

Annual Report

2013

About

Publish What You Fund is the global campaign for aid transparency – for more and better aid information that is accessible to and usable by all. The first global 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 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 their 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

Thank you to our main funders the Hewlett Foundation and the Open Society Foundations, and to our additional funders, including Christian Aid and Save the Children UK..

The Data Revolution

Message from Fran Perrin, Chair of Board of Directors



This year marked the fifth anniversary of the campaign for aid transparency.

Transparency is now seen as a key pillar of development – a necessary condition to enable effectiveness, accountability and social change. Over the past five years, information on aid spending has slowly become more available and open.

There is increased recognition that, for aid to be transparent, it needs to be shared openly in a timely, comprehensive, comparable and accessible way. The International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) remains the only common standard for publishing aid information which satisfies all of these elements, ultimately increasing the usefulness of the data.

The basic principle that aid information should be publicly available in easy to use, accessible formats is now accepted as an essential component of international development – from the debates around the post-2015 goals to the wide-ranging commitments made by countries as part of the Open Government Partnership. Our agenda is now promoted by heads of state the world over.

The case for aid transparency has been almost universally accepted by the various donors and organisations that provide development assistance. It's now a matter of getting transparency delivered properly and making sure we can reap the rewards of the data revolution.

Aid information has become more available and open in recent years but it is not always as useful as it

could be. If organisations produce data in standalone PDFs, they may be being more transparent but the information is not necessarily useful, because it cannot be easily accessed and compared. For Publish What You Fund the format and quality of information are as important as availability and coverage.

For information to be considered high quality, it needs to be comprehensive, timely, accessible and comparable.

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. The power of open data is the opportunity to make better use of resources and to improve the lives of citizens.

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 job is far from done. Aid donors need to maintain their 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.



Our people

The team

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



Dr David Hall-Matthews,
Managing Director



Shreya Basu,
Research and
Monitoring Officer



Mark Brough,
Aid Information Advisor



Linda Grimsey,
Finance and
Operations Manager



Sally Paxton,
U.S. Representative



Rachel Rank,
Deputy Director



Catalina Reyes,
Senior Advocacy
Associate



Liz Steele,
EU Representative



Nicole Valentinuzzi,
Communications
Manager



Nicholas Winnett,
Partnerships and
Outreach Officer

The Board

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

- Fran Perrin, Chair**
- Owen Barder**
- Geoff Broadhurst**
- Karin Christiansen**
- Ellen Miller**
- Sarah Mulley**
- Martin Tisé**
- Alexander Woollcombe**

The U.S. Advisory Committee

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

- George M. Ingram, Chair**
- Rodney Bent**
- Ben Leo**
- Larry Nowels**
- Paul O'Brien**
- Tessie San Martin**
- Noam Unger**

Emeritus
Nilmini Rubin, Jeremy M. Weinstein

Achievements

2013 began with a major milestone in the campaign – the **U.S. government began publishing to IATI**. Although a limited dataset, this promises to make IATI a truly global standard in practice, with the addition of data from the world's biggest donor. Significant improvements in U.S. IATI data have been made during the year, including high quality publications from the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) and the Department of the Treasury.

Publish What You Fund focused strongly on data quality this year. We developed a data quality testing tool to help donors assess the extent of their compliance with commitments made in Busan. It was also used to collect data for the 2013 **Aid Transparency Index (ATI)**.

The beginning of 2013 was an important moment for donors to reveal how they would implement the commitments they made in Busan. Most major donors met the deadline of the end of December 2012 to publish **implementation schedules**, following a successful advocacy campaign in the preceding months.

We produced a detailed assessment of those schedules in **March**, grading aid agencies on their ambition. This has led to several agencies revising their plans to correct misunderstandings and raise the bar collectively for the donor community.

In **April**, the Adaptation Fund became the first climate agency to sign IATI, following a presentation we made to the Fund's Board of Directors. The Global Environment Facility followed soon after, furthering our broader goal of the application of IATI as a common data standard for other development flows.

In **June**, the G8 committed to full and timely implementation of IATI – including France, Italy, Japan and Russia for the first time. We worked closely with our partners and governments in the lead up to the G8 summit to ensure that a specific commitment to IATI was included in the Communiqué. An accompanying Open Data Charter sets out ambitious principles for the provision of high quality open data on G8 government activities.

Substantial steps have been taken by France to improve the transparency of its aid. In **July**, the French Inter-ministerial Committee for International Cooperation and Development (CICID) announced that France would commence publication to IATI in 2014 for its priority poor countries.

In **October**, another important milestone was reached when the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation committed to IATI. We look forward to seeing more non-traditional providers join, so that IATI reflects the complexities of contemporary development finance.

The results are impressive:

Over **85%** of Official Development Finance (ODF) committed to IATI by the world's donors

Over **\$680 billion** in development spending published to IATI

Over **100** new publishers to IATI during 2013



The Index



The 2013 Aid Transparency Index (ATI) used a revised methodology that reflects the changes in the aid transparency landscape and the resulting need to assess the quality of published data better.

As a consequence, the data collection process was a little different in 2013. In particular, the scoring took account of the format of the data. The scores look at the accessibility and user-friendliness of the information, so the more open and comparable the information is, the more highly valued it is.

The data collection process was streamlined in 2013, with the introduction of an online data collection platform, the Aid Transparency Tracker. The Tracker was able to show what information donors had committed to publish to IATI, as well as what they were currently publishing.

We launched the 2013 ATI in Washington, D.C., followed by a presentation at the Open Government Partnership Summit in London. Publish What You Fund's investment in U.S. advocacy is starting to pay off – MCC became the first U.S. agency to top the ATI. The Treasury and USAID also made significant improvements in the ranking.

Since the publication of the 2012 ATI, there has been steady progress with implementing aid transparency. This accelerated sharply in the months leading up to the 2013 data collection deadline, when we saw a flurry of donors publishing to IATI. This demonstrates the huge influence the ATI now has, in only its third year.

Three European Commission departments joined EuropeAid to publish to IATI – ECHO, Enlargement and the Foreign Policy Instruments Service. Nearly 90% of the EC's aid is now represented by IATI publishers.

Also publishing to IATI for the first time in 2013 were the African Development Bank, Denmark, Germany, the Inter-American Development Bank, Ireland, New Zealand and Switzerland. Several UN agencies also took their first IATI steps: UNICEF, UN OCHA, the UN Population Fund and the World Food Programme.

Of the 67 organisations included in the 2013 ATI, 31 are publishing some current information in the common, open format agreed by IATI. Some have also launched open data portals as part of their efforts to encourage others to access and use their aid information.

This year, the ATI was presented on an award-winning microsite, with interactive visualisations and weighting tools. The microsite represented a significant and necessary investment to encourage wider access to the ATI, and use of the results.

The 2013 ATI launch also kicked off Global Transparency Week – a series of events that we took the lead in coordinating, in the run up to the Open Government Partnership Summit. The week involved 10 events across four countries, with partners from many and varied transparency campaigns.

All events were well attended by influential policy-makers. The U.S. launch included senior representation from the State Department, USAID, MCC, Honduras and the World Bank. Significant press coverage was received in the U.S. and Europe, including the Economist, the Guardian, the Lancet, and Reuters.

2013 ATI in numbers

During Index data collection:

10 new IATI publishers

significantly improved IATI publishers **9**

57 donors used the Tracker to check their data



The Aid Transparency Index 2013, example spreads

The Road to 2015

In 2011, the world's most prominent development actors – including the U.S. – committed to publishing their aid information to a common standard by 2015, in the Busan Partnership Agreement.

We are now well on the road to 2015 – and there is much to do.

The challenge now is to create a virtuous circle of higher data quality and more data use. Wide-ranging analysis – and feedback – on aid information is likely to bolster donors' resolve in constantly improving the breadth and quality of their publication. In turn, use will be driven by the quality of the published data. Only when it is really detailed and timely, with a focus on information people most want – like results – will it create excitement and make a real difference.

Publish What You Fund is working closely with diverse partners to make a variety of stakeholders aware of the potential value of IATI information. 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 smartphones. We are pushing hard to integrate aid transparency with recipient country budget transparency. We believe that, ultimately, citizens should be able to see all money that is being spent in their countries.

The Lough Erne G8 Declaration recognised that while IATI provides the framework for open aid data, it is also a model standard that can be applied to other finance and information flows. No similar global open data standard exists. We hope that IATI will be built on, so that users can easily analyse aid information alongside other flows.

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 information to the IATI standard. We have developed a highly-regarded Index to measure and drive progress.

But aid is still not transparent enough. We will continue to work with donors and development partners to ensure that all aid information is made available in a timely, comprehensive, accessible and comparable way, as we approach that 2015 deadline.

We are grateful to have the governance of a highly skilled Board of Directors, and a three-year funding commitment from the Hewlett Foundation, to help us bring donors along on this road to 2015.

Dr David Hall-Matthews,
Managing Director of Publish What You Fund



Finances

Statement

Income & Expenditure 2012/13

	2012/13	2011/12
Balance b/f from	£63,274	£77,532
Income		
Voluntary income	–	–
Restricted	–	£26,376
Unrestricted	£539,057	£482,729
Generating funds	–	£13,335
Other income	£5,345	£2,804
Interest	£607	£687
Total income	£608,283	£603,453
Expenditure		
Charitable activities	£523,946	£521,081
Governance	£10,311	£19,098
Total expenditure	£534,257	£540,179
Funds c/f	£74,026	£63,274

Balance sheet as at 30th September 2013

Current assets		
Debtors	£7,144	£9,209
Cash at bank	£365,527	£98,597
Total current assets	£372,671	£107,806
Current liabilities		
Creditors	£43,038	£44,532
Deferred income	£255,607	–
	£298,645	£44,532
Total assets less liabilities	£74,026	£63,274
Represented by		
Unrestricted funds	£74,026	£63,274

Auditors

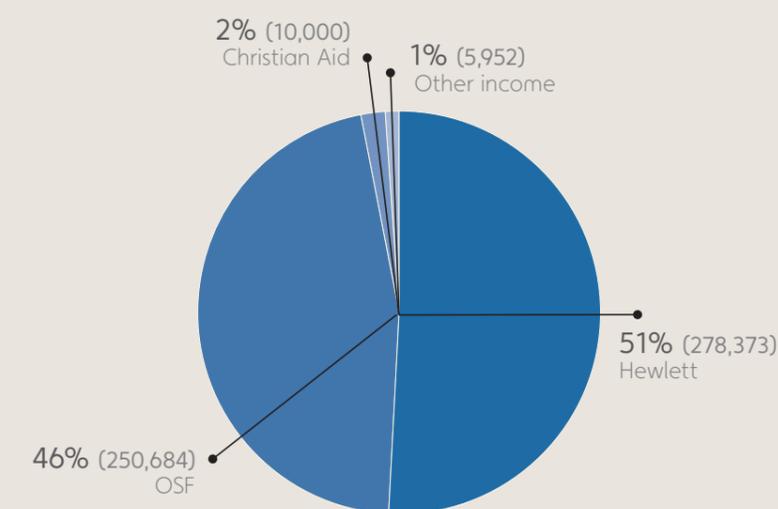
Buzzacott LLP, 130 Wood Street, London, EC2V 6DL

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

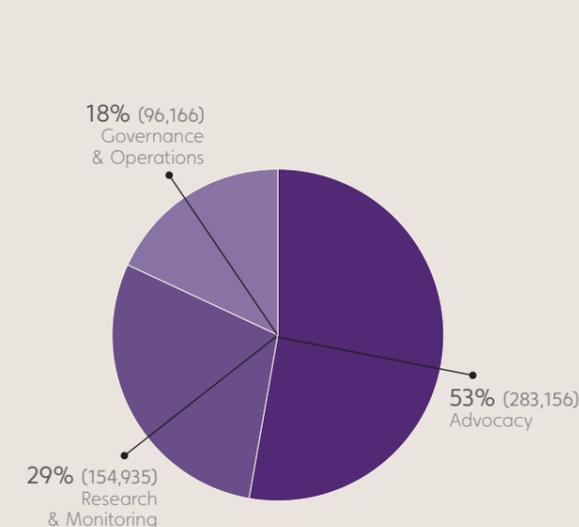
Report

How we were funded

With special thanks and appreciation to our funders who continue to support us so we can maintain and expand our campaign into 2015 and beyond.



Expenditure breakdown by activity



How the funds were spent fulfilling our objectives

