OGP UK National Action Plan 2013-15
Commitment progress update

Commitment title	
Aid transparency	
Lead department(s)	Department for International Development, Cabinet Office
Civil society organisation(s) involved in implementation to date	Publish What You Fund, Integrity Action, ONE, OpenCorporates, Development Initiatives
Report date	30 September 2014
Overall commitment status	Not yet started

Overall progress against commitment
On track

Progress against milestones/activities		
1.	The Cabinet Office and DFID will work together to ensure that UK government departments that spend ODA publish information in line with IATI by 2015.	Behind schedule
Departments are responsible for their own transparency on ODA-spend and progress has been mixed and incremental. According to analysis by Publish What You Fund, DFID has made great progress and remains a leading agency on aid transparency; DECC and FCO have made some progress. In May 2014, DEFRA began publishing its ODA spend to IATI, following other recent publications by agencies including: the Home Office, DWP, Department of Health, Welsh Assembly Government, CDC and the Medical Research Council. MOD, Export Credits Guarantee Department and the Scottish Government are yet to publish.		
More progress is needed to ensure the quality and timeliness of data published meets the international standards required of the UK government as a whole. Cabinet Office and DFID have convened two meetings of the IATI Practitioners Group for departments to highlight barriers to publishing to IATI and share best practice. As a result of these discussions, DFID will share an updated note on IATI publishing and host a session to demonstrate the IATI publication tools.		
2.	Implement the Busan Common Standard on Aid Transparency, including both the Creditor Reporting System of the OECD Development Assistance Committee and IATI by 2015; this means making data available according to the internationally recognised standard in a format that is open, comprehensive, comparable and re-usable	Ahead of schedule

DFID continues to publish comprehensive and timely data to the IATI standard. The Global Partnership for Effective Development published its first Monitoring Report, Progress in Implementing the Busan Commitments, in April 2014 and ranked DFID the overall best-performing donor in implementing the common standard. In Publish What You Fund (PWYF)'s most recent Aid Transparency Index, DFID was ranked second of sixty-eight donor agencies, and was the highest-scoring bilateral organisation. We have made further progress on publishing most IATI fields and we will continue to update our implementation plan for remaining fields.

3.	Improve the accessibility of development assistance information by launching the UK 'Development Tracker' by the end of 2013 – this will increase the level of detail of information available on DFID projects and expenditure, readable by use of a browser as well as providing data in open data files; we will also publish summary information in major local languages in a way that is accessible to citizens in the countries in which we work	Completed

Development Tracker was launched at the OGP Summit in Oct ober 2013, representing a major step forward in improving the accessibilty of information on UK development assistance. The Development Tracker is a user-friendly online tool which enables users to find detailed information about DFID projects all over the world, and follow money through the delivery chain from source to outcome. Users can search by country or sector, or view projects by status, budget, dates and implementing partners. Using 'geocoding', users can also view specific locations of projects and 2800 sites have now been mapped on DevTracker– an increase of a thousand since April.

120 DFID projects across Asia, Africa and the Middle East have now published documents in local languages on Development Tracker, an increase of 50 since April. We are seeking to further improve coverage, and have an internal system in place for identifying tracking publications which will help us do this.

4.	Work with international donors and partner countries to better link development assistance data with partner countries' budget data, through the development of the IATI budget identifier, by June 2014; this will make it easier to understand and trace how development assistance is being spent in partner countries	Completed

DFID has supported the development of the IATI budget identifier and is now publishing its development assistance data coded to the budget identifier functional and economic classifications. DFID remains an active member of the IATI TAG working group on budget and aid alignment, and continues to support ongoing work to facilitate the integration of aid data provided by donors with partner countries' budget data. In September 2014 the UK, jointly with Publish What You Fund, presented an initial proposal on behalf of IATI to the OECD DAC Working Party on Statistics (WP-STAT) to request further dissaggregation of the DAC CRS purpose codes to allow fully automated mapping from DAC CRS codes (used in donors' systems) to the IATI budget identifier codes, thus supporting easier integration with partner country budgets. Further engagement and testing by partner countries is

planned to validate the IATI budget identifier and feedback from this will be used to finalise a formal proposal to the WP-STAT in January 2015.		
5.	Introduce approaches to improving the traceability of UK development assistance through a range of delivery chains by August 2014; this includes pilots with a number of private sector suppliers and CSOs by March 2014 and a requirement of IATI publication by the end of 2015 for all implementing partners	On track
All UK organisations receiving and managing DFID funds have been asked to release open data on how the money is spent using the standard IATI format. Progress made by CSOs has been impressive with most UK CSOs receiving funds from DFID posting the relevant information in an IATI-compliant format. Following a traceability pilot with private-sector suppliers, we are currently organising IATI-training workshops for other contractors. The first, involving ten of our top-forty suppliers, will be held in November 2014, with a further three sessions scheduled for January, March and May 2015.		
6.	Continue to drive up standards in the quality of information we publish through incremental system changes, including maximising the potential of new technological developments and strengthening feedback mechanisms	On track
Continual improvement of the quality of published data has been influenced by the Aid Transparency Index and internal quality assurance processes. New tools have supported the quality assurance process, and the scope of data published to IATI has expanded, particularly for sub-national locations. Feedback mechanisms have been built into the Development Tracker and are generating regular feedback on data quality. Further data quality improvements will be secured by encouraging projects to geocode thei work and publish a wider array of project documents.		

More information about this commitment and previous progress updates are available on the OGP website.