

Aid Transparency Index

2026
Accreditation Process

INFORMATION PACK



Be part of the 2026 Aid Transparency Index

You are invited to participate in the 2026 Aid Transparency Index – the only independent measure of aid transparency among the world’s major aid and development agencies.

This is your opportunity to demonstrate your commitment to openness and accountability. By participating, you will receive an in-depth assessment, detailed feedback, and tailored recommendations on the quality and completeness of your aid and development disclosures. The process will also support you in improving the quality of your public data and enable you to benchmark your performance against your peers. Upon completion, you will obtain official accreditation and the Aid Transparency Index Seal.

What is the Aid Transparency Index?

The Aid Transparency Index has provided an independent measure of the transparency of the world’s leading aid and development organisations since 2012. Produced by Publish What You Fund, it offers a rigorous assessment and public ranking of aid transparency. Through engagement, feedback and publicity, it has influenced many agencies to improve their transparency. It has garnered political and media attention and set a global benchmark for aid transparency.

For the first time, we are offering the Aid Transparency Index as a paid-for service, allowing a wider range of organisations to demonstrate their leadership and commitment to transparency. Previously, the Index was funded by government and philanthropic sources, assessing the transparency of 50 leading aid agencies. Following the end of this funding and strong demand from aid organisations, the 2026 Index is being relaunched as a paid service.

We now offer two participation options to accommodate organisations at different stages of their transparency journey:

- **Ranked:** Organisations in this category will be publicly ranked, and your detailed profile will be made available on our website.
- **Non-ranked:** Organisations participating in the Aid Transparency Index for the first time may opt to do so on a non-ranked basis. Under this option, results are not published and no ranking is assigned. Non-ranked participants will not receive an accreditation graphic but will be acknowledged in the Aid Transparency Index report as having taken part in the process. The choice to be Ranked or Non-ranked must be made upon receipt of final results. While a descriptive summary will be published on our website, detailed, quantified scores will be shared only with your organisation.

We have introduced the Non-ranked option to provide a one-time opportunity for organisations to begin publishing or strengthen the quality of their data without the added pressure of public scrutiny. The aim is to support learning and improvement, enabling organisations to participate fully in future editions of the Index.

What are the benefits?

Participating in the Index will offer you a range of benefits:

DEMONSTRATE YOUR LEADERSHIP AND COMMITMENT TO TRANSPARENCY

Your inclusion in the 2026 Aid Transparency Index provides a clear public commitment to integrity and transparency. It can offer a competitive advantage for attracting investors, partners and funders that prioritise transparency.

GET AN INDEPENDENT, CREDIBLE TRANSPARENCY ACCREDITATION

The Index offers an external, robust examination of the quality and quantity of your aid and development information. Our objective assessment can help to enhance your credibility, trust and reputation as a transparent organisation. By participating in the Index you will receive an 'accreditation seal' recognising your engagement and the level of your achievement. The Aid Transparency Index has built a strong reputation across the development community, and the accreditation will provide a trusted, independent validation of your transparency. You can use this accreditation to demonstrate your compliance with industry best practices, and strengthen confidence among your stakeholders..

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EXPERT GUIDANCE TO IMPROVE YOUR TRANSPARENCY

The Publish What You Fund team has in-depth knowledge and many years of experience in assessing and advising on data transparency. We will help you identify gaps and opportunities for strengthening governance and transparency. The two-stage Index process is collaborative and provides several opportunities for improvement:

- Prior to the initial data collection and assessment, we will engage with your team to understand your current approach and provide constructive feedback.
- Following an initial scoring, we will provide you with detailed feedback on your performance against each of the indicators. The results of the initial scoring remain private, and you will have three months to act on the feedback and improve your data disclosure before the final assessment.
- Following the final assessment, we will produce a public profile of all Ranked agencies. This will give you an overview of your performance across all the indicators and highlight recommendations for further improvement.
- Following the launch of the Index, we will arrange a private follow up call with our team to discuss the scoring and feedback.

PROMOTE YOUR ACHIEVEMENT

The launch of the Aid Transparency Index regularly makes headline news and draws political attention to the issue of aid transparency. The 2024 Index was covered by 60 media outlets and websites and our hashtag #2024Index generated 30 million impressions on Twitter/X.

Publish What You Fund will produce a report, website and social media campaign and host an event featuring leading voices in the development community. You can join our launch event in-person or online, and we will support you to promote your performance with marketing collateral (including social media and web graphics, press material and opportunities to collaborate on videos and blogs). The launch provides a great opportunity to be in the spotlight on aid transparency and is the ideal moment to promote your transparency to stakeholders.

In the months following the launch, we will produce a global 'State of Aid Transparency' report – which will provide further opportunities to showcase your progress and successes.

BENEFIT FROM PEER LEARNING AND TRAINING

By participating in the Index you will have the opportunity to benefit from auxiliary services. For example, you'll be invited to join a community of your peers through regular drop-in sessions to share experiences with other participating agencies, discuss challenges and solutions, and celebrate successes.

We will also offer each participating organisation training for up to 30 people per year. This training will focus on how to use International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) data – and how to access and navigate information on over a million development, humanitarian and climate projects. The training will help your teams and senior management understand why publication of good quality data in the IATI Standard matters, and how it can enhance the visibility and impact of your work. This interactive, live training is delivered online.

What is involved?

We will review your published aid and development information against a set of 35 indicators. These indicators correspond to different types of aid information and are principally scored based on the publication and quality of IATI data. Scores for each indicator contribute to an overall score out of 100. The scores are classified as “very good”, “good”, “fair”, “poor”, and “very poor”. We produce a ranking of overall transparency scores, profiles of all agencies and a report reviewing performance and trends.

The IATI Standard is a global reporting standard for publishing open data on development and humanitarian funding. It enables real-time, detailed, and project-level transparency, improving coordination, accountability, and decision-making. Most of the world's major aid and development organisations already publish their aid information in the IATI Standard, and many recipient countries utilise IATI data for their decision making.

Our team will guide you through the assessment process, initially with a call to discuss the methodology and timeline, your disclosure practices, and the current state of your data and documents. You will be asked to complete a survey to guide us to specific information.

We initiate the first round of assessments by collecting data published to the IATI Standard and other open data standards. We then run automated tests with our bespoke software. This is supplemented with manual checks and sampling of a number of data points and documents. We will then provide you with feedback on how your data publication could be improved. Three months later we conduct the final data collection and complete further manual checks.

We will use this data to produce our public report and ranking. Following its launch, we will provide you with detailed recommendations on the next steps to improve your transparency and arrange a follow-up call.

We take a number of steps to ensure independence, impartiality and objectivity during the assessment process, including the use of independent reviewers, a transparent methodology and communications, and an insulated assessment team that is not involved in funding for the Index. To minimise conflicts, Publish What You Fund does not provide technical support to help agencies publish or amend their data, but we can signpost agencies to suitable technical experts who can provide this support.

The 2026 Aid Transparency Index will be largely based on the 2024 Index methodology which is available [here](#), a final version for the 2026 Index will be provided as per the timeline below.

Key dates

12th September 2025	Deadline for participation
October 2025	Launch of final methodology
October 2025 – November 2025	Initial engagement, on-boarding, and survey
December 2025	Data test consultation ¹
Mid-January – March 2026	Initial data collection and assessment
March 2026	Verification by independent reviewers
March 2026	Initial scores and feedback shared with agencies
April – May 2026	Engagement with agencies
June – July 2026	Final data collection, assessment and data verification
July 2026	Final scores shared with agencies
August – September 2026	Data analysis, production of report, ranking and agency profiles
October 2026	Launch of Aid Transparency Index report and ranking
October 2026	Issue accreditation
October 2026 – March 2027	Follow up engagement and action plans
April – August 2027	Collaboration and production of 'State of Aid Transparency' report

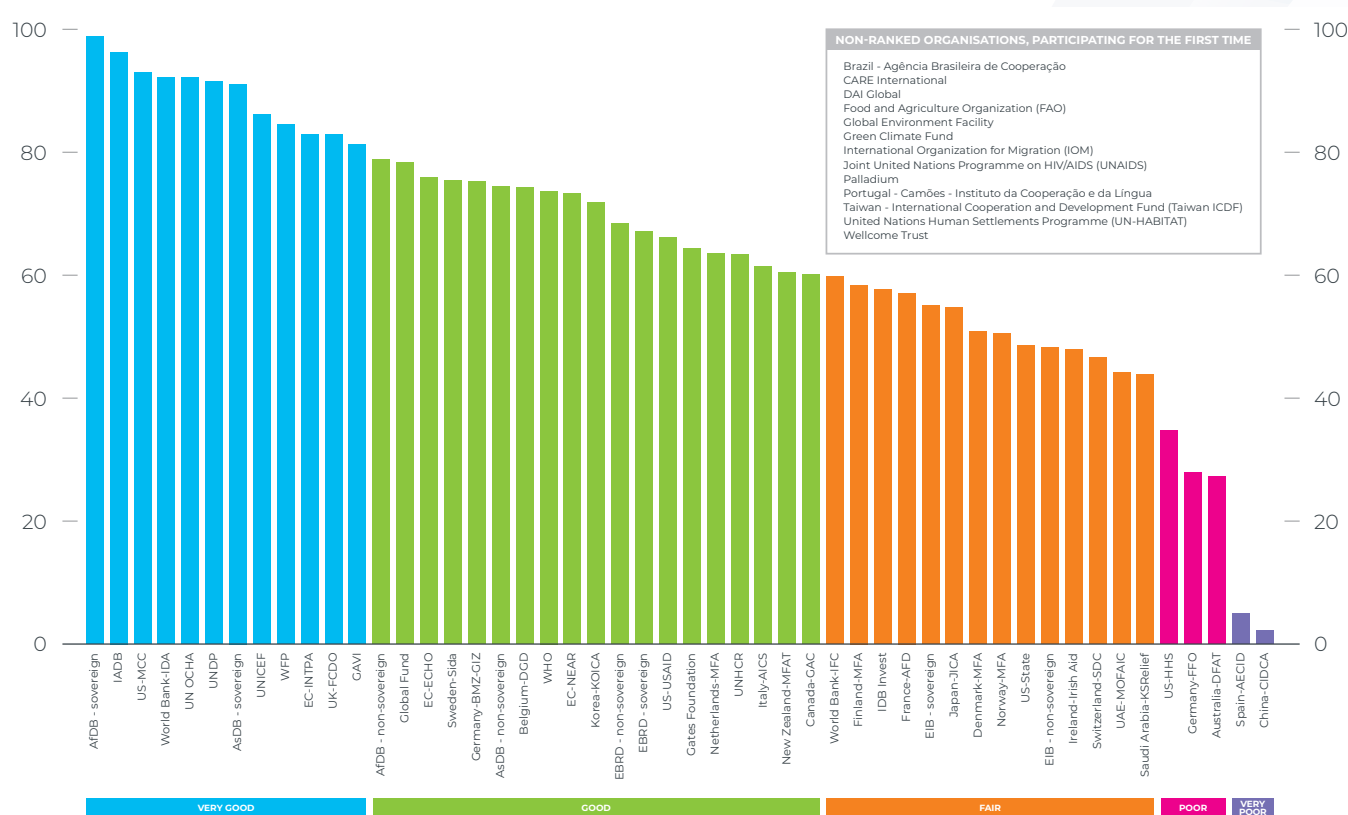
¹ Publish What You Fund runs a public consultation on specific data tests in the run-up to each Index. We always welcome feedback and comments on further improvements. The previous consultations can be found here: <https://github.com/pwyf/>. Please note that users needed to register on GitHub in order to comment on the tests; registration is free of charge.

Showcasing Your Transparency Performance

In October 2026, we will launch the 2026 Aid Transparency Index. In previous editions, the Index report featured a chart showing the relative performance of all participating organisations (as seen in the [2024 Index](#)). However, with the introduction of both Ranked and Non-ranked categories, the presentation of results will be updated.

For Ranked organisations, the output will remain similar to previous editions. You will be clearly identified in the Index chart, and your detailed results will be made publicly available on the profile pages on the Aid Transparency Index website (e.g., see [UNICEF's detailed results](#) from the 2024 Index).

For Non-ranked organisations, the presentation will differ. Non-ranked organisations will simply be listed on the chart page (see the example chart below). Non-ranked organisations will still receive the same detailed analysis as Ranked organisations, but this information will only be shared privately with the management and leadership of the respective organisation.



The Aid Transparency Index seal of accreditation

Upon completion of the Index process, and at the time of the launch of the Index report, participating organisations who score 'very good', 'good' or 'fair' will receive a seal of accreditation. Coveted 1st, 2nd and 3rd place seals are also available for the three Ranked organisations who top the Index chart. Organisations who do not score at least fair will not receive an accreditation seal.



Additional accreditation seals for the top three Ranked organisations:



Terms, eligibility and costs

The Index is designed for leading institutions engaged in aid and development finance, including:

- Bilateral and multilateral aid and development agencies
- United Nations Agencies
- Vertical funds
- Climate funds
- Philanthropic organisations
- Leading international development contractors
- Development Finance Institutions and multilateral development banks²
- Organisations publishing IATI data
- Large NGOs and INGOs

² Currently, leading non-sovereign MDBs and DFIs are assessed through the DFI Transparency Index so are not expected to pursue Aid Transparency Index accreditation unless they specifically seek the comprehensive evaluation offered by participating in both indexes.

The Index is open to all aid organisations that meet a set of minimum criteria:

1. Organisations engaged in international aid, development, humanitarian, climate change or related activities.
2. Organisations with an annual budget of at least \$20 million and at least 50 ongoing projects, investments or programmes. Smaller organisations would have limited benefits from the process.
3. Organisations should have a formal commitment to transparency outlined in a policy or strategic document.

Minimum requirements for all participating organisations:

1. Participating organisations must join at least two engagement calls (one prior to and one during the Index process). A follow up call after the process will also be available for continued learning and improvement.
2. Participating organisations must register as an IATI publisher and start publishing data about their activities.
3. Participating organisations must respond in writing to the findings of the first data collection before the second data collection takes place outlining where they plan to make changes and improvements to their transparency data.

For both Ranked and Non-ranked organisations, the process operates on a two-year cycle, with a public ranking and analysis of participating agencies published at the midpoint. The next Index cycle begins in October 2025, and agencies must register and pay at least one year's fees by 12th September 2025 to participate.

Participation in the Aid Transparency Index is priced at GBP17,000 per agency, per year. Agencies are required to commit to and pay for both years of the process in order to be included in the relevant Index cycle. This can be paid in one amount (GBP34,000), or split over two payments of GBP17,000 across the two years. This is a flat fee which applies equally to all agencies, as our experience shows that the size of an agency does not reliably indicate the complexity of its disclosures or the volume of data it publishes.

Full terms and conditions for participation in the Aid Transparency Index can be found [here](#). By registering to participate in the Index, participating organisations agree to comply with these terms and conditions. As an independent advocacy organisation Publish What You Fund reserves the right to produce and disseminate transparency-related communications concerning both participating and non-participating organisations.

How to apply

To register your interest for participation in the 2026 Aid Transparency Index please send a short email to our team at info@publishwhatyoufund.org.

We also have a Frequently Asked Questions page [here](#).

Objectivity and independence

Publish What You Fund is an independent charity registered under the laws of England and Wales. To maintain independence, impartiality, and objectivity throughout the assessment process, we follow these key practices:

- 1. Independent reviewers:** External experts evaluate the assessments to ensure objectivity.
- 2. Transparent methodology:** Our methods are clearly defined and openly shared.
- 3. Transparent communications:** All communications during the assessment period are conducted via email, with the right to disclose these communications if necessary.
- 4. Insulated assessment team:** The team responsible for assessments is kept separate from discussions on the commercial and financial aspects of the Index.
- 5. Internal review process:** For contentious scoring decisions, two or more assessors are involved to guarantee fair outcomes.
- 6. Standardised participation terms:** We use consistent terms and conditions for all participants, avoiding bespoke or negotiated individual contracts.

This rigorous approach ensures that the Aid Transparency Index remains a credible, impartial, and trusted assessment of aid transparency.

Why Publish What You Fund?

By partnering with Publish What You Fund for the 2026 Aid Transparency Index, you align with a trusted authority dedicated to enhancing transparency in aid and development. Our experience, independence, and collaborative approach make us the ideal partner to support your organisation's transparency journey.

Publish What You Fund is the global leader in aid and development transparency, uniquely positioned to deliver the 2026 Aid Transparency Index. Since our inception in 2008, we've been at the forefront of promoting openness and accountability in aid, ensuring that information is transparent, accessible, and utilized for effective decision-making and lasting change.

Beyond the Aid Transparency Index, Publish What You Fund undertakes a wide range of projects aimed at improving the transparency of aid and development finance. Our research and advocacy work spans critical areas such as humanitarian assistance, development finance institution transparency, women's economic empowerment, and aid to agriculture. We collaborate with local and international stakeholders to produce evidence-based reports and practical recommendations, helping to shape policies and practices that promote openness and accountability. Our projects, such as the Women's Economic Empowerment project and the DFI Transparency Initiative, demonstrate our ability to tackle complex transparency challenges across diverse sectors, reinforcing our role as a global leader in promoting aid transparency and effectiveness.

GET IN TOUCH

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this information pack, or the work of Publish What You Fund, please get in touch:

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