

**ETHIOPIA EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY
INITIATIVE (EITI)**

OPEN DATA POLICY

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Ethiopian EITI Open Data Policy

Introduction

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) constitution guarantees freedom of expression, opinion and thought under article 29. The freedom of expression as recognized in the constitution consists of the right to seek, receive and impart information and ideas. Accordingly, the public is at liberty to receive information about the working of the government representing them. By the same token, press and other mass media are entitled to gather information in the process of seeking ideas and disseminating them to the public. This means that the government is duty bound to be transparent and let its documents accessible to the press so long as it is for public interest.

To achieve this end, The **FDRE ministry of information and communication** technology (then after named as ministry) is committed in expanding open data, and through which it tries to ensure the highest level of satisfaction, transparency and effectiveness in decision and policy making. For instance, the ministry has created the portal in which it disseminates open data, and through this portal the Stakeholders are also encouraged to participate in various channels such as opinion polls, discussion forums, and blogs and share their suggestions or feedback on matters of interest.

The other point that is worth to mention here is e-Consultation. The ministry has a time of electronic consultation with its stakeholder. Often a time, the Consultation topics has been decided by the ministry, during which, stakeholders will be able to post their opinions and suggestions. At the end of the duration, the consulted topic will be archived, and the ministry will use the collected feedback from its stakeholders to help in policy making, decision making or piloting new opportunities.

The other ministry in the country that uses portal to disseminate and receives information is the **FDRE Ministry of Health**. The Ministry's portal is a two way platform through which both the ministry and stakeholder exchanged information. The portal is accessible and easy to use to all users. This portal is 100% compatible with Internet Explorer version 6.0 and above, and mostly compatible with Firefox, Netscape, Opera and major other web browsers. Through this portal, the ministry releases important data to the public, and open a chance to citizen to reuse the data, and forward their suggestion.

To sum up the entire points, the country has believed that the expansion of open data promotes transparency and accountability in the public sector. This, in turn, leads to the development and democratization of the country. **Therefore, the government put the expansion of open data as its first strategic priorities.**

Based on the Ethiopian Government Open Data Policy, the Ethiopian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Open Data Policy can be expressed as follows.

Background

The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, EITI, is an independent international voluntary initiative creating transparency in the oil, gas and mining industries, and aims to strengthen governance by improving transparency and accountability in the extractives sector.

Accordingly, the Government of Ethiopia is committed to join the stakeholder Initiative (Government Entities, Mining Companies and Civil Society Organizations) so as to implement the principles and rules of EITI to bring sustainable development in the country.

In general, Ethiopian Government has an open data official site [Data.gov.et](https://data.gov.et). You may link to Data.gov.et at no cost. When you link to Data.gov.et, please do it in an appropriate context as a service to people when they need to find official Ethiopian government data.

The new EITI Standard Principles declare that “a public understanding of government revenues and expenditure over time can help public debate and inform choice of appropriate and realistic options for sustainable development” (EITI Principle 4).

EEITI NSC has discussed and decided that the EEITI Open data should be opened, and freely used, re-used and redistributed to the citizen as per the Global EITI requirement to attribute and share alike. EEITI NSC therefore agreed that, EEITI Reports has to be “comprehensible, actively promoted, publicly accessible, and contribute to public debate and complement to the EITI new standard. (EITI Requirement 7.1). In Improving the accessibility and comparability of EEITI data EEITI NSC is identified and developed **Vision, Mission, National priority and Objectives of the initiative understanding** its essentiality to realize the objectives of the EEITI Open data policy.

Vision

To see that the natural resource wealth of Ethiopia becomes an engine for sustainable development and poverty alleviation through the institutionalization of transparent, accountable and effective management of resources generation and utilization.

Mission

To put in place an enabling environment for the public to access Extractive Industry data and promote use and re-use of data through efficient and effective technology for public development.

General Objective

In a global understanding, Open EITI data can increase transparency about what government and business Sectors are doing to comply with rules and regulation of the mining sector, and increases awareness about how countries' natural resources are used and how extractives revenues are levied and spent, providing strong incentives for that money to be used most effectively. This would lead, Open data promotes accountability and good governance, enhances public debate, and helps to combat corruption. Providing access to government data can empower individuals, the media, civil society, and business to make better informed choices about the services they receive and the standards they should expect. Open data, can also be a valuable tool for government in improving policy making and sector management.

Free access to, and subsequent re-use of, open data are of significant value to society and the economy

Therefore, the general objective of this EEITI open data policy is to provide guidance and framework on the management of EEITI Open data and provide an institutional and legal framework to improve public service delivery.

Specific Objectives

- To enhance capacity of public institutions to manage open data
- To ensure access, use and re-use of government and EEITI data
- To ensure quality of government data provided by public institutions
- To put in place an institutional framework to facilitate Open Data
- To enhance policy and legal framework for implementation of Open Data

- To ensure adequate funds to facilitate Open Data initiatives

EEITI Commitment to open data implementation

Considering new EITI standard, EEITI is encouraged & committed to:

- ❖ Orient and encourage government systems towards open data system. It is recognized that there is national and international legislation, in particular pertaining to intellectual property, personally-identifiable and sensitive information, which must be observed;
- ❖ Ensure that this data are fully described, so that users have sufficient information to understand their strengths, weaknesses, analytical limitations, and security requirements, as well as how to process the data;
- ❖ Release data as early as possible, allow users to provide feedback, and then continue to make revisions to ensure the highest standards of open data quality;
- ❖ Release data under an open license that allows users to freely obtain and easily re-use it;
- ❖ Share technical expertise and experience with other countries to maximize the potential of open data;
- ❖ Work to increase open data literacy and encourage people, such as developers of applications and civil society organizations that work in the field of open data promotion, to unlock the value of open data;
- ❖ Ensure that data is interoperable with national and international standards, including adopting data standards approved by the EITI Board and additional guidance provided by the EITI secretariat;
- ❖ Where possible we will use unique identifiers to link data across years of reporting or different sources;
- ❖ Work towards mainstreaming the creation of open data for EEITI into government systems to ensure timeliness, data quality, reuse and cost effectiveness;
- ❖ Provide data in granular, machine-readable formats.

In ensuring these all, Ethiopian EEITI will release EEITI data to help people understand how EEITI works and how Government policies are made. Making this data easily available means it will be easier for people to make decisions and suggestions about government policies based on detailed information related to the natural resource governance and its economic advantageous. On the other hand, the application of EEITI open data policy would help stakeholders to analyze trends over time and to compare how different parts or levels of

governments go about their work on similar areas. Technical users will be able to create useful and appropriate applications out of the raw data files, which can then be used by everyone.

Accordingly, the following data accessing tools are identified as data open source applications

- Machine readable open data format
 - ✓ www.eeiti.org.et and/or www.mominines.gov.et
- Coded or tagged information to compare with other publicly available data by adopting Board-approved EITI standard”
- Cadastre flex and Community Radio
- Printed hard copies and info graphics translated in local Ethiopian Language

These activities would be conducted with and through the continuous Supportive follow up, technical and administrative approval of the ENSC.