

Publish What You Fund Board of Directors meeting 26th September 2017

Attendees

- Giles Bolton (Chair): GB
- Claire Hickson: CH
- Paul Lenz: PL
- Hetty Kovach: HK
- George Ingram (observer): GI
- Sheila Herrling (observer): SH
- Rupert Simons (staff): RS
- Linda Grimsey (staff): LG

Apologies: Simon Gill (Treasurer)

Agenda

HR Committee

Ordinary Board meeting

- 1. Minutes from June 2017 Board meeting**
- 2. Finance and Fundraising**
- 3. Strategy Beyond 2018 (Discussion)**
- 4. AOB**

HR Committee

Confidential, not minuted

Ordinary Board

1. Minutes from June 2017 Board meeting

Minutes agreed for posting online

2. Finance & Fundraising

- RS presented the Finance Committee Report in SG's absence
- RS presented the budget for 2017/8 including a projected £55K shortfall by end of financial year
- GB expressed appreciation for decision to defer office move by a year, and suggested making some improvements to current office to improve working conditions and improve look and feel
- HK suggested looking at hub environment for future office moves
- RS updated on fundraising:
 - EU & DFID expected to contribute to 2017/18 Index and subsequent one
 - Omidyar Network rejected joint proposal for a pilot on data use for accountability in Nigeria
 - Discussions with InterAction for humanitarian transparency and extension of Open Ag Funding
- GI and HK asked how the team proposed to engage with EU institutions and resource appropriately
- HK noted that next 18 months is a window of opportunity for fundraising

The Board ratified the budget that had been submitted by Finance Committee and requested staff to use discretion in allocating additional income during the year

3. Strategy Beyond 2018

GB started by noting that Publish What You Fund enters discussion on strategy beyond 2018 from a position of strength, given the importance still assigned to transparency globally.

RS then presented two Board papers on context and options for strategy, noting the success of Publish What You Fund's work to date but also diminishing returns from continuing along the same track. The vision is: "We envisage a world where aid and development information is **transparent, available and used** for effective decision-making, public accountability and lasting change for all citizens." Neither continuing the status quo nor shutting down would be adequate for moving toward this. Instead, it would require broadening Publish What You Fund's objectives and building partnerships towards one of the following:

1. Make aid work better – partnering with other organisations who care about effectiveness
2. Make all financial flows transparent – partnering with other transparency campaigns
3. Make IATI work better – creating better tools and portals for publishing and using IATI data
4. Make aid accountable – working with others to use data for accountability in partner countries

The following points were made in the discussion:

- GI expressed agreement with the analysis of context in the Board papers
- PL noted that option 2 was difficult as donors had already tried this with extractives
- CH asked which option provided the best opportunities and what the criteria were
- HK asked if we could express the theory of change for each option, and what would transparency look like in the future as the global development landscape changes
- CH suggested 1 or 4 were most attractive as scope for impact
- HK asked how the ties with IATI affected the strategy
- GI supported the partnership approach for building alliances and possible coalition
- SH asked what would be the outside option that takes the community out of its comfort zone
- PL suggested 1 and 4 were most attractive though still challenging options
- GB noted that both options 1 and 4 might bring new funders in as part of a broader coalition
- RS noted personal excitement on option 4 in particular
- HK asked team to be bold and reflect on the future of

GB summed up the discussion as follows:

- RS is asked to draw up more details on how to pursue options 1 (make aid work better) and 4 (make aid accountable at country level)
- The Board is comfortable with RS starting conversations with other organisations to explore partnerships in greater detail
- RS and the SMT are asked to write down what we are trying to achieve and what Publish What You Fund brings to any potential partnership

AOB: None raised

Next meeting scheduled for 12th December 2017