Navigation of the DC Dashboard

The navigation is based on the active filters and the type of page. The active filters can be set in the menu, by drilling down (clicking elements) or in the filter bar.



The navigation on the top of the dashboard



Use the "fast navigation" layer (maybe this could get another name: "Filter presets"?) to determine what data you want to see. This doesn't change the page, but it's content. For example you can load the data for country Tunisia. You can do this either in the summary page, the project finder or the export page.

This navigation in fact offers presets for certain filters. I deliberately removed the word "view" from the items in this navigation. It is not giving a different view, but instead the same view on different content

Drilling down

Of course it is possible to drill down on the summary page. By clicking elements you will dive into that item. For instance one can click on Multi-Bilateral Donors to get to the Donor Categories inside and continue to the final level of the individual partners.

Note that drilling down means adding filters and getting new data. You will not navigate to a different page. You will stay on the same page, but the data will refresh to match the new filter.

Not changing the form of the page to much will help users to understand what happens prevents them to get lost or feel uncertain about what data they are exactly looking at. It also makes the application easier and because of that more stable in the long term.



Although we had something like "Partner view" and "Geographical view", I think it is important to let go of the concept of views. The reason is demonstrated by the following example. Suppose someone has drilled-down from the mainpage to Multi-Bilateral Donors, so we would now be in the "Partner view". But what happens when the user selects the Asian and the Pacific Region in the map. Will we swap to the "Geographical view"? Maybe we could decide to stick to the view that was first selected. However once we are in Multi-Bilateral Donors for Asian and the Pacific Region the and the user clears the Donor filter (moving back to the top layer for donors) we are in trouble again.

I believe while the user is drilling down we should not change anything to the "view". Having different view will only result in having three ways of showing the same information while the user is confused why it sees something different for the same thing.

Long story short: no more views, but instead filter presets.

The story

When selecting the top level (Partners, Regions, Programme Areas) in the fast navigation, you will load data for all items (no filter). Whether you select Partners or Regions or Programme Areas, you will get the same numbers. The unique element on each of these pages is the story at the top. The story introduces the numbers to the user within the selected scope.



Other than this story I would suggest to keep the rest of the page the same regardless of which "scope" is active. Changing the elements of the page might confuse users, similar to what is now happening in the current dashboard where we swap the order of the columns in the map view depending on the "scope". More on this on the next page.

This story feature might useful because you can now link people directly to the "Partner story", or the "Programme Area story". For instance in a newsletter you can link to something like www.ilo.org/dashboard/#partners and people will get the DC Dashboard, but with a partner introduction story.

Note: you could reason that this story changes the "view", while I have just proposed to drop the concept of views. It is indeed somewhat of a slippery slope. This story element is in fact always available on the page and can be filled for certain states (filters). This also gives you the option to add a story for "Tunisia" or the Donor Category "Norway", etc. If no story is set, it is simply not shown.

Filters

Whether the user select a filter preset from the menu, or changes the filters by drilling down, the result is the same. Filters are a very important part of navigation and are in hierarchy even above the page type. Switching from the summary page to the project finder or the export page will keep the filters the same. This means once you have drilled down to for example country level and switch to the project finder, you'll have the project for the country you had selected.

With the filter bar users see exactly what filters are active and have full control over them. The filter bar is available on every page.



Each section of the page will also show the active filters and the filters that can be added for the specific dimension(s) that are displayed there.

