WaterAid IATI XL2XML  
Application Requirements

# Context

The International Aid Transparency Initiative is an emerging standard for Aid Project data reporting. Aid organisations are increasingly required to submit reports of their activities to IATI as a pre-condition and ongoing condition of funding. In addition to the requirements of IATI (which are sparse) other organisations (often funding or oversight bodies) have their own requirements of the data which generally ‘piggy back’ off the IATI efforts.

Aid organisations tend not to divert scarce financial resources to technology initiatives but rather make do with the existing skillsets they have. This means home grown MS Office based solutions predominate and can be preferred from third parties when they are engaged on projects.

WaterAid have taken the initiative in engaging the volunteer community to help them with the technology to meet the reporting requirement. As a consequence the application aims to meet their needs initially. Although they are open to the idea of sharing it with other organisations as long as this can be done efficiently.

# Messaging/Story

## Messaging Options

Below are various messaging options that vary by length and target audience

### Ensuring valid IATI data is reported.

### Ensuring valid IATI data is maintained.

# Application Goals

The XL2XML application is the platform on which organizations can create, maintain and report on their aid project activity to increase their transparency.

In detail the application will allow for these high level functional areas & technical attributes which will drive the desired outcomes as documented.

## Functional Areas

### Create

Organizations utilize the application to create and manage aid project summary data. The application uses the dimensions in Excel (row, column, worksheet (recurse)) to represent data with complex hierarchy. The workbook is organized with the IATI schema elements and attributes as columns with significant text content (in other words names of elements and attributes). The columns were selected by WaterAid in the initial stages of the project ***[to add: what columns and why]*** and represent the most commonly used set of elements from the schema.

Data is also persisted in the workbook (despite all the shortcomings of that approach).

### Report

The application creates an xml instance for every individual project activity in the workbook. That instance conforms to the schema iati-activity.xsd v1.1. The application collates these instances in to a single xml file, checks for well-formedness and validates it against the schema.

## Solution Technical Attributes

The solution must be delivered with the following technical attributes to provide for delivery of the desired outcomes.

### Spreadsheet Application

[TBD: Add more] The primary interface for community members, volunteers, organization staff and public access will be a centralized web application provided both CMS and management interfaces as well as public content access and engagement. This centralization will allow a central deployment by HTBox within Azure to provide the capabilities to organizations and users without technical deployment barriers as well as drive the ‘network effect’ of having campaign and content accessible in a single location and insights from analysis of common data across campaigns.

### Code list Updater

[TBD: Add more] Task management and data gathering by volunteers should be provided by a mobile application deployable across all major platforms (iOS, Android, Windows) that can operate in an offline/cached mode to allow for connectivity failures (along with a mobile friendly web application.) Additionally most ‘simple’ task assignment and management features should be able to be completed via text message/SMS for rapid engagement with volunteers who have yet to download the app.

# Application Desired Outcomes & Supporting Functionality

### Efficiency and Accuracy

Activity is easy to report:

1. Currently collation of report data is done by manual ‘copy and paste’. This is both time consuming and error prone. The application must ease this burden in a straightforward and familiar manner.
2. In all likelihood the activity reporting will become more burdensome. The application must provide an understandable and low impact way to meet new reporting targets.

### Transparency

With the removal of manual processing and the text to text transformation of the data it will be easy for a user to have confidence in what is being reported.

# Initial Version Scope and Iterations

## V1

The minimum viable capability is to produce the xml instance.

### Spreadsheet Application

#### Project Administrator Functionality

##### Allow the existing WaterAid country project specific workbooks to produce well-formed and valid xml for IATI reporting for their existing projects.

##### Allow the project administrators to edit and append to the information in these workbooks to account for: new projects, new activities on existing projects and richer information on existing and new projects in such a fashion that the new information is included in the reporting.

##### Inform project administrators of the progress and status of the xml instance generation, specifically if any projects have not been included in the final instance.

#### Systems Administrator Functionality

##### Edit the basic ruleset ‘baked in’ to the workbook.

##### Edit the organization specific metadata in the workbook.

### Code List Updater

#### Systems Administrator Functionality

##### Update the code lists from the remote sources.

##### Add new code lists and wire them in to links and formulas in the workbook.

##### Update the links and formulas in the workbook to reflect the new code lists. Although this should happen automatically.

## Future Scope Releases

[TBD: Add in future iterations of scope]