

Comic Relief Grants Open Information Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

Transparency is an important principle for Comic Relief and we are accountable to both our beneficiaries and those who provide funding to us (funding partners and the UK public) on how we use that money to deliver on our vision of A Just World Free From Poverty. As a responsible grant maker we also support sector initiatives to make funding streams more transparent. To meet these commitments we strive to make our data on what grants we make, where and for what purpose as clear and accessible as possible.

The scope of this policy

This policy sets out the information that Comic Relief (Registered Charity no. 326568) makes publically available about the grants we make, both through our website and through other data platforms. It also sets out information that may be excluded from this policy. This policy only applies to Comic Relief data regarding grants involving publicly raised funding. It is informed by best practice within the sector and existing legislation in the UK, where Comic Relief is a registered charity.

What information we publish on our grants and where you can find it

The Comic Relief website: We publish details of our live grants in the UK and internationally on our website, including the grantee organisation, project title and summary description, grant amount, start and end dates, country and thematic focus of the grant.

We are also committed to publishing our grants data to open data platforms designed to support a better understanding and mapping of funding streams in the charitable sector. This currently includes:

360 Giving: 360Giving supports organisations to publish their UK grants data in an open, standardised way and helps charitable organisations (both funders and potential grantees) to understand and use the data in order to support decision-making and learning across the charitable giving sector.

By complying with the 360Giving standard, we publish data on all UK and International Comic Relief grants made since 1st January 2015 to the [360Giving platform](#). This includes grantee organisation and location, project title and summary description, thematic focus, grant amount, start and end dates, and country and region in which the work is taking place.

The International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI): IATI aims to make information about international aid spending easier to access, use, and understand. It is a voluntary, multi-stakeholder initiative that brings together donor and recipient countries, civil society organisations, and other experts in aid information who are committed to working together to increase the transparency and openness of aid. We currently only share information on Comic Relief grants made through programmes joint funded with the UK Department for International Development.

All the information listed above is updated at regular intervals.

Data on these open data platforms are published under open licenses. This means that the data can be accessed and reused by anyone provided that the source of the data is acknowledged.

Data protection and privacy

Comic Relief does not publish any personal data, in relation to the grants that we make, on any of the platforms mentioned above. Comic Relief's Privacy Policy can be found [here](#).

Circumstances under which we may exclude or anonymise information

We are committed to being as open and transparent as possible with our grants data. However, on occasion there may be valid reasons for us to exclude or anonymise certain information relating to specific grants. Such reasons for doing this might include:

- **Safety and Security:** the disclosure of information may present a risk to the safety and security of beneficiaries, staff or operations, either for Comic Relief or for the grantee and their partners. For example, it might be unsafe to provide access to the details of some grantee organisations, particularly in conflict-affected and/or politically sensitive contexts.
- **Confidentiality:** the information is confidential on legal, business or contractual grounds.
- **Cost:** the financial or time cost of disclosing the information would be unreasonably high. Comic Relief needs to balance our commitment to transparency with our delivery of results, especially where it involves public funds.

As well as information that is permanently unavailable or anonymised, we may delay the publication of some information for a limited period. This will be for one of the following reasons:

- Information on a particular grant is likely to change significantly soon after a regular update for publication of grants data is scheduled, so it makes more sense to withhold publication of information on that grant until the updated and/or confirmed information is available. For example, most financial information is subject to change until the accounts for the period have been closed and audited.
- The publication of certain information threatens a specific objective that that grant is currently worked towards. In these cases, it might be decided that the information should not be made available until that work has progressed further. For example, if a grant involves supporting a community to engage in sensitive negotiations with local government, publicising the nature of this work could threaten the successful outcome.