



www.publishwhatyoufund.org



Annual Report 2012



Annual Report 2012

About

Publish What You Fund campaigns for aid transparency – for more and better information about aid. The first campaign of our kind, we were launched at the 2008 Accra High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness by a coalition of governance, aid effectiveness and access to information advocates. Our main current funders are the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Open Society Foundations.

We believe there is too little useful information about aid, undermining the efforts of those who both give and receive it.

Donors don't know what other donors are spending or planning to spend. This is leading to the duplication of efforts in some areas and under-funding in others. Without transparency, donors cannot coordinate or evaluate effectively to achieve the maximum impact with their scarce resources.

Recipients struggle to know how much aid is invested in their country, let alone where and how it is spent. Development planners need more information to make the most effective use of their own money alongside that of donors. The ability of governments to manage their domestic budgets and effectively plan development projects is hindered by donors who don't publish their spending plans.

Civil society, including NGOs and citizens in both donor and recipient countries, has the right to know whose aid money is being spent where – and on what. More and better information about aid will increase the incentive and opportunity to improve aid effectiveness and fulfil taxpayers' right to know that money is being well spent.

We insist that transparency is essential if aid is truly to deliver on its promise. Knowing what is being spent where, by whom, and with what results is the basic foundation for reducing poverty and empowering citizens.

Contact

Publish What You Fund
Southbank House
Black Prince Road
London
SE1 7SJ
United Kingdom

+44 (0) 20 3176 2512
info@publishwhatyoufund.org

“To be able to identify progress and analyse performance, you need to know what money is coming in and how that money is being used.”

Angela Kageni
Senior Programme Officer at Aidspace, Kenya

Thank you to our main funders the Hewlett Foundation and the Open Society Foundations, and to our additional funders, including: CAFOD, Christian Aid, Development Initiatives, Integrity Action (formerly Tiri), New Venture Fund, ONE, Save the Children, WaterAid and World Vision.

Message from the Board of Directors

Publish What You Fund is the only organisation to have advocacy for aid transparency as its exclusive mandate. Over the past decade, transparency has risen up the political agenda in countries and organisations all over the world. Citizens expect to be able to hold governments to account and know where their money is going. This is especially true in the case of aid.

While it is an ambitious goal to make diverse international flows transparent to meet the needs of multiple users, Publish What You Fund has shown that this can be done – by using a global common standard. At its core, open data is about better use of resources and improving the lives of citizens.

The innovative International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) has led the way. Its common standard for publishing data is based on the four pillars of transparent aid, ensuring information is published in a manner that is:

1. Timely
2. Comprehensive
3. Accessible
4. Comparable

These pillars are all crucial, as only then can development flows be mapped, compared and aligned with recipient countries' domestic budgets. Information on aid needs to be regularly published and freely available if it is going to help make spending more effective, support evaluation and accountability, and reduce transaction costs for recipients. In order to promote more effective aid, all donors need to provide their aid information in a common format that meets the needs of both recipient governments and civil society.

Open government initiatives help to promote aid transparency, partly driven by the possibilities of new technology. Much of the current momentum also comes from the aid effectiveness agenda. After grappling for years with difficult issues – including coordination of aid activities, recipient country ownership and predictability – donors, recipients and civil society alike have realised that very little can be achieved without transparency.

Aid transparency has come a long way since Publish What You Fund started out, less than five years ago. Even at the start of 2012, only 15 agencies had published to the IATI standard. With the U.S. posting its first data to the IATI Registry in January 2013, there are now 105 publishers. In addition, a common open standard for aid transparency was agreed at the fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan at the end of 2011. This requires all donors to produce implementation schedules, showing how they will fully implement their transparency pledges between now and 2015.

We are proud of Publish What You Fund's excellent and ambitious work. The organisation has seen a great number of successes as a result of effective advocacy. But our work is far from done. Aid donors need to keep up the momentum on transparency and make progress towards their Busan commitments. It will take Publish What You Fund's distinctive brand of targeted, intelligent advocacy to ensure that more and better aid data is published for all to use.

Sarah Mulley, Chair
 Owen Barder
 Geoff Broadhurst
 Karin Christiansen
 Ellen Miller
 Martin Tisné
 Alexander Woollcombe



Our people

The team

Our team maintains a small office in London and representation in Washington, D.C.



David Hall-Matthews, Managing Director
 Mark Brough, Aid Information Advisor
 Andrew Clarke, Advocacy Manager



Linda Grimsey, Finance and Operations Manager
 Sally Paxton, U.S. Representative
 Kandida Purnell, Advocacy and Strategy Assistant



Rachel Rank, Research and Monitoring Manager
 Catalina Reyes, Advocacy Officer
 Liz Steele, EU Representative



Nicole Valentinuzzi, Communications Manager
 Nicholas Winnett, Executive Assistant



The Board

Our Board has ultimate responsibility for directing the affairs of Publish What You Fund, including its finances and human resources.

Sarah Mulley, Chair
Owen Barder
Geoff Broadhurst
Karin Christiansen
Ellen Miller
Martin Tisné
Alexander Woollcombe

The U.S. Advisory Committee

Our U.S. Advisory Committee draws on a wide pool of expertise in the development field to better inform on our U.S. advocacy strategy.

George M. Ingram, Chair
Rodney Bent
Ben Leo
Larry Nowels
Paul O'Brien
Nilmini Rubin
Noam Unger
Jeremy M. Weinstein

Achievements

Publish What You Fund was launched at the Accra High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in **September 2008**, alongside the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI). This pioneering initiative acts as the essential foundation for meeting the broader goals of aid effectiveness and access to information. It brings together donors, recipient countries and civil society organisations to help donors and their partners meet their commitments on aid transparency.

In **October 2010**, we published our first *Aid Transparency Assessment*. This was the first snapshot of what current aid information is available and revealed that aid transparency was generally poor and varied significantly between donors. In **February 2011**, we achieved a critical goal when IATI agreed a common data standard. For the first time, there was international agreement by the majority of the world's largest donors on exactly how and what aid information should be published in order to meet the needs of both donors and recipient countries.

In **June 2011**, we launched the highly successful Make Aid Transparent campaign, which now has over 65,000 signatures and 105 CSO endorsers. We strengthened our advocacy work by coordinating closely with civil society partners from around the world to promote aid transparency.

At the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-4) in Busan in **November 2011**, we pushed for clear, measurable, time-bound commitments to make aid more transparent and accountable and to deliver improved development results. This resulted in the world's most prominent development actors committing to publish their aid information to a common standard by 2015. Our actions secured a new commitment from the U.S.; signatories to IATI now represent **over 75% of all official development finance**. We are now working to ensure that donors redouble efforts to fulfil their commitments.

We have been instrumental in raising the awareness of IATI in recipient countries. We secured formal commitments from the Collaborative Africa Budget Reform Initiative (CABRI), a network of budget directors representing 37 African countries, and the Commonwealth Ministers of Finance, representing 53 countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, to collectively support the adoption of IATI to ensure that efforts on aid transparency have the maximum impact.

35 donor signatories representing over **75%** of Official Development Finance (ODF).

105 publishers **19** IATI signatories publishing – representing over **57%** of ODF

22 recipient country endorsers

We were invited to draft illustrative commitments on aid transparency for the Open Government Partnership (OGP), a global initiative that brings together governments, civil society and the private sector to promote transparent, effective and accountable governments. By the **April 2012** OGP Conference, seven countries, including Canada, the UK and the U.S. – the world's largest donor – inserted aid transparency in their National Action Plans.

In **May 2012**, we developed a tool that converts data into the required format used by IATI, making it easier for small organisations to publish their data to the IATI Registry. We have begun work on a data quality monitoring tool and an application to assess the quality of implementation schedules being released as part of the commitments made in Busan.

A common, open standard for publishing aid information – including the entirety of IATI – was agreed by the OECD Working Party on Aid Effectiveness in **June 2012**. As an active member of the Working Party, which included donors, partner countries and CSOs, our specific aim was to ensure that the international commitments made at Busan are successfully implemented. That remains our main goal.

In recent years, we have piloted visualisations to demonstrate the value of high-quality aid data. In November 2011, we launched the Ugandan version of *Where Does My Money Go?*, which was the first time that development flows have been visualised alongside a partner country budget.

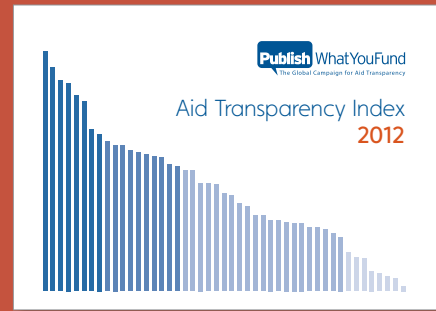
In **August 2012**, we hosted a Development Data Challenge with the *Guardian*, to bring together data developers who could interrogate and explore the limits of aid and government spending data.

We also worked with partners to hold similar events under the same banner in Washington, D.C. (with the World Bank) and in Helsinki (with the Open Knowledge Foundation, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

Our increasing emphasis on data quality will help ensure that recipient countries can count on good quality data from many more donors in the near future. A big step forward was taken in November 2012 when the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) became the first country to automatically import IATI data into their Aid Information Management System, significantly reducing the time needed for entering the data.



The Index



In 2010, we produced the *Aid Transparency Assessment*, a comprehensive review of donors' aid transparency. This assessment of 30 organisations demonstrated the lack of timely and comparable primary data provided by donors.

Our highly-regarded *2011 Pilot Aid Transparency Index* was developed in direct response to the 2010 Assessment. The Index – the first of its kind – ranked donor agencies according to how much information they provided across 37 different indicators. The average score of 34% showed that although some donors had made progress, the majority needed to do much more. Among the largest and most established donors, timely, project-level information was patchy, of inconsistent quality and hard to compare from one aid agency to another. No donors ranked in the top category 'good', which required a score of over 80%.

Events were held in Busan, London and Washington D.C. to present the findings of the *2011 Aid Transparency Index*. Media coverage for the Index included live radio interviews and articles in several high profile newspapers, including the *BBC*, *Deutsche Welle*, *Financial Times*, *Guardian* and *The East African*. We also received letters from the heads of donor agencies thanking us for our work and for highlighting this issue within their agency.

For the 2012 Index, 72 organisations were selected. As well as bilateral and multilateral agencies, selected climate finance funds, humanitarian agencies, development finance institutions and private foundations were included, in order to test the transparency of wider development flows. The *2012 Aid Transparency Index* showed a gradual improvement in aid transparency, but found that most aid information is still not published. The average agency score in 2012 was just 41% – a modest 7 percentage point rise from 2011.

We held the launch of the 2012 Index on 1 October 2012 in Washington D.C., followed by events at the European Parliament and in London. All three events were well attended by influential policy-makers. The U.S. launch included senior representation from the White House, the State Department and USAID; the UK event featured a keynote address by the Secretary of State for International Development. Significant press coverage was received in the *Guardian*, *Huffington Post*, *Reuters* and *Wall Street Journal*, among others. The 2012 Index made three substantive conclusions and recommendations, widely accepted by those donors we ranked. We received positive feedback on the Index from many donors, acknowledging our work and their progress against meeting their aid transparency commitments.

“The European Commission appreciates the work of Publish What You Fund. Your *Aid Transparency Index*... has become a global reference for assessing transparency of aid. Furthermore, you also provide a valuable support and service for organisations involved in development cooperation for improvements in their aid transparency policies. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your work with the Commission in this respect.”

Fokion Fotiadis, EuropeAid Director General, December 2012

Conclusion 1:
Progress is being made

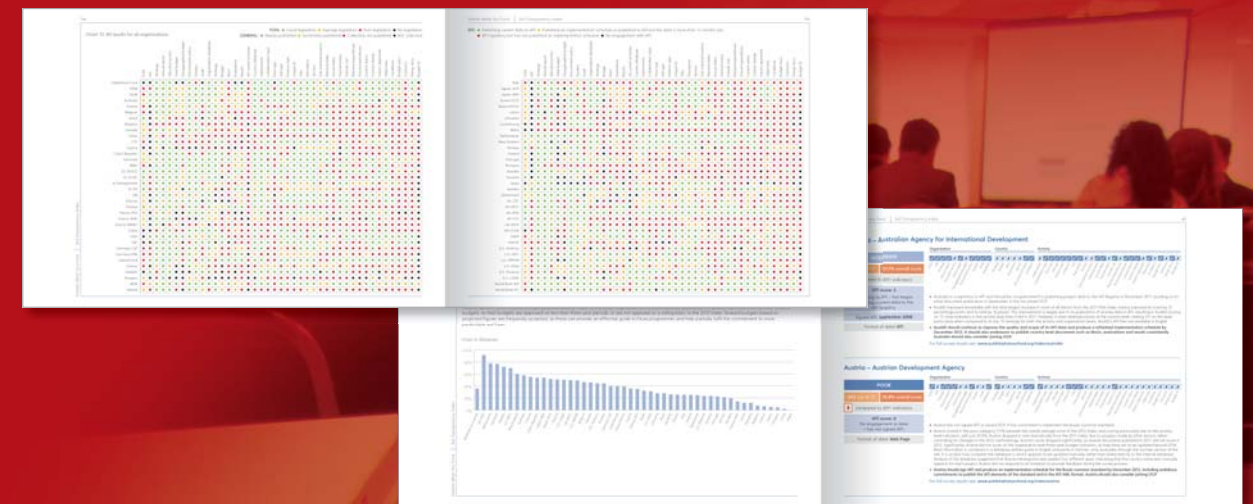
Conclusion 2:
Much more comparable information needs to be published

Conclusion 3:
IATI is the most effective vehicle for delivering aid transparency

Recommendation 1:
Deliver on your commitments by moving swiftly to implementation

Recommendation 2:
Publish what you have now, then improve and automate

Recommendation 3:
All development finance actors should engage with IATI



The Aid Transparency Index 2012, example spreads

Successes in...

U.S.

On his first day in office in January 2009, President Obama issued a memo on transparency saying his Administration was "committed to creating an unprecedented level of openness in Government".

After an intense period of advocacy in Washington D.C. and in international forums, we welcomed Secretary Clinton's announcement at Busan, in November 2011, that the U.S. would sign IATI, solidifying the Government's commitment to transparency. This major success in engaging the U.S. government has huge significance for global aid transparency.

We celebrated this announcement when presenting the *2011 Pilot Aid Transparency Index* at the Brookings Institution, with a key note speech by USAID Administrator Raj Shah. In March 2012, we formed a U.S. Advisory Committee, enabling the campaign to connect effectively with senior members of the Administration and Congress and increasing the visibility of key decisions on the U.S. implementation of IATI.

We also launched our *2012 Aid Transparency Index* in Washington, D.C., with significant high-level engagement from senior members of the Administration. Gayle Smith, from the White House's National Security Council, praised the Index while stressing the considerable work being done behind the scenes. Our panel discussion was chaired by ONE Executive Director Michael Elliott and included representatives from USAID, MCC, the State Department and Oxfam America.

The long-awaited OMB guidance bulletin had been released just days before the launch, including a series of announcements on how the Administration would deliver greater transparency. Since then, the U.S. published an implementation schedule in December 2012, and initial IATI data was linked to the Registry in early 2013.

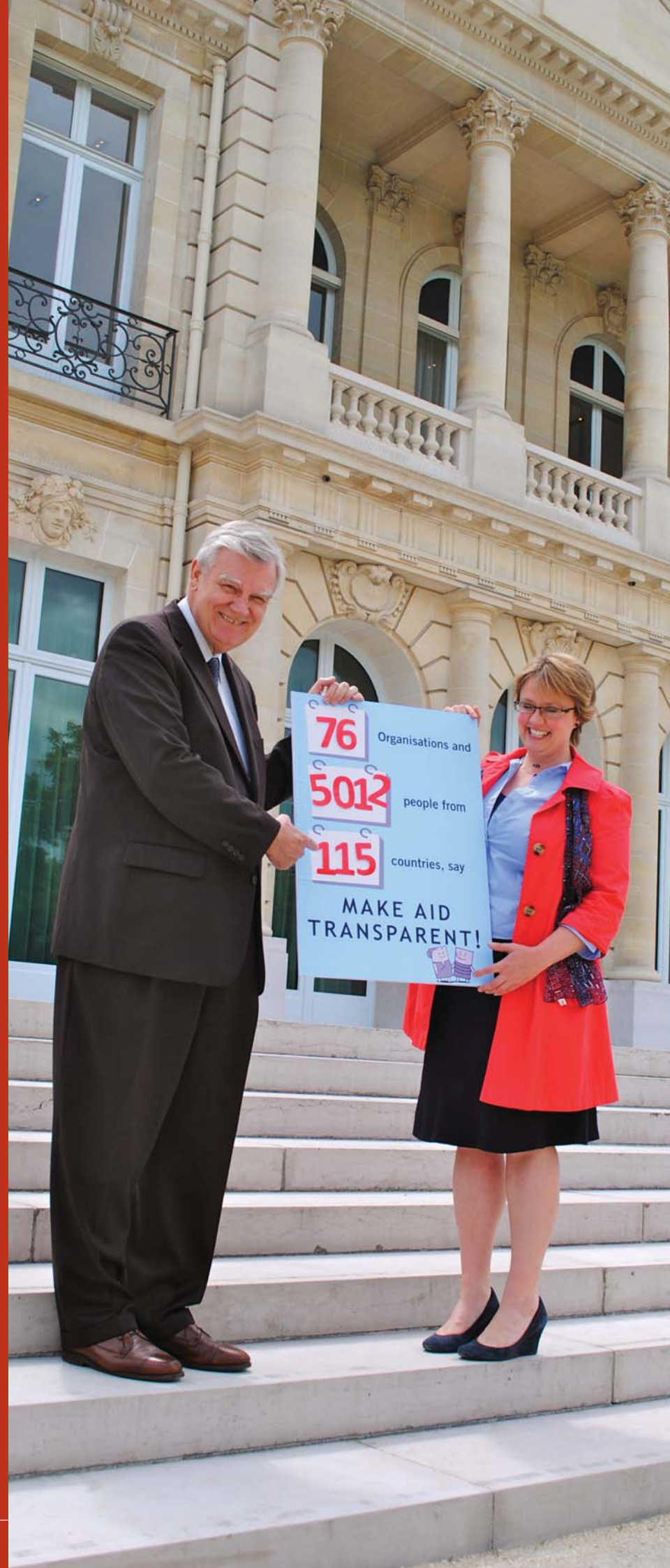
World Bank

As the most recognised global development institution, the World Bank remains a crucial target for Publish What You Fund. The World Bank is a founding IATI signatory and began publishing to the IATI Registry in May 2011. We worked closely with the World Bank to secure progressive commitments and targets for aid transparency at Busan, the establishment of a 'Building Block for Transparency' to go further with like-minded ambitious donors, and the development of a budget alignment component of the IATI standard.

Successive World Bank Presidents and senior staff have kept aid transparency high on the agenda internationally, encouraging other donor (and implementing) agencies to become more transparent. It has a series of internal transparency initiatives, including Mapping for Results, World Bank Finances and the overarching Open Data Initiative. Our advocacy encourages their continued global leadership and their publication of high quality IATI data publication.

“The World Bank sees openness and transparency as key to delivering better development results and strengthening accountability... we appreciate your leadership in advancing this agenda.”

Jim Yong Kim, President of the World Bank, letter dated 29 August 2012



European Union

Since September 2010, Publish What You Fund has carried out sustained high-level advocacy with key officials in European Union institutions, including the European Commission (EC), as well as in EU Member States. The EC has led on aid transparency internationally as an original signatory to IATI, publishing to the IATI Registry since October 2011. Development Commissioner Andris Piebalgs has personally championed the implementation of IATI by the EC's main aid department.

Working with civil society partners across Europe, we have played a leading role in ensuring that European Member States have made further progress on aid transparency. European Development Ministers agreed a common position on aid transparency in November 2011 ahead of Busan and reaffirmed their commitment to implementing a common standard at the EU Foreign Affairs Council in October 2012.

In November 2012, we partnered with ONE to host an event in the European Parliament with MEPs to discuss how they can ensure that international commitments on aid transparency are included in ongoing negotiations on the EU's seven-year budget. This led to constructive high-level engagement with several EC departments responsible for external assistance, including DG Enlargement and the Foreign Policy Instruments Service.

“Transparency is crucial to secure a steadfast support from EU citizens to aid: they can be [assured] that thanks to EU aid, millions of people in the poorest countries have access to food, education, health services but also energy and roads. Aid is not a luxury but a smart investment on our common future.”

Andris Piebalgs, EU Development Commissioner, October 2012

UK

The UK is an active supporter of aid transparency globally, and we have worked closely with the government to ensure it remains a leader in the international arena. A number of public bodies are publishing to the IATI standard, including the Department for International Development (DFID), the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and CDC, the UK's development finance institution. Many British development NGOs have also published to IATI. This is the highest number of publishing agencies in any one country.

Several of Publish What You Fund's recommendations have not only been accepted, but also championed, by DFID – including support for data user tools and the piloting of the crucial budget alignment component of the IATI standard.

“Incredible as it may seem, just 12 months ago [the UK] government did not publish details of how our development money was spent... Today, people all around the world can go online and see every item of DFID spending over £500 and see evaluations of the impact of that spending.”

David Cameron, UK Prime Minister, June 2011

Where next for Publish What You Fund?

Message from David:



Publish What You Fund has made significant achievements in the short time we have existed. We have persuaded the majority of the world's largest aid providers to commit to aid transparency and start to publish their aid information to the IATI standard. We have developed a highly-regarded Index to measure and drive progress. But there is still much to do – now is the time for us to consolidate all that hard work. Aid is still not transparent enough. We will continue to work with donors and development partners to ensure that aid information is made available in a timely, comprehensive, accessible and comparable way.

We also want to ensure that published information is used widely – especially by citizens in developing countries. In order to make it useful, there is a need for flexible, innovative tools to visualise the data and make it accessible in user-friendly, interactive formats, for example via smart phones. We are pushing hard to help aid become integrated and aligned with partner country budgets. We believe that, ultimately, citizens should be able to see all money that is being spent in their countries.

We will also take the opportunity to promote transparency – and the principle of a common open standard, to make information accessible to all – in other development flows.

New areas of focus will include:

Technical development

We have provided support to smaller aid organisations, by developing tools to convert their data into the IATI format. This makes publication less labour-intensive and significantly increases the capacity to publish more data. However, there needs to be more technical work completed on IATI to improve the quality and usefulness of the data. We are developing an IATI data quality tool to ensure that data published in the IATI format is as useful as possible. Ultimately, the tool should help to lower the barriers to using IATI data so that more and more people will use it as a way to increase awareness around IATI data as part of the open development agenda and to cultivate ideas around how developers can work with this data.

Information sharing

In partnership with aidinfo, the International Budget Partnership and Integrity Action, Publish What You Fund has designed an aid and budgets training programme. Our objective is to create a community that is able to access and analyse information on aid flows, to share learning and to make demands for better information, so that citizens can hold their governments to account. We want to encourage the production of tools that meet the needs of campaigners, by enabling them to access aid information in ways that are most useful and accessible for them. This will also help to demonstrate how valuable IATI data is in empowering people to find their own paths to development.

Climate finance

Official Development Assistance is not the only show in town. If international commitments are met, climate finance will account for far larger development flows in a few years. We have laid the groundwork for effective transparency of climate finance, including publishing a paper, *Towards Climate Finance Transparency*, and holding a roundtable at the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) conference in Bonn in May 2012. In December 2012, we were invited to present the case for IATI to the Board of the Adaptation Fund, which received a warm reception. Governments are also beginning to recognise the potential to use IATI for climate finance. In September 2011, the Finance Ministers of the 54 Commonwealth countries called for the rapid integration of climate finance into IATI.

As a small organisation, our main focus will continue to be ensuring that aid becomes fully transparent. As 2013 will be critical in shaping the replacement for the Millennium Development Goals, we are working to ensure open data and open decision-making are woven into the fabric of future goals and processes.

In every area of work, our message remains the same: **for aid to be fully transparent, it needs to be published to IATI.**

David Hall-Matthews, Managing Director



Finances

Statement

Income & Expenditure

Income

Amount transferred from TIRI/Integrity Action	£77,522
Restricted	£26,376
Unrestricted	£482,729
Activities for generating funds	£13,335
Other income	£2,804
Interest	£687

Total income **£603,453**

Expenditure

Charitable activities	£521,081
Governance	£19,098

Total expenditure **£540,179**

Funds c/f **£63,274**

Balance sheet as at 30th September 2012

Current assets

Debtors	£9,209
Cash at bank	£98,597

Total current assets **£107,806**

Current liabilities

Creditors	£44,532
-----------	---------

Total assets less liabilities **£63,274**

Represented by

Unrestricted funds	£63,274
--------------------	---------

Auditors

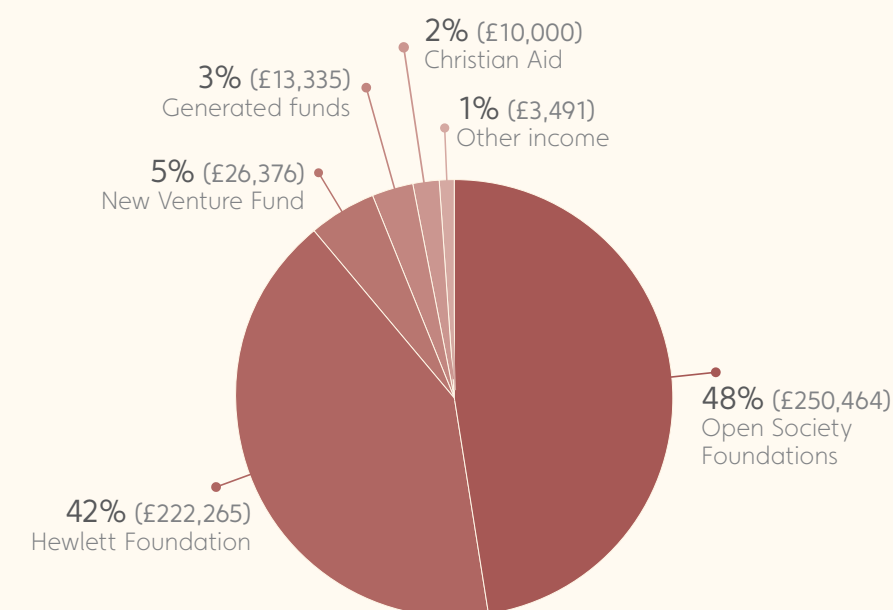
Buzzacott LLP, 130 Wood Street, London, EC2V 6DL

Detailed annual accounts are available on our website and via our publication to the IATI Registry.

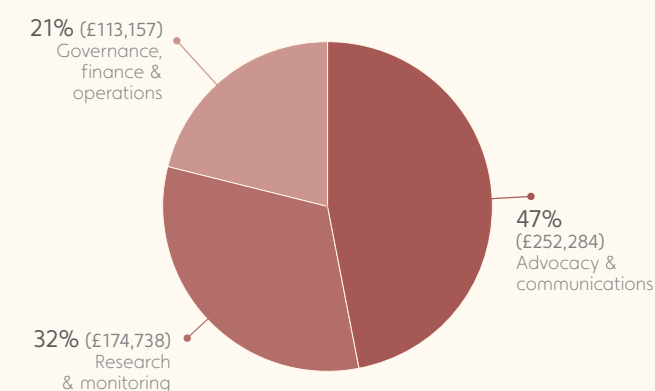
Report

How we were funded

The Open Society Foundations and the Hewlett Foundation are currently supporting Publish What You Fund with two year grants. The income shown represents the first tranches. We are now in receipt of the second year's funding.



Expenditure breakdown by activity



How the funds were spent fulfilling our objectives

