

# Why and how to use IATI data for public-interest accountability investigations

Claire Provost, investigative journalist  
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📅 Members' Assembly (13-14 March), Community Exchange (15-16 March)  
📍 Hybrid event: Copenhagen (UN City, in-person)  
and Zoom Event Space (online)



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## This session:

# ***Why and how to use IATI data for public-interest accountability investigations***

- Introduction
- Case study: Ghana CNN investigation
- Key lessons for accountability investigations
- Questions & discussion



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## Introduction:

### ***Accountability investigations***

- National laws; international commitments; pledges/promises
- Intended beneficiaries; taxpayers; specific communities
- Fact-checking; following the money; multiple sources
- Wrongdoing; negligence; process failures + human consequences

### ***About me***

- Investigative journalist
- Started using aid data in stories in 2011! (at *The Guardian*)
- Watched IATI develop; become more complete/accessible/useful :)
- Recent story using IATI data for CNN (case study for today)

### ***About you***



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## Case study

☰ **CNN** World Africa Americas Asia Australia More

# Exclusive: Millions in Western aid flowed to churches in Ghana despite years of campaigning against LGBTQI+ rights

Words by Claire Provost and Nana Darkoa Sekyiamah, for CNN  
Video by Barbara Arvanitidis, Nima Elbagir and Alex Platt, CNN



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## Case study

Extreme' anti-LGBT bill  
in parliament in Ghana,  
supported by powerful  
religious groups

Donor pledges to  
support LGBT  
rights globally

### **ODA flows connecting them**

Questions about this funding undermining other  
policies; due diligence and intermediaries



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## Case study

### Data

Projects run by or benefiting...	Germany	Italy	UK	US	Total aid by church/group
Christian Council of Ghana (CCG)	\$245,000*		\$130,881	\$13,429	<b>\$389,310</b>
Evangelical Presbyterian Church (CCG member)	\$5,908	\$112,234			<b>\$118,142</b>
Methodist Church (CCG member)	\$290,405	\$108,880			<b>\$399,285</b>
Presbyterian Church (CCG member)		\$159,130			<b>\$159,130</b>
Catholic Church	\$3,133,162	\$91,102		\$859,266	<b>\$4,083,530</b>
<b>Total aid by donor country</b>	<b>\$3,674,475</b>	<b>\$471,346</b>	<b>\$130,881</b>	<b>\$872,695</b>	<b>\$5,149,397</b>

### Sources

- OECD CRS
- IATI ([d-portal.org](http://d-portal.org) and [countrydata.iatistandard.org](http://countrydata.iatistandard.org))
- Donor disclosures



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## Case study

### Accessing IATI data

countrydata.iatistandard.org/#access-data-files

### Country Development Finance Data

Access data on development and humanitarian activities, presented simply by country, reporting organisation and sector. Visualise or download the data for easy analysis.



by Recipient Country or Region      by Reporting Organisation      by Sector Category

#### Access data files

Ghana

Download file →

Language

English    French    Spanish    Portuguese

Last updated 2023-03-08

Custom data download

Choose the columns to be included in your spreadsheet and the filters to narrow your search. Download the custom set in Excel.



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## Case study

Christian Council of Ghana (CCG)

IATI identifier GB-CHC-1105851-6F7E3E

INCOMING FUNDS ( 3 )				
DATE	DESCRIPTION	PROVIDER	RECEIVER	VALUE
2018-05-02	Internal allocation from income source to partner Project <small>REF 228d84fc-c643-e811-ae73-005056be001c-I</small>	Christian Aid <small>REF GB-CHC-1105851 ID GB-CHC-1105851-784D60 International NGO</small>	Christian Aid <small>REF GB-CHC-1105851 ID GB-CHC-1105851-6F7E3E International NGO</small>	57,770.62 GBP
2019-03-12	Internal allocation from income source to partner Project <small>REF 984f93a9-c644-e911-9542-005056be001c-I</small>	Christian Aid <small>REF GB-CHC-1105851 ID GB-CHC-1105851-784D60 International NGO</small>	Christian Aid <small>REF GB-CHC-1105851 ID GB-CHC-1105851-6F7E3E International NGO</small>	20,102.32 GBP
2019-08-20	Internal allocation from income source to partner Project <small>REF f6dcca47-5cc3-e911-bbab-005056be001c-I</small>	Christian Aid <small>REF GB-CHC-1105851 ID GB-CHC-1105851-784D60 International NGO</small>	Christian Aid <small>REF GB-CHC-1105851 ID GB-CHC-1105851-6F7E3E International NGO</small>	27,020.63 GBP

WHO'S INVOLVED ( 2 )				
PARTICIPATING ORG	REFERENCE	ROLE	TYPE	
Christian Aid	REF GB-CHC-1105851	Accountable	International NGO	
UK Department for International Development (DFID)	REF GB-GOV-1	Funding		
GENERAL				
<p>A 5-year DFID service contract, the STAR-Ghana Programme is seeking to increase the effectiveness of citizen influencing change that advances democracy and social inclusion through civil society organisations. Catalysing the efforts of citizens and CSOs, it aims to bring change in policies and practices at the national and local level and enhance the responsiveness of state and non-state duty bearers. At the same time, it is building an independent national entity (the STAR Ghana Foundation).</p>				

DISBURSEMENT ( 6 )				
DATE	DESCRIPTION	PROVIDER	RECEIVER	VALUE
2018-05-09	<small>REF 34ceff81-8248-e811-84b1-005056be001c</small>	Christian Aid <small>REF GB-CHC-1105851 ID GB-CHC-1105851-6F7E3E International NGO</small>	Christian Council of Ghana <small>National NGO</small>	16,353.3 GBP
2018-09-26	<small>REF beb66c73-eddb-e811-86be-005056be001c</small>	Christian Aid <small>REF GB-CHC-1105851 ID GB-CHC-1105851-6F7E3E International NGO</small>	Christian Council of Ghana <small>National NGO</small>	19,847.54 GBP
2019-01-08	<small>REF 2051d1ed-8c8e-e811-bdd4-005056be001c</small>	Christian Aid <small>REF GB-CHC-1105851 ID GB-CHC-1105851-6F7E3E International NGO</small>	Christian Council of Ghana <small>National NGO</small>	22,144 GBP
2019-03-25	<small>REF 0a243b77-d644-e911-9542-005056be001c</small>	Christian Aid <small>REF GB-CHC-1105851 ID GB-CHC-1105851-6F7E3E International NGO</small>	Christian Council of Ghana <small>National NGO</small>	19,176.62 GBP
2019-08-28	<small>REF 0c3d78c8-5dc3-e911-bbab-005056be001c</small>	Christian Aid <small>REF GB-CHC-1105851 ID GB-CHC-1105851-6F7E3E International NGO</small>	Christian Council of Ghana <small>National NGO</small>	14,198.39 GBP
2020-02-12	<small>REF 4a4042e3-461b-ea11-9945-005056be001c</small>	Christian Aid <small>REF GB-CHC-1105851 ID GB-CHC-1105851-6F7E3E International NGO</small>	Christian Council of Ghana <small>National NGO</small>	9,154.71 GBP





## Case study

UK ODA receipts: 2018-2020

Other sources; timeline

- Members' Assembly (13-14 March), Community Exchange (15-16 March)
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### CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF GHANA (CCG)

#### STATEMENT ON RECENT LGBTQI ACTIVITIES IN GHANA

TO ALL PRESS HOUSES

February 23, 2020

The Christian Council of Ghana has followed with concern and keen interest, the recent developments in the country regarding the supposed rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex (LGBTQI) individuals and the office space that the perpetrators of this act have established.

As a Christian majority nation, the CCG has a mandate to espouse the position of the Christian faith on homosexuality to all citizens. We therefore deem it appropriate to explain briefly, the Bible position on marriage, homosexuality and the family values that we the people of Ghana uphold.

#### The Bible and marriage

The Bible has established clearly, what marriage is supposed to be, i.e. A union between a man and a woman.

Citi 97.3 FM  
13 July 2015

The Christian Council of Ghana has described same sex marriage as unbiblical, unchristian and unafrikan and must thus be condemned by every well-meaning Ghanaian.

According to the General Secretary of the Council, Rev. Dr. Kwabena Opuni-Frimpong, even though the practice has found its way into the legal books of some countries, Ghana should not compromise on its sound cultural and moral values and must resist any temptation and influence from any country or individual to legalise same sex marriage.



CITIFM.ONLINE.COM  
Same sex marriage is unafrikan - Christian Council - citifmonline  
The Christian Council of Ghana has described same sex marriage as unbiblical, unchristian ...



Christian Council of Ghana supports anti-gay bill; hopes it sees light of day (29-7-21)



Iscriviti!





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## Case study

UK ODA receipts: 2018-2020

Other sources; timeline



[Home](#) > [International](#) > [Foreign affairs](#)

Press release

## UK and Argentina take on co-chair of Equal Rights Coalition

UK and Argentina to co-chair of the Equal Rights Coalition to protect the human rights of LGBT people around the world.

From: [Foreign & Commonwealth Office](#)

Published 14 June 2019



Home Office

Country Policy and Information Note  
Ghana: Sexual orientation, gender  
identity and expression (SOGIE)

Version 3.0  
May 2022

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LGBTQ+ rights

● This article is more than 4 years old

### Theresa May says she deeply regrets Britain's legacy of anti-gay laws

Commonwealth nations urged to overhaul legislation that treats LGBT people as criminals

Pippa Crerar  
Deputy political editor

@PippaCrerar  
Tue 17 Apr 2018 13:22  
BST





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## Case study

Human sources

Donor & intermediary dialogue

World Africa Americas Asia Australia China Europe India Middle East

NOW PLAYING  
CNN  
CNN exposes how US and European aid benefited churches that oppose LGBTQI+ rights  
Source: CNN

03:37 / 07:50

Video Ad Feedback

UK: Funding has ended

US: 'Regulations in place at the time... would not have prohibited funding'

Italy: 'Not responsible for the use of these funds'

Germany: Additional funding disclosed; reliance on dialogue with intermediaries



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While Ghana's leader visits the White House, a draconian bill at home would criminalize not just same-sex 'conduct'; but any support of LGBTQ rights. What makes this bill particularly problematic: [@nimaelbagir](#) reveals how western aid donors have funded supporters of the bill.

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## Lessons learned

- added value of IATI data and portals such as d-portal.org and countrydata.iatistandard.org (with caveats)
- value of analysing text fields (not just numbers)
- need to combine datasets with other sources, to identify public interest and tell more complete stories
- ongoing information gaps (as evidenced by added info from donor disclosures, not found in the data)
- high level of public & media interest



# Lessons learned

Understanding *what* can be found + *where*

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## Country Development Finance Data

Summary Dashboard    Dashboards:    by Recipient Country or Region    by Reporting Organisation    by Sector Category

### Sector

Select a sector to explore the data.

110 - Education	240 - Banking & Financial Services	520 - Development Food Assistance
120 - Health	250 - Business & Other Services	530 - Other Commodity Assistance
130 - Population Policies/Programmes & Reproductive Health	310 - Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing	600 - Action Relating to Debt
140 - Water Supply & Sanitation	320 - Industry, Mining, Construction	720 - Emergency Response
150 - Government & Civil Society	331 - Trade Policies & Regulations	730 - Reconstruction Relief & Rehabilitation
160 - Other Social Infrastructure & Services	332 - Tourism	740 - Disaster Prevention & Preparedness
210 - Transport & Storage	410 - General Environment Protection	910 - Administrative Costs of Donors
220 - Communications	430 - Other Multisector	930 - Refugees in Donor Countries

Endurance (PEACE) in Ukraine

Reporting Organisation

Select groups of reporting organisation organisations that publish data under multiple reporting organisations.

Sector Category

Currency

Resource Flows

Budgets

Spending

Both

Europe, regional    XM-DAC-21018-MDR66001    Ukraine Crisis - Europe Regional Office

Calendar Year

2022

Calendar Year and Quarter

More Filters

**Filters** ✕

Reporting Organisation Type    Aid Type    Finance Type

Flow Type    Multi Country    Sector

Humanitarian / Development

1606

16061 - Culture and recreation

16062 - Statistical capacity bu

16063 - Narcotics control

16064 - Social mitigation of H

16065 - Recreation and sport

16066 - Culture

Close

## Lessons learned



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- approaching data with public interest hypotheses;
- using unique identifiers to further follow money;
- establishing innovative collaborations including between journalists and activists to do this work



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# Questions? + Discussion

Claire Provost, investigative journalist  
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