



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF MINERALS
TANZANIA EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE



TEITI's OPEN DATA POLICY

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1. INTRODUCTION

This policy contains recommendations on open data in implementation of the EITI Standard in Tanzania. It originates from lessons learned from EITI Standard 2019 implementation. The policy aims to promote the use of TEITI data that are available in the reports that have been produced using EITI Standards since Tanzania subscribed into joining EITI in 2009.

Open data policy is an essential tool in order to enhance an open and accountable management of natural resources in the country. By making data easily accessible, comprehensible and usable, EITI reporting can strengthen public debate, inform decision-making and promote public understanding of natural resource management.

TEITI has been disclosing data in an open data format through summary data sheets and also in the TEITI Data dashboard available in the TEITI website through <https://www.teiti.go.tz/dashboard/>. The TEITI data dashboard provides a visualization tool where data is presented in the form of graphs, charts and other tools.

The definition of the word “Open” as used in this policy is adopted from the Open Definition institute’s website available on (<http://opendefinition.org>). Therefore, TEITI defines the Open Data as “Open data and content that can be freely used, modified, and shared by anyone for any purpose”. Thus, data can be used, reused, and redistributed by anyone, anytime or anywhere.

EITI Principle 4 declares 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”. The EITI Standard (*EITI Requirement 7.1*) requires EITI disclosures to be “comprehensible, actively promoted, publicly accessible and contribute to public debate”. Improving the accessibility, reliability, relevance, timeliness and comparability of EITI data is essential to realise these objectives. In addition, the *TEITA Act, 2015 section 10 (iv)* requires TEITI to promote effective citizen participation and awareness of extractive industry companies and its contribution to socio-economic development of the country. Thus,

to achieve these requirements, open data policy is critical in enhancing the use of the produced EITI data.

2. OPEN DATA OBJECTIVES

Open Data supports public oversight by the Government and helps to reduce corruption by enabling greater transparency and accountability of the resources derived from the extractive sector. For instance, Open Data makes it easier to monitor government activities, such as tracking public budget expenditures and impacts. It also encourages greater citizen participation in extractive sector. Further, with systematic data disclosure, TEITI will facilitate easy access to EITI data through public financial reporting, annual company or government agency reports, information portals, and other open data and freedom of information initiatives.

3. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The TEITI open data principles that will be presented below will guide the release of existing and new data sets under TEITI, thus provide a foundation for the access, use and re-use of the data. These guiding principles are explained as follows:-

i. Timely and Comprehensiveness

TEITI data should be released timely, in a complete form and in a legible and easy to comprehend format. TEITI will ensure that the published data is comprehensive and reliable. Whenever feasible, information collected by TEITI will be released as it is acquired and compiled. Information collected by TEITI will be released within 60 days as it's acquired and compiled.

ii. Accessible and Usable

TEITI data, including all past EITI reports, are will continue to be available on the internet and will be accessible free of charge. TEITI will ensure that EITI reports are published widely for public consumption. By leveraging existing reporting and available data, TEITI will further improve the EITI data visualization and presentation, enhance electronic data storage, increase public accessibility to and use of TEITI data. The data will be available as visualizations and as downloadable openly licensed data sets (for example as a spreadsheet).

iii. **Comparable and Interoperable**

TEITI should ensure as far as possible that the data it releases is interoperable with national and international standards, including adopting data standards approved by the EITI Board. TEITI should also ensure that all data is fully described, all documentation accompanying data is written in a clear and plain language, So that users can have sufficient information in order for them to understand the source, strengths and limitations of the data.

iv. **Completeness**

Data published by TEITI should be as complete as possible. It should represent the entire scope of what is documented within the framework of the TEITI process.

v. **Easy access**

Data published by TEITI should be as accessible as possible, with accessibility defined as the ease with which information can be obtained. TEITI is aware that accurate and transparent information in the management of natural resources is critical in successfully contributing to the economic growth and development of the country and its people. This is due to the reason that free access to, and subsequent use of extractive data impacts public debate, society and the economy. Such data should therefore, be open by default. For any data that cannot be open and released for legitimate reasons, clear justifications will be given to explain the causes for not releasing that particular data.

vi. **Machine readability**

Data and information provided by TEITI should be stored in widely-used file formats that easily lend themselves to machine processing. When other factors necessitate the use of difficult-to-parse formats, data should also be available in machine-friendly formats. These files should be accompanied by documentation related to the format and how to use it in relation to the data. Information will therefore be stored in established file formats, such as CSV and XML file formats that can be easily read by machines.

vii) Embracing Technology in the improvement of quality of TEITI's data.

Considering the fact that technology is potential to support quality improvement of TEITI Data, TEITI will ensure that technology is improved to provide data which is reliable and credible.

4. DATA COVERED BY THIS POLICY

The scope of this Policy is TEITI data in general including datasets currently published in EITI Reports, in line with the requirements of the *EITI Standard* and *TEITA Act, 2015*. In addition, the policy will cover additional issues as determined by the MSG Committee. In line with the principles set out in this Policy, TEITI will consider the release of any further datasets in future when it is in a position to publish them.