

Lead as you preach: Donor Transparency in Focus

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Integrity Watch Afghanistan, an anti-corruption watchdog, is launching the Aid Transparency Index 2011 in Afghanistan. The research shows that only nine donors publish more than 50% of the information surveyed, while the average transparency level is at a mere 35%. Leading donors are the World Bank at 78%, Netherlands 66%, DfID 63%, Sweden 63% and the EU at 61%. USAID, one of the biggest and most influential donors in Afghanistan, is at a poor 25%.



The lack of accurate, comparable and comprehensive aid information assists in creating corruption, duplication and abuse of resources. Afghanistan is the main recipient country for many of the main donors in the world but despite billions of dollars in investment over the last ten years, Afghanistan has little to show for it. Lack of aid information also excludes beneficiaries from promoting aid effectiveness and accountability.

In order to increase Afghan ownership and citizen empowerment, IWA presents the following recommendations to international donors:

- Lead by example and provide detailed aid information
- Create a comprehensive a multi-donor aid database in Afghanistan where donors can check for implementer background, duplication of funding, geographic aid distribution and sustainability challenges
- Adhere or sign to the International Aid Transparency Initiative and publish detailed programme information. All information should have common definitions and data exchange format.
- Renew commitments to aid effectiveness at Busan Conference in South Korea and enlarge the agenda from states to citizens by providing them access to information
- Increase beneficiaries' access to aid documentation and donor quality control officers

About IWA

IWA's mission is to increase transparency, integrity and accountability in Afghanistan's reconstruction process. IWA considers that high integrity standards must be applied in the public and private sectors. To achieve this goal, IWA provides policy-oriented research, and develops monitoring tools for local communities in order to empower them in ensuring a positive impact from reconstruction efforts.

About Publish What You Fund (PWYF)

PWYF is the global campaign for aid transparency. It works to make available and accessible comprehensive, timely and comparable information about foreign aid. The campaign seeks to empower civil society advocates, parliamentarians and officials with information, both in aid dependent countries and the donor countries assisting them.

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