

About

Publish What You Fund is the global campaign for aid transparency – for more and better aid information that is accessible 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 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.

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Charity Registration No. 1158362
Company Registration No. 7676886
(England and Wales)

Thank you to our main funders the Hewlett Foundation and the Open Society Foundations, and to our additional funders, including: Action Aid, Christian Aid, Development Initiatives, Indigo Trust, ONE, Oxfam America, Oxfam GB, MFAN, New Venture Fund and Save the Children UK.

Message from Fran Perrin

Chair, Board of Directors



Publish What You Fund works to make available and accessible comprehensive, timely and comparable information about development flows. We seek to empower civil society advocates, parliamentarians and officials with information, both in aid recipient countries and from the development cooperation providers working with them.

Our agenda is promoted by heads of state the world over. 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 Development Agenda to the wide-ranging commitments made by countries as part of the Open Government Partnership.

Transparency has become a key pillar of development – a necessary condition to enable effectiveness, accountability and social change – and we are now focused on ensuring transparency is delivered properly to reap the rewards of the data revolution.

Publish What You Fund has seen a great number of successes as a result of effective advocacy. We have persuaded most major donor governments and multilateral bodies to commit to aid transparency and start to publish their aid information to IATI. We have developed a highly-regarded Aid Transparency 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.

We are working towards a global deadline for aid publication in 2015, and the next year will be crucial. Donors need to maintain their momentum on aid transparency and continue to make progress. 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.

I would like to thank my committed fellow trustees, Owen Barder, Geoff Broadhurst, Karin Christiansen and Ellen Miller. Special thanks also to Martin Tisné and Alexander Woollcombe for all their hard work over the years; both resigned this financial year having served their full terms on the board.

This year we were successful in our application for charitable status.

We have secured funding for 2014/5 and beyond, from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Open Society Foundations, Christian Aid, Indigo Trust and the Joffe Charitable Trust, enabling us to strategically plan our work and initiatives, including our new Road to 2015 campaign and our engagement around the post-2015 Development Agenda.

I look forward to another year of successful engagement during this important period for the international development community.

Letter from Rupert Simons

CEO, Publish What You Fund



Dear friends and funders,

I joined Publish What You Fund in January 2015. I'm thrilled to be joining this high-performing team at a critical time. I wanted to share a story that illustrates why I am so excited about the power of publication.

In 2007, I went to work for Liberia's Ministry of Agriculture. I helped the financial controller write a budget. The budget barely covered salaries, so all agricultural support programmes were funded and implemented by donors. Some had agreed a programme with the minister; others had agreed a programme with the president; none of them shared their plans with ministry officials or other donors. Each major donor wrote their own needs assessment, their own strategy and project plan. The ministry had no sight or control over the spending. Bad data led to bad decisions.

Five years later, I went back to Liberia, this time as an advisor in the president's office. One of my tasks was to help implement a 150 day action plan for infrastructure. The government published the plan, in paper and online, but for the first 90 days very little happened. Then a civil society group published a mid-term assessment, showing that only two out of 85 actions had been completed. The government swung into action, and by the end of the 150 days, two-thirds of the promised actions had been completed. Several ministers told me later that the public pressure gave them the focus they needed to find the money and finish the job.

Looking back

It has been a year of steady achievement for Publish What You Fund. In 2014, our advocacy contributed to the following outcomes:

- France and Japan published their first data to the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) Registry – together they account for around 11% of global aid.
- The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the world's largest private foundation, joined the Hewlett and MacArthur foundations on the IATI Registry.
- The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS relief (PEPFAR), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) were among the fastest risers in our 2014 Aid Transparency Index.

Overall, donors representing 83% of Official Development Finance now publish to IATI, and 45% of this data is 'good' or 'very good' according to our Index methodology. When we launched the 'Make Aid Transparent' campaign four years ago, only the UK Department for International Development and the World Bank were publishing any information to IATI.

At the operational level, Publish What You Fund became a registered charity in the UK in October 2014. We are pursuing a similar registration in the U.S. to help step up our fundraising and advocacy activities there.

Looking ahead

In 2015, I would like us to do what we can to finish the job, and make the data count.

“Finish the job” means getting as much high-quality data published to IATI as possible by the end of the year, the deadline set by the Busan agreement in 2011. We are running a campaign called the ‘Road to 2015’ with partner organisations from civil society to hold donors to that commitment. A one-off, token publication isn’t enough: we’re demanding comprehensive, timely and forward-looking information that is updated regularly.

To make the data count, we want to engage more with people who use data, whether they are officials, activists or citizens. Five years ago it might have been true to say “build it and they will come”. But the problem is changing, and we need to re-examine what makes the data usable and useful. That means we need to understand the users better, and shape the standards to meet their needs. It also means joining up the data with other financial flows like royalties from extractive industries, taxes and other transfers.

We will be working towards both of these objectives at the big global events planned on sustainable development, finance and open data this year. We know that good data alone won’t ensure good decisions, but no good decisions will come without it. We are working to renew the global commitments to publish that data, use it and join it up.

Leaders around the world have committed to a data revolution in development. Publish What You Fund is helping lead that revolution. Thank you for everything you do to make that possible.

The Road to 2015

Open Data for Sustainable Development



The clock is ticking on donor promises. At Busan in 2011, the world's donors promised to fully implement the IATI by the end of 2015. Most of the world's largest donor agencies are now publishing some information to IATI, but efforts are uneven and the quality of data is mixed.

In July 2014 we launched the Road to 2015 campaign; a coalition campaign involving civil society organisations from around the world. The campaign aims to place additional pressure on development providers to deliver on the promise they made at Busan in 2011 to publish comprehensive and timely aid information by the end of 2015. It also aims to ensure that aid transparency becomes an integral component of the post-2015 development landscape.

It is incredibly important that development providers deliver on their commitment. Partner countries have asked for more information about development cooperation to deliver positive results on the ground. Likewise, citizens want to know what is being spent where, by whom, and with what results, so they can hold their governments to account.

As well as being the year that the Busan commitment ends, 2015 is a crucial year for development more broadly. The Financing for Development outcome and the post-2015 Development Agenda will be important for setting targets on sustainable development in the context of poverty eradication, and we need to make sure that transparency remains an integral part of these discussions. Publishing comprehensive and timely data is an extremely important step, but we also want to see further commitments from development providers beyond 2015 to publish even better open data and ensure it is put to greater use to achieve the greatest possible benefit.

Over the next year we will be working closely with our coalition partners to up the stakes. We will be reviewing the progress of major donors during the summer of 2015 and publicising what we learn widely. At the same time, we are working together to ensure that the promise of greater transparency and more open data remains an integral element of the post-2015 landscape, through seeking to influence the Financing for Development and post-2015 Development Agenda negotiations.

If you would like to learn more about the campaign and how to get involved, please contact our Partnerships and Outreach Officer, Nicholas Winnett, at nicholas.winnett@publishwhatyoufund.org or +44 (0) 203 176 2512.

The Aid Transparency Index



We are at a crucial point in the push for donors to deliver on their existing commitments, particularly as new goals and commitments are agreed as part of the post-2015 Development Agenda.

In October 2014, we released our fourth Aid Transparency Index. We assessed the transparency of 68 organisations, ranging from bilaterals and multilaterals, to private foundations and financial institutions.

The three month data collection period is always a timer when donor's seek to increase their scores by improving the quality of their data. The Index is not just a yearly snapshot of progress – a monitoring tool – it is also an important driver of publication itself. This is why the Aid Transparency Index is our most valuable advocacy tool.

A total of six agencies published to IATI for the first time during the period when we were assessing their data, including France, Japan, the U.S. (Department of State and PEPFAR), and the Gates Foundation. In total, 44 organisations improved their scores in the 2014 Index compared to 2013.

Despite these notable gains, we were disappointed with the overall rate of progress. Our key findings in 2014 were that:

- 1) There is a race to the top, but the majority of organisations are lagging behind in meeting their international commitments.
- 2) The lack of comparable, comprehensive and timely publication of information means that information on development cooperation is still difficult to access and use.
- 3) Progress is achievable, if the political will exists.

We launched the 2014 Aid Transparency Index on 8 October 2014 at the Center for Global Development in Washington, D.C. The event featured a keynote address by Nigerian Minister of Finance, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, a presentation of the findings by our Director, and a panel discussion with global representatives from the transparency and development sectors. For more on the Index, including a recording of the launch event, visit: <http://ati.publishwhatyoufund.org/>



Our next Index will be released in early 2016, to coincide with the Busan deadline for publication to IATI. This will allow us to complete a stock take of progress made by donors and to separate those that have walked the talk on aid transparency from those who have failed to meet their international commitments.

Finance Report

Statement

Income & Expenditure 2013/14

	2013/14	2012/13
Balance b/f from	£74,026	£63,274
Income		
Voluntary income	–	–
Restricted	£46,537	–
Unrestricted	£598,116	£539,057
Generating funds	–	–
Other income	£26,251	£5,345
Interest	£514	£607
Total income	£671,418	£608,283
Expenditure		
Charitable activities	£603,226	£523,946
Governance	£10,398	£10,311
Total expenditure	£613,624	£534,257
Funds c/f	£131,820	£74,026

Balance sheet as at 30th September 2014

Current assets		
Debtors	£4,840	£7,144
Cash at bank	£296,756	£365,527
Total Current Assets	£301,596	£372,671
Current Liabilities		
Creditors	(£82,334)	£43,038
Deferred income	(£87,442)	£255,607
	(£169,776)	£298,645
Total Assets less liabilities	£131,820	£74,026
Represented by		
Unrestricted funds	£110,443	£74,026
Restricted Funds	£21,377	–
Total	£131,820	£74,026

Auditors

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

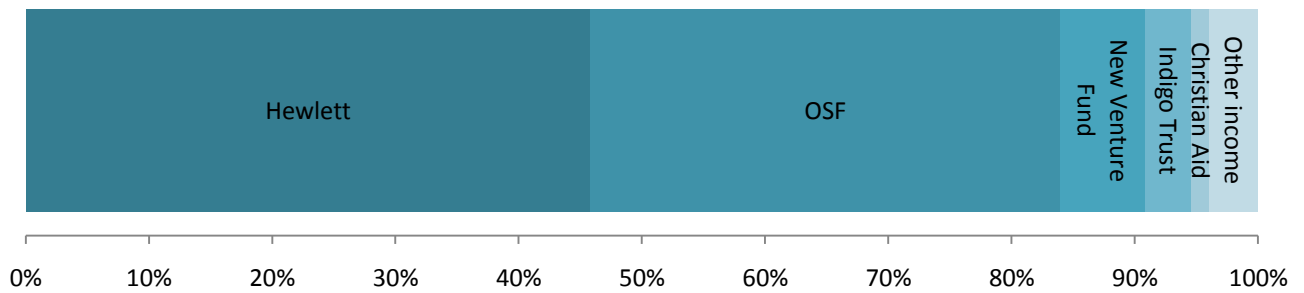
Detailed annual accounts are available on our website and via our publication to the [IATI Registry](#).

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.

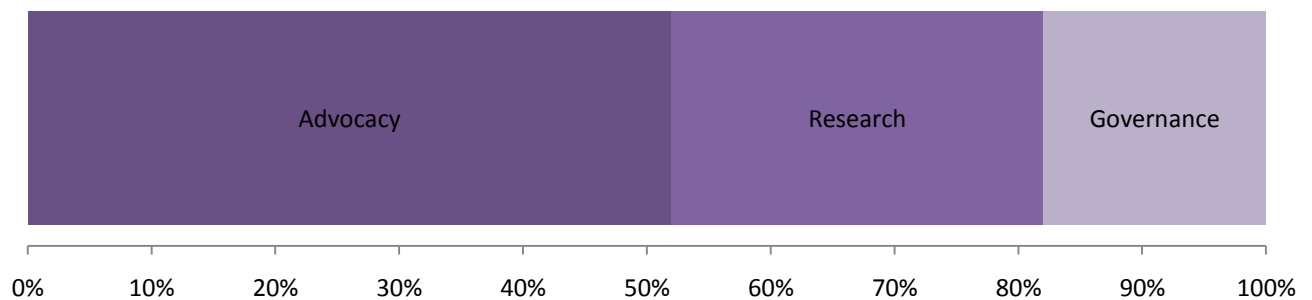
Income

Total: £671,418



Expenditure breakdown by activity

Total: £613,624



How the funds were spent fulfilling our objectives

