Ideally, they should go down to the sub-national level to be most applicable for data users. This is particularly important for region-specific emergencies such as Kenya where parts of the country receive significant humanitarian assistance (while other parts of the country do not). Presenting the data at the national level can potentially obscure major subnational needs. Terminology remains a challenge: across the data sources surveyed, definitions of gender and humanitarian assistance differ. For several sites, it was difficult to locate the glossary of terms to understand how key search terms were being defined (FTS) or how to appropriately use activity start and end date filters (d-portal). This makes it difficult not only to compare data across platforms but also to aggregate a full picture of each target country's situation.

³⁰ "What assurance is there that GAM monitoring results are used to improve gender equality programming in the proposed project? Who monitors compliance?" GAM Frequently Asked Questions, available at

https://www.iascgenderwithagemarker.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/FAO_English.pdf

³¹ Ibid.

³² Note that there was a flash appeal launched for the Nepal earthquake in 2015. Flash appeals also coordinate humanitarian responses, but they follow a less extensive set up and vetting process than HRPs. For more information about the 2015 Flash appeal see "The Humanitarian Response to the 2015 Nepal Earthquake," UN Chronicle, available at

<https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/humanitarian-response-2015-nepal-earthquake>

³³ "Guatemala 2016," Financial Tracking System, available at <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/509/summary>

³⁴ "Kenya 2021," Financial Tracking System, available at <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/406/summary>

Recommendations

This report has reviewed the targeting of gender equality in humanitarian assistance in Kenya, Nepal, and Guatemala, using the lens of gender equality markers (OECD DAC gender equality marker and the GAM) to help track activities. While significant progress has been made in the last few years to develop and institute some guidance for screening activities more effectively for gender equality, the analysis highlighted some continuing obstacles that limit the ability of data users to effectively track aid financing. Below is a list of recommendations to improve general reporting, and eventually data use, based on the analysis gathered in this report.

Recommendations Across Platforms

- **Streamline naming.** Some sites (IATI Datastore Query Builder and d-portal) use emergency response but do not use humanitarian aid as a sector group, while some use just humanitarian (CBPF). The same applies to gender, gender-based violence, and other similar gender terms. It is difficult to know which site uses which combination of terms/tags/sectors. Uniformity, or a simplified grouping, would make it easier for users to use one or two search terms and get all results grouped within and possibly across funding sources. The same applies to funding language. For example, in FTS it is unclear whether “paid contribution”, the terminology they use, means the same as “disbursement” or “expenditure”. OECD DAC sectors, which are also used by the IATI Datastore Query Builder and the d-portal, could be a useful good practice to inspire streamlining efforts.
- **Improve ease of navigation.** Frequently the markers and filters for gender equality are buried within databases. It should be easier for users to identify this information, for example by making gender equality related project searches “popular queries” as in the OECD database.
- **Make sub-national location fields mandatory** for publishers to encourage improved granularity of available data. To make it easier for publishers to fill out this information, data sources could create a uniform list of sub-national location options (using a service such as Geonames³⁵ to support uniformity) that publishers could choose from. A caveat for this recommendation is the need to recognize on a case-by-case basis where subnational location data may target or expose beneficiaries to harm. In these cases, publishers could indicate (via a checkbox or other method) whether it is safe to share locations or not.
- **All platforms should make available the total number and value of humanitarian assistance projects** by country to make it easier for users to understand the scope of implementation during an emergency response, in addition to double tagging (for example tagging a project as both East Africa region and Kenya) where activities are across multiple countries (regional responses).
- With consistent availability of the total number and value of humanitarian projects as well as the total number and value of projects targeting gender equality, platforms should

³⁵ GeoNames is a database that includes millions of country and subnational locations that can be downloaded for free. For more information see GeoNames, available at <https://www.geonames.org/>

consider conducting a benchmarking exercise of the percentage of projects tagged, and the percentage of the value of projects with a gender marker as a part of total humanitarian assistance projects and value. With an accurate benchmark, each platform can then set ambitious targets to improve the percentage of projects being tagged with a marker. Setting a target to improve tagging can also potentially drive broader conversations around how to expand the number of activities and the amount of funding that goes towards gender equality activities being implemented during an emergency. This recommendation is consistent with broader trends such as the recent World Humanitarian Summit target of 15% of funding, which is discussed in more detail in CARE's recent report on funding for women and girls during humanitarian crises.³⁶

Recommendations for Specific Platforms

- **Make tutorials and glossary documents easy to find and keep them updated.** For example, the FTS and OECD CRS databases have useful guides, but they can be challenging to locate for first-time users.
- **For CERF, consider adopting the OECD DAC Gender Marker and/or GAM markers** so that source data on gender equality can be better aggregated with other data sources in the humanitarian assistance financing ecosystem.
- **CBPF should add another filter and/or standard report by country that specifically pulls projects tagged with the GAM.**

³⁶ Time for a Better Bargain: How the Aid System Shortchanges Women and Girls in Crisis, CARE February 2021, available at <https://www.care.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Time-for-a-Better-Bargain.pdf>

Annex – Raw Data

Overall results data for each data source (where available) can be accessed [here](#).

1. [CERF](#)
2. [D-Portal](#)
3. [FTS](#)
4. IATI Datastore Query Builder
 - a. [By Financial Transaction](#)
 - b. [By Unique Activity](#)
5. OECD CRS
 - a. [2018](#)
 - b. [2019](#)
6. [CBPF Data for South Sudan](#)
7. [CBPF Results Data for South Sudan](#)

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For information or inquiries, please contact us at info@developmentgateway.org

Development Gateway, Inc.
1100 13th Street NW Suite 800
Washington, DC 20005 USA
+1 202 572-9200



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