

**funders**

# The role of ~~donors~~ in supporting open data practice

- ✓ Unleashing Innovation
- ✓ Promoting transparency & accountability

## Harvesting Open Data for Nutrition Security

# Typology of Open Data Challenges

- The alarmed scientist
- The willing (but perplexed) scientist
- The suspicious civil servant
- The poised VP

# The Alarmed Scientist



Share? Open?  
Are you kidding?

“I spent months collecting and cleaning that data; no way I’m going to share it!”

“Nope, I haven’t published enough yet.”

“Well I would, but I know my data has an issue or two...”

“The more I share, the more questions/critics I get; I hate it.”

“I’ll lose future research and funding opportunities; it’s my job security!”

“Who cares; it won’t even get recognized in my performance appraisal.”

# The Concerned Scientist



How? Who pays?

I'm no data scientist!

"Well, yes. But how? I need guidelines I can actually understand!"

"Dublin Core? Isn't that beer? Metadata? Is that like an abstract keyword?"

"That will take months! Can somebody help me? And who will pay them?"

"And then where should I put it? Is the data safe there?"

"Hmmm.. Can I actually share this? Couldn't sharing this do harm?"

Is this data worth making open? How can I tell?

# The Suspicious Civil Servant



"I really don't know who can authorize that. It's more than my job's worth!"

"Why free? It's the only way that agency can raise some operational funds!"

"Well, possibly. But the servers must all be in-country!"

"Hmmm the G7/G20 thinks it's a good idea. More like a back-door way to get at our national data!"

"If the public finds this out, it's a recipe for trouble!" ❌

Has the PS signed off?

Let's discuss after the election!

# The Poised VP



“Open? Of course. Could you just sign this NDA?”

“We don’t see the pre-competitive opportunity”

*“Yes, we’ve found a creative workaround...”*

**D. Gustafson. CIMSANS.**

Let me check with legal.....

They say we’ll need to omit every third digit!

# Some Issues Raised

- **Management myopia**
- Research culture/incentives
- **Awareness/use of standards**
- Relevant workflows/tools/skills
- **Hosting infrastructure**
- Who pays?
- **What merits making open?**
- Data governance/sovereignty
- **Legal/commercial limitations**
- Personal privacy
- **“Do no harm” principle**

- ✓ Champion open data principles
- ✓ **Establish, monitor & enforce policies**
- ✓ Respect and address legitimate concerns
- ✓ **Invest in improved standards, methods, and tools**
- ✓ Fund implementation through program / project budgets
- ✓ **Build awareness & capacities**
- ✓ Build evidence of impact

## How can funders help?

# What's being done?

## DFID:

ODI

IATI

- Open Data Strategy
- DFID Research Open and Enhanced Access Policy
- R4D Open Data / Linked Development Platform
- R4D Editorial Policy

## USAID:

GODAN

- OMB Open Data Policy – Managing Information as an Asset
- USAID Open Government Plan
- USAID Scientific Research Policy
- ADS 579: USAID Development Data (&DDLlibrary)

**Components:** Requirements, guidelines/timelines, standards, infrastructure, portals, upload support for project data, publications, datasets, query tools, and access through APIs

# What Drives Donors?

To taxpayers (and other funders, e.g. philanthropy, public)

- **Accountability**

Value for money: getting what our public-good \$\$ paid for.

- **Efficiency/Effectiveness**

Better planning, design, priority setting and targeting (internally & through coordination with other donors and partners)

- **Transparency**

Spurring greater innovation through “democratizing” data access and application

For implementation partners

For intended beneficiaries

Current BMGF  
AgDev Foci

External value  
Internal value

# Some BMGF Context

- Investments routinely reported to IATI and the Foundation Center
- BMGF Grants generate public-goods and grantees must develop and execute a “Global Access Strategy”
- An updated Open Access Policy was published in Jan 2015 seeking full compliance by January 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 (CC BY 4.0, no embargo)
- No policy guidance on data resources not directly linked to pubs.
- Session aligns with 3 programs (“strategies”); Agriculture, Nutrition, and Financial Services for the Poor, a foundation-wide Women & Girls initiative, and our Global Policy & Advocacy program.
- The foundation is a GODAN partner; primary liaison currently through Agriculture, in consultation with the Nutrition team
- Agriculture team 2016 intent to strengthen open data focus

# Agriculture & Open Data

- **Implementation of the CGIAR Open-Access, Open-Data Policy**
  - Consortium Office Grant
  - Donor dialogue on OA-OD guidelines for new CRP Proposals
  - Now linked to CG “Big Data Platform” Proposal
- **Mapping & Interoperability of Investment Data**
  - Establish an Agriculture (& Nutrition?) working group under IATI’s Technical Advisory Group (TAG)
  - Build out IATI standards to improve characterization of agriculture (& nutrition?) investments and impacts
  - Country-specific use cases, e.g. Tanzania
- **Agrisemantics (enhancing data interoperability)**
  - July 2015 Convening hosted at FAO Rome (e.g. GACS)
  - Investment possibility remains
- **2015-2020 Ag Team Open Data Goals**
  - OD plans, M&E, and auditing embedded in all ag grants (2017)
  - With other donors, support/accelerate CGIAR OA-OD compliance (2018)
  - Support key country partners seeking to strengthen OD capacities



# Donor “Carrots”

- Advocacy, awareness and capacity building
- Investments in improved OD methods, tools, and evidence
- OD implementation funds within grants
- Convenings and thought partnership
- Leverage with other actors (including private sector)
- Professional incentives: Promoting scientifically recognized data citations & new performance assessment criteria



# Donor “Sticks”

- Additional funding conditions
- Additional implementation and M&E tasks
- Subject to compliance auditing
- Potential for payment withholding
- *Overzealous definition of data meriting open access & curation?*

# Parting Observations

- Open Data, Open Government, Transparency landscape very crowded and confusing
- Donors should avoid adding confusion by duplicating initiatives
- Need better donor coordination to streamline/simplify demands on implementers and to develop more efficient OD approaches
- Active dialogue within BMGF on improved harmonization & leverage of data investments and initiatives (e.g., best approach to supporting SDGs, CAADP results framework, geospatial)
- Unlikely BMGF would follow USAID & DFID lead in establishing a centralized open data repository/portal
- Keen to engage with an “open community” focused on innovation of services aimed to benefit rural communities (especially in our partner countries) through use of OD and “open (NextGen) analytics”