

Follow the Money

Open Government Partnership Summit

Thursday 31st October

Organised by ONE & the Open Knowledge Foundation

Background and Aims

1. If people can't follow the money, then government isn't open. If people can follow the money, they can hold governments to account and help to ensure that public monies are invested in meeting citizens' needs and promoting socially inclusive growth, rather than being wasted and lost to corruption.
2. ONE and the Open Knowledge Foundation are working together – alongside other partners including the Transparency & Accountability Initiative, the World Bank, Development Initiatives, and the Revenue Watch Institute – to support and strengthen the community of advocacy organisations pushing for the transparency that is needed if citizens around the world are to be able to follow the money.
3. To do this, we are helping to build a network of partners working on various aspects of the Follow the Money agenda – from resource availability, to spending, to service delivery and results in particular sectors – so that we can share information, campaign for the inclusion of open data principles in transparency policies, and identify opportunities for collaboration to drive policy change, including through Follow the Money campaigns in specific countries.
4. We hosted a Follow the Money session at the Open Knowledge Conference (OKCon) in Geneva in September (more info at: <http://bit.ly/ftm-okcon>). The key message coming out of that session was that there's huge enthusiasm for working together on a Follow the Money agenda, but that the agenda needs to be shaped by the needs of citizens and campaigners, particularly in developing countries.
5. The session at the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Summit will build on the OKCon conversation, helping to ensure that the emerging Follow the Money network is shaped by the experiences and needs of campaigners in developing countries rather than solely by the ideas of people in Geneva, London and Washington. The session will also strengthen the connection between the Open Government movement and the Follow the Money agenda, and explore how open data can be the common currency that is needed to link campaigning and action across various elements of the Follow the Money agenda.
6. The session will provide participants from across the OGP community with an opportunity to share their experience in pushing for transparency and using information to hold governments and companies to account, with a particular focus on where those efforts have involved making a link – following the money – from transparency about resource availability and spending, to service delivery and results in particular sectors.
7. By the end of the session we hope to have a list of key issues and next steps that the Follow the Money network might take – to include sharing information, mapping what's already going on and what's needed, developing shared principles on open data, campaigning for the application of open data principles, and exploring the scope for joint work around specific policy change opportunities and/or in specific countries.

Session outline

Introduction from:

- Jamie Drummond (ONE)
- Rufus Pollock (Open Knowledge Foundation)

Presentations, chaired by Robert Hunja (World Bank), from:

- Seember Nyager (Public and Private Development Centre, Nigeria)
- Justin Arenstein (African Media Initiative)
- Rocio Moreno, (Global Movement for Budget Transparency, Accountability and Participation)


Responses from:

- Martin Tisne (Omidyar Network)
- Oluseun Onigbinde (BudgIT, Nigeria)

Discussion and Q&A with participants.

Key Questions For Speakers

1. What is your/your organisation's experience of helping citizens to follow the money?
2. What's worked? What's been challenging? What are the gaps? What are the opportunities?
3. What do you think a Follow the Money network should do, including to encourage and enable national follow the money campaigns?

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