

Ms Ertharin Cousin
Executive Director
World Food Programme
Via C.G.Viola 68, Parco dei Medici
00148 - Rome
Italy

21 June 2013

Dear Ms Cousin,

Congratulations on publishing to the International Aid Transparency Initiative

As Managing Director of [Publish What You Fund](#), the global campaign for aid transparency, I am writing to congratulate the World Food Programme (WFP) on becoming the 150th organisation to publish information on organisational aid spending to the [International Aid Transparency Initiative \(IATI\) Registry](#).

By publishing to the IATI Registry, the WFP joins a global movement for open, timely and comparable aid data; publishers to IATI now account for 69% of Official Development Finance globally. We are hoping to achieve 90% coverage by 2015.

The WFP's publication of detailed [transaction level data](#) is particularly commendable and marks WFP out as a leader amongst the United Nations members already publishing to the IATI Registry.¹ Publish What You Fund is keen to see comprehensive and high quality publication from all UN organizations and we appreciate your leadership in this.

In addition, as a major provider of humanitarian assistance, the WFP's IATI publication will also help to encourage wide publication of humanitarian assistance spending to the globally agreed standard for development finance. As you may know, IATI is also currently working to tailor the standard to meet the specific needs of humanitarian actors better. We would encourage you to engage closely with the IATI Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on this, as your contribution as a new publisher will be extremely valuable.

We would also encourage WFP to work actively to encourage food aid providing agencies to publish relevant information to the IATI standard. As you know, food aid could be delivered more effectively if donors coordinate their efforts and share information better. Using complete IATI data would make that possible.

¹ UN Women, UN Habitat, UN Capital Development Fund, UN Children's Fund, UN Development Programme, UN Office for Project Services

The 2011 [Busan Agreement](#) laid down a concrete timeline for all providers of development assistance to implement IATI fully by December 2015. Therefore, as a publisher and leader in the IATI process – especially within the UN family and humanitarian landscape – your continued support in actively promoting aid transparency internationally will be greatly appreciated.

The next steps we encourage you to take are:

1) Continuing to improve WFP's IATI data through implementing IATI's optional components.

IATI encourages an incremental approach to implementation, meaning with each IATI publication, publishing organisations can also improve their transparency through adding more detail to their publications, publishing new data items and / or publishing information from new data sources.

2) Reaching out to WFP's humanitarian partners in order to facilitate the further integration of humanitarian spending into IATI.

WFP could usefully work with humanitarian aid organisations to provide the IATI secretariat with a fuller picture of humanitarian aid delivery and to ensure that the IATI standard fully meets the needs of humanitarian aid providers.

3) Encouraging IATI publication across the UN system.

To facilitate the IATI Registry gaining a full picture of aid delivery across the UN System, it would be a great help if WFP works with other UN family members to encourage them to move towards IATI publication.

These next steps will enhance the work already done and will add greater value to your existing publication, ensuring WFP gains a maximum return from its IATI investment.

Once again, congratulations on an excellent publication, and I look forward to working with your staff on these and other issues.

Yours sincerely,



Dr David Hall-Matthews

Managing Director
Publish What You Fund