



Independent observer  
of the Global Fund

# ANNUAL REPORT

2016



## Vision

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An effective and transparent Global Fund that attains its mission.

## Mission

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To be an effective watchdog of the Global Fund at global and country levels by providing information, critical analysis and commentary on developments at the Fund

## Strategy Goal

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By 2018, have positive effect on the Global Fund's operations

# MESSAGE OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The year 2016 was transitional for Aidspace as we started implementing our new 2016-2018 strategic plan, following an external evaluation. The evaluation found that Aidspace continues to play an invaluable and unique role as watchdog of the Global Fund to Fight HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The evaluators also recommended that Aidspace continue to evolve from an “explainer” of the Global Fund at its beginning, breaking down the Fund’s policies, tools etc. to readers, to a more critical and analytical role. Finally, the evaluation recommended that Aidspace streamline management and administration and make greater use of its partners.

Aidspace’s new strategic plan builds on these recommendations. It has three strategic objectives:

1. The Global Fund’s policies, processes, structures, and effectiveness improve as a result of Aidspace’s critical assessment
2. The Global Fund becomes more transparent with more accurate and complete data made available
3. Aidspace becomes stronger and more sustainable

This Annual Report looks back at the first year of the 2016-2018 strategic period and describes Aidspace’s progress, successes, and challenges towards achieving our targets. The narrative report is supported by a technical appendix.

During the strategic transition, Aidspace maintained a regular publication of the Global Fund Observer (GFO) in English and the Observateur du Fonds Mondial (OFM) in French.

The newsletters allow Aidspace to disseminate important information to its more than 12,000 subscribers (as of February 17, 2017) free of charge.

Issues of the newsletter (back-catalogued) are also available to the general public, through Aidspace’s website. At the end of 2016, Aidspace discontinued publication of GFO in Russian because of lower than desired readership.

In June 2016, Ida Hakizinka, formerly the chairperson of Aidspace’s Board, became the Executive Director. Ida comes with an extensive experience on the Global Fund, at the national, regional and global levels. She has actively participated in the Global Fund Board, was the communication focal point for the Eastern Africa Constituency Delegation, and she has coordinated the Africa constituencies task force in strengthening the Africa voice and setting up the Africa Bureau for Global Fund matters. Ida leads a renewed and skilled Aidspace team to spearhead the new strategic plan.

Also, the Board of Aidspace changed during last year, restructured to improve its functionality. We highly appreciated Fiona Napier and Jia Ping who have served in Aidspace board and left their position in 2016. We also welcome Dr Djalo Mele.

In 2017, Aidspace expects to catalyze all of these opportunities towards successfully implementing its strategic plan and fulfilling its mission “to be an effective watchdog of the Global Fund at global and country levels by providing information, critical analysis and commentary on developments at the Fund”.

*James Deutsch, Chairman of the Board*  
*Ida Hakizinka, Executive Director of Aidspace*





## Aidspan's critical assessment of the Global Fund's policies, processes and structures

In the year 2016, Aidspan kept its commitment to critically analyze the Global Fund's policies, processes and structures for improved effectiveness. Work or content generated was either published as a report on Aidspan's website and/or disseminated through our flagship newsletter, the Global Fund Observer (GFO) and its French equivalent, the Observateur du Fond Mondial (OFM).

Aidspan published 25 GFO issues with 236 articles and 13 OFM with 112 articles. In total, Aidspan published 348 news, commentary and analysis articles in GFO and OFM covering all 5 continents. In addition, Aidspan developed a series of in-depth analyses resulting in reports published on our website, and used for strategic advocacy in other fora.

### Reports

Reports developed in 2016 cover topics ranging from counterpart financing, transitioning from Global Fund support, value-for-money and accountability for Global Fund finances.

#### The "Fair share" of shared responsibility: An Aidspan report on willingness to pay

Aidspan analyzed the Global Fund's counterpart financing and willingness-to-pay initiatives. The [report](#) shows a significant increase in government contributions to Global Fund supported programs in 13 upper-middle income countries, many of which are faced with imminent transition from Global Fund support. On paper, majority of countries are meeting their willingness-to-pay requirements, however, it remains to be seen whether these countries will follow through on the actual domestic financing commitments.

#### Impact of Global Fund withdrawal on programs and service delivery in Bosnia-Herzegovina

Aidspan studied the impact of the Global Fund's withdrawal in Bosnia-Herzegovina as part of our commitment to investigate the influence of the end of the Global Fund support on the programs in transitioning countries.

#### Transitions from donor funding to domestic reliance on HIV responses – Recommendations for transitioning countries

This study assessed the strategy and policies the Global Fund adopts with respect to its role in the implementation of transition planning

The policy paper "Transitions from donor funding to domestic reliance on HIV responses – Recommendations for transitioning countries" suggests that smooth and successful transitions need to be based on the following sets of principles:

1. Transparency and predictability
2. Replicating good practice
3. Upholding human rights.

This case-study illustrated that transition planning is not only about funding antiretroviral therapy (ART) or other medicines but it is also about entrenching the sustainability of other services. Although the country took over the supply of ART to persons living with HIV, prevention and other social supportive services are curtailed. The impact is likely to be felt strongly by key populations.

### Accountability for Global Fund grants in four countries: Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, and Zambia.

Aidspace studied the accountability frameworks in four countries chosen for a multi-country case study to examine national and Global Fund institutional frameworks to safeguard health investments.

### Accountability for Global Fund Grants

Aidspace's reports found that strong accountability frameworks exist in all four countries (Kenya, Malawi, Uganda and Zambia) but issues arise in implementation of such safeguards.

In each country, the Global Fund put in place its own structures (the country team at the Global Fund Secretariat, Country Coordination Mechanisms, Local Fund Agents, among others) alongside the country's national accountability institutions, mechanisms and laws (Office of the Auditor General, Parliamentary Committee(s), Special Court(s), Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commissions or their equivalents). It appears that existing frameworks are strong, but not always diligently implemented. Four individual reports were written and published by Aidspace.

### A study on the implementation of value for money in Global Fund grants

Assessing value for money for Global Fund grants remains a key challenge. Contributing to this evidence base, in 2016, Aidspace assessed the content of funding requests, absorptive capacity and program performance in six African countries.

#### THE CONCEPT OF VALUE FOR MONEY RECEIVES MORE ATTENTION IN GLOBAL FUND GRANTS FOR HIGHER IMPACT.

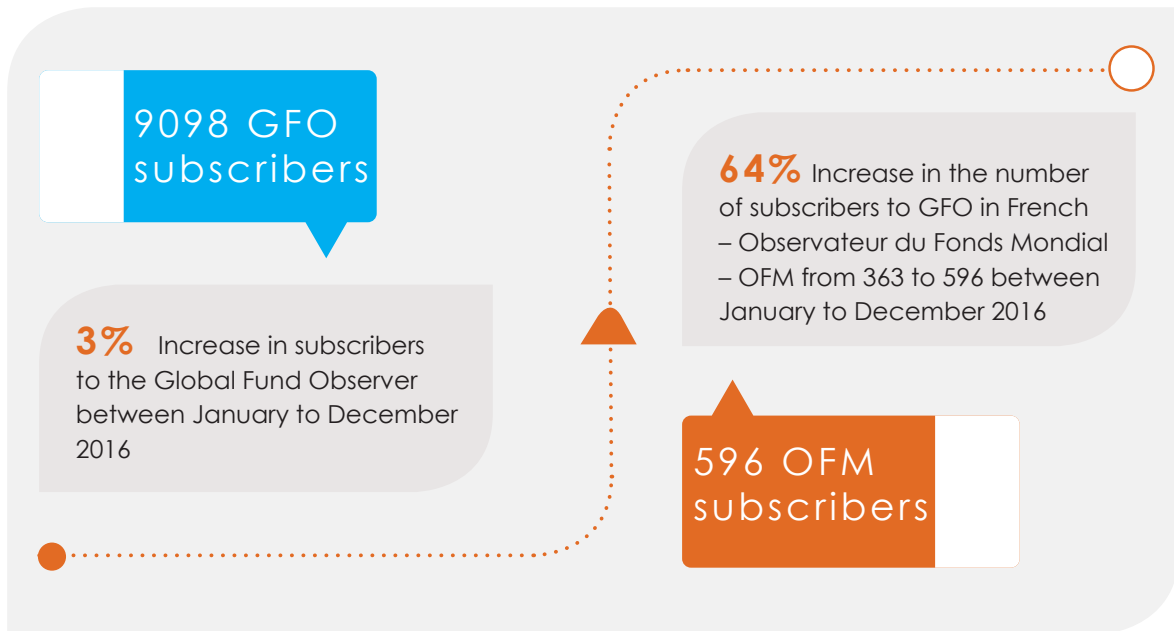


- Good quality epidemiologic and service data makes prioritization evidence-based
- Absence of firm cost estimates and limited impact data make value for money assessments at national level difficult.
- Additionality of the Global Fund's investments is difficult to assess
- Low absorptive rates of available resources remain a challenge that undermines the Global Fund's value for money principles.

Reports available at [www.aidspace.org](http://www.aidspace.org)

## Focus on the Aidspan flagship newsletter Global Fund Observer in English and in French

Even during the strategic transition, the Global Fund Observer newsletter grew stronger. Our flagship publication never missed an issue and the quality of the publication remained strong: the number of subscribers to GFO remained steady, while those to OFM increased by 52%.



*The publication plays an excellent role in holding up a mirror for us – and also does a good job of telling us (internally) what is going on particularly at the Board and OIG level!*

**Quote from a GFO reader who works for the Global Fund**

## Top GFO articles in 2016

### January

**COMMENTARY:** [Let's shift our thinking: Tailoring Global Fund support to country needs](#)

**ANALYSIS:** [Sustainability lessons from transitions in Costa Rica, Fiji, Romania, and Bulgaria](#)

### February

**NEWS and ANALYSIS:** [Contracts with SR resume as Cambodia's dispute with The Global Fund ends](#)

**NEWS:** [OIG audit of public sector grants to Tanzania uncovers many of the same problems that were identified in a 2009 audit](#)

### March

**NEWS:** [OIG audit reveals significant weaknesses in how CCMs are managed, and how CCMs coordinate and oversee grants](#)

**COMMENTARY:** [Make CCM performance appraisals and improvement plans public](#)

### April

**NEWS:** [The Global Fund has been backing away from efforts to promote generic competition](#)

**NEWS and ANALYSIS:** [Global Fund wrestles with concerns about grant performance and risks in the Nigeria portfolio](#)

**NEWS:** [Main decisions at Board meeting](#)

### May

**COMMENTARY:** [If we want to end HIV, TB, and malaria, we need to do more to reduce human rights barriers](#)

**NEWS:** [Community, rights and gender issues have a higher profile, but challenges remain in demonstrating impact](#)

**NEWS and ANALYSIS:** [Strategic focus on rights and gender in new Strategy seen as vital for scaling up coverage of key and vulnerable populations](#)

### June

**COMMENTARY:** [The Global Fund should align its catalytic investments with global targets for malaria elimination and eradication](#)

**COMMENTARY:** [Freshly minted Global Fund Strategy hits critical priorities of Africa constituencies](#)



## July

*NEWS:* [UNAIDS study cites Moldova as an example of Global Fund money flowing through governments to CSOs](#)

## August

*ANALYSIS:* [Brexit: What does it mean for development aid and the Global Fund?](#)

*NEWS and ANALYSIS:* [Global Fund tops PEPFAR on engagement of key populations: Survey](#)

## September

*ANALYSIS:* [Salary incentives still paid by the Global Fund, despite efforts to remove them](#)

*NEWS:* [Replenishment Conference was about more than just the numbers](#)

*NEWS and ANALYSIS:* [African head of states adopt scorecard on domestic financing for health](#)

## October

*NEWS and ANALYSIS:* [Fluctuating currencies and the implications for HIV and AIDS financing](#)

*NEWS and ANALYSIS:* [Demands of Global Fund reporting leave some PRs scrambling](#)

*COMMENTARY:* [Reflections on replenishment: Montreal, Malawi, and doing better](#)

## November

*COMMENTARY:* [Three ways the Global Fund could do more for TB](#)

*NEWS:* [Catalytic investments: \\$800 million for matching funds, multi-country approaches, and strategic initiatives](#)

## December

*NEWS:* [Board members discuss whether there should be changes to the Global Fund's current business model in high-risk countries](#)

*NEWS and ANALYSIS:* [Low absorptive capacity of Global Fund grants and its implications for programming in countries](#)





## Fund becomes more transparent with more accurate and complete data made available

### Aidspan pushes for increased transparency with respect to Fund-related documents

In 2016, Aidspan continued to highlight gaps in information that should be made public by the Global Fund at all levels either via our newsletters or direct engagement with the Global Fund staff. For example, in December, Aidspan highlighted the Global Fund's reluctance to make country allocation letters for the 2017-2019 funding cycle public.

Aidspan comment: Aidspan pieced together the contents of this article from the allocation letters that it was able to obtain (anonymously) from CCMs. It is unfortunate that, as it did for the last allocation period, the Global Fund Secretariat did not see fit to make the allocation letters public. There is nothing secret or sensitive in the letters. By not making them public, the Fund is failing to live up to its commitment to transparency. It is also incumbent on CCMs to make these letters public within their countries. The CCMs are not private companies. They are accountable to their stakeholders.

*"Countries receive allocation letters" 19 Dec 2016*



### Aidspan increases the breadth and depth of analyses by other agencies










Aidspan aims to ensure that stakeholders have access to quality data from the Global Fund that allows them to ask questions about the Fund's performance, transparency or other data-related issues. We have availed this information in four different data platforms where stakeholders can find and analyze this information. In 2016, Aidspan also added epidemiological data from the World Health Organization and UNAIDS.



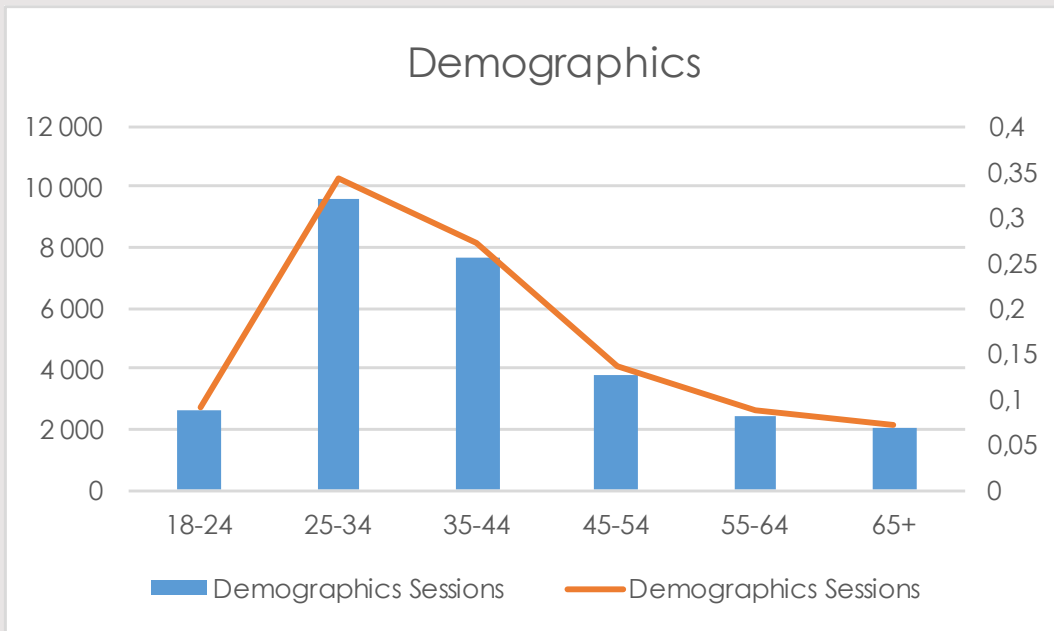
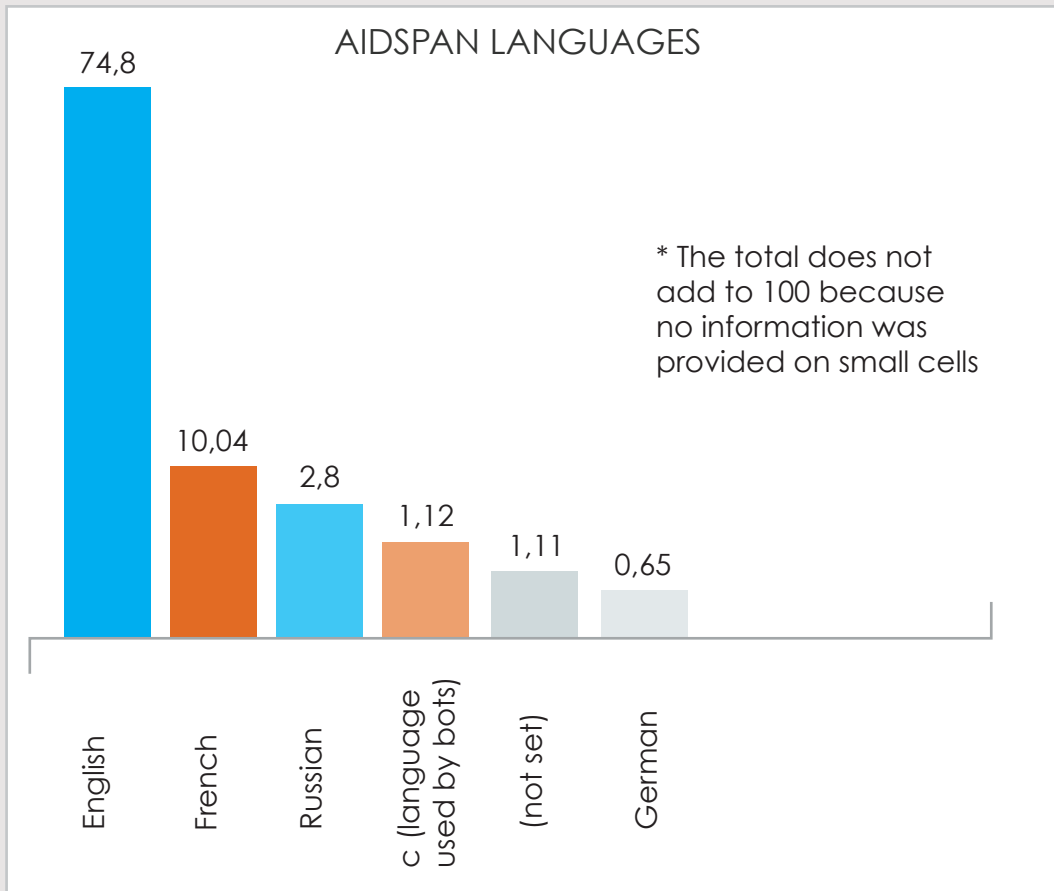
**The Grant Portfolio Overview:** Provides an overview of all Global Fund grants by disease component, region and country. The “Grants by Country” page is among the most viewed pages on Aidspan’s website.

**Grant Performance Analysis Tool:** This tool allows for comparison and analysis of grant performance by a number of different criterion : region, country, disease component, principal recipient (PR).

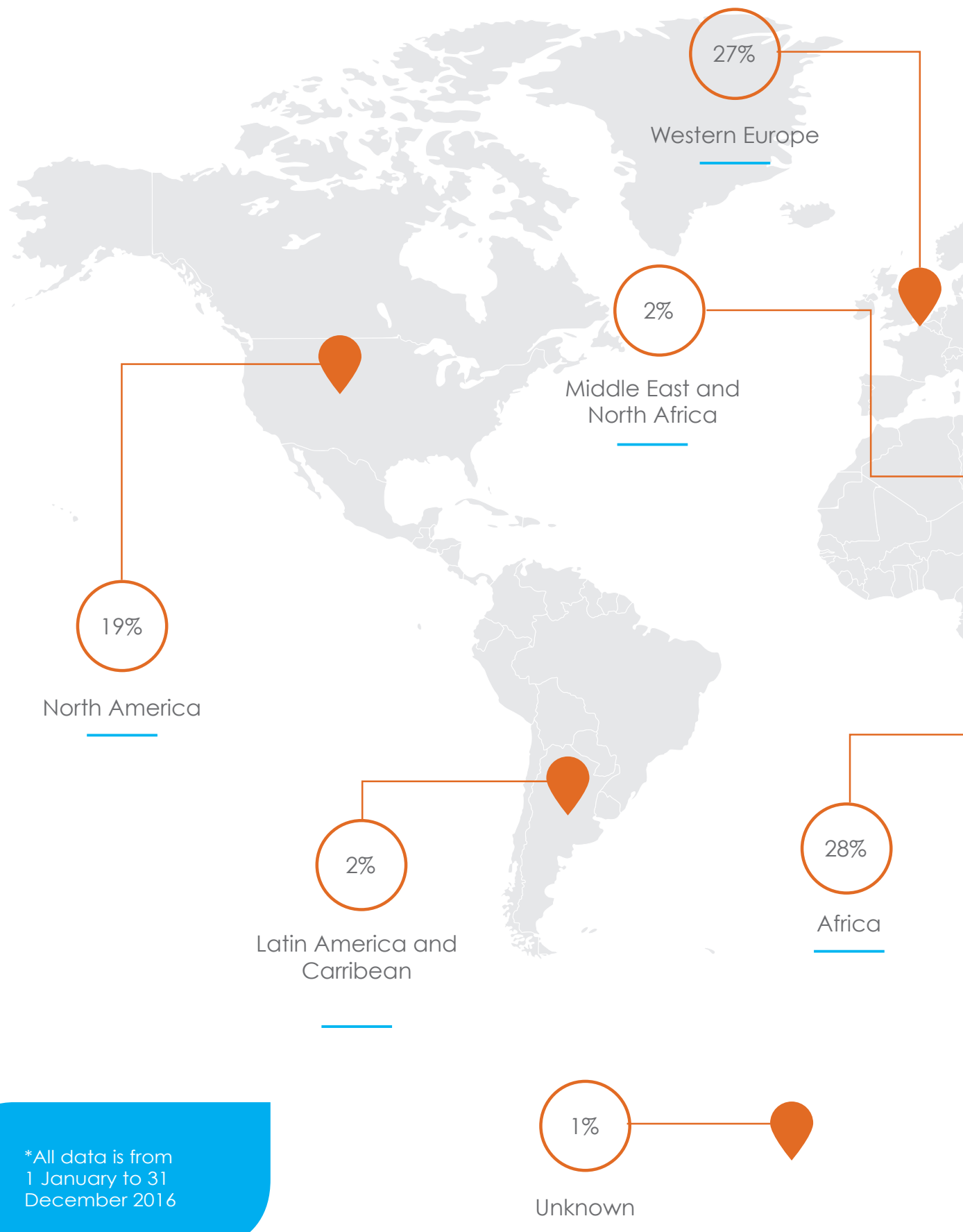
**Donor pledges and contribution pages:** Provides information about donor pledges and contributions. Data is obtained from publically available information from the Global Fund’s website.

		DONER SCORE	CONTRIBUTION AS % OF GNI
SWEDEN			
NORWAY			
FRANCE			

# OUR AUDIENCE



# OUR AUDIENCE



\*All data is from  
1 January to 31  
December 2016





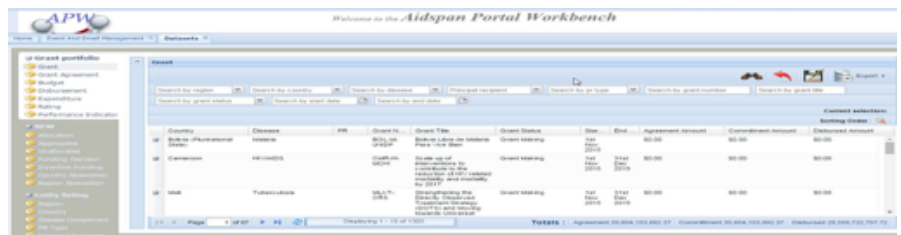


## Aidspan Portal Workbench (APW):

To facilitate data analysis, Aidspan built a comprehensive publicly accessible repository of Global Fund grants, disbursements, ratings and other data. Frequent requests by Aidspan for Global Fund data has seen the Fund improve its way of sharing of data through spreadsheets to more sophisticated ways of using web services. Aidspan remains among the Fund's top most data consumers, with a database synced to the Fund's web services.

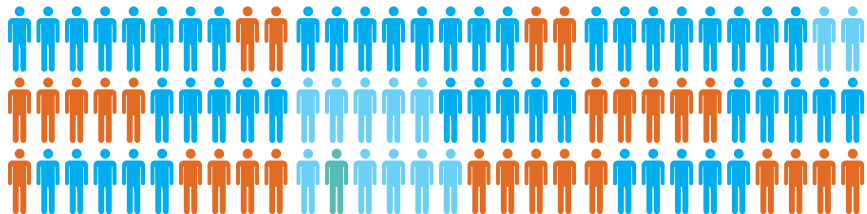
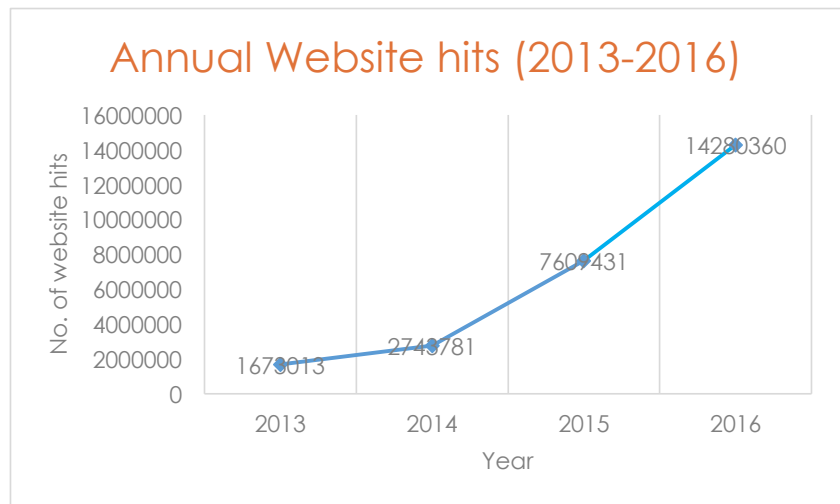
## Aidspan Portal Workbench (APW)

Aidspan's APW is a publicly accessible repository of Global Fund grants, disbursements, ratings and other data. It aids in data analysis by Aidspan staff and other external stakeholders.



## Our audience

More people are visiting our site to access our services. Traffic to our website has increased dramatically in recent years.





## Aidspan becomes stronger and more sustainable

### Increased visibility

During the year 2016, the Executive Director represented Aidspan in several high level meetings: among them are the:

- 35th and 36th board meetings as an independent observer held respectively in Abidjan in April and in Montreux in November
- Anglophone Africa Dialogue Forum for sharing and learning amongst Global Fund Civil Society Principal Recipients (PRs) in Nairobi in August
- Global Fund replenishment meeting in Montreal in September
- Implementer group meeting held in Nairobi in September
- African Constituency Bureau of the Global Fund meeting in Kigali in October



As Aidsplan underwent restructuring during 2016, fundraising activities were also realigned. Further, some of programs underwent evaluation in order to improve implementation. During this strategic restructuring period, grant income decreased by 50%.

### Strategic alliances and collaborations

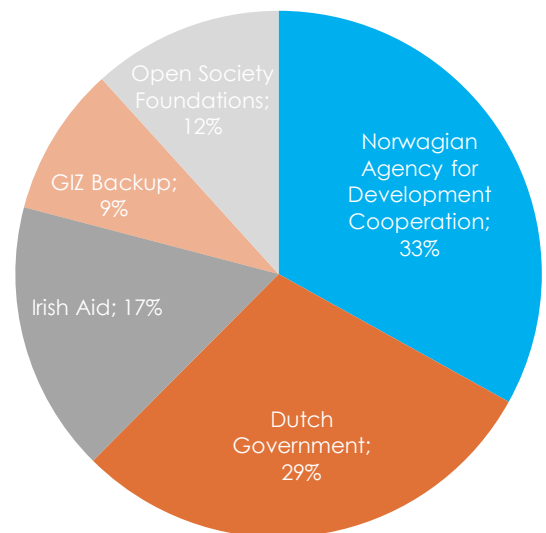
Aidsplan is holding talks to engage in partnerships with research institutions with similar interests in accountability and transparency. A memorandum of understanding was signed with the African Population and Health Research Center in Nairobi (Kenya).

### Staffing, leadership and management

In line with the strategy 2016-2018, Aidsplan restructured the organization into three departments: policy analysis, communications, and administration and finance. As a result, in addition to the new Executive Director, Aidsplan hired program and administrative staff. Aidsplan's pool of experts list was also updated.

### Resource mobilization

As a watchdog of the Global Fund, Aidsplan does not accept any financial resources from the institution, in order to preserve its independence. Most of Aidsplan's funding comes from governments that also fund the Global Fund. In 2016, two private Foundations- The Ford Foundation and the Open Society Foundation - funded Aidsplan's critical work.



Expenditure \$ (from audited accounts)	2016	2015
Grant Income	673,046	1,354,426
Other Income	14,974	12,632
Programme Expenditure	(397,336)	(1,075,255)
Administrative Expenses	(94,908)	(264,494)
Other Operating Expenses	(74,161)	(95,301)
Surplus/(Deficit) Before tax	121,615	(67,992)
Tax Charge	(5,037)	(25,776)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	118,246	(93,768)
Accumulated fund at start of the year	391,019	484,787
Accumulated fund at end of the year	507,020	391,01





## WAY FORWARD

In 2016, Aidspan underwent a transition and came out stronger in terms of strategic planning, staffing and implementation. Aidspan published 37 issues of the Global Fund Observer and the Observatoire du Fonds Mondial (in French) which reached an increased number of subscribers. Aidspan seeks to increase the readership of its products among implementers in Africa in order to further improve the effectiveness of the Global Fund's grants.

In 2017, Aidspan plans to continue on this successful trajectory.

Watchdog organizations like Aidspan are an integral part of strong, sustainable and resilient systems for health. We draw focus to important topics and help the system improve to catalyze impact against the three diseases. A better understanding of the Fund's processes, policies and data helps all donors, countries which receive Global Fund investments, people living with or affected by the diseases, implementing partners, public health specialists and other stakeholders in order to make informed decision and improve the health all populations.

We need your help to continue such work!



- ○ Donate to Aidspan: [info@aidspan.org](mailto:info@aidspan.org)
- ○ Sign up for the [Global Fund Observer](#) e-newsletter
- ○ Download our publications
- ○ Use our data platforms
- ○ Give us feedback about our services; help us serve you better!



*In 2017, Aidsplan plans to continue on this successful trajectory.*







## CONTACT US

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