

## Irish Charity Sector in 2014 Annual Reports – Financial Open Data

Fig 1: Annual Reports - Financial Open Data Index

**Introduction:** A team of Open Knowledge Ireland volunteers has developed a pilot concept, which aims to open up Charity Financial Information ([Open Data](#)) to the public, because this helps drive transparency and accountability, which in turn will enable people to understand what happens with their donated funds.

**Open Data:** In simple terms, it's the financial information in your Annual Report, it is made available in an excel file, with the caveat of an open licence. To date, only one charity – **Concern** - has proactively assisted with the publication of its 2012 and 2013 financial information in an open data format.

**Value Proposition:** Help your organizations to prepare for increased transparency by building an Open Data capability, which can also be leveraged to increase donations in this increasingly digital age.

**Effort Estimate:** 30 mins

**Benefit:** You demonstrate true financial transparency and help your staff to credibly and efficiently respond to public queries on how the donations are spent. You contribute to rebuilding trust, and therefore increase voluntary contributions. You improve the resilience of the charity sector to financial scandals and your volunteers can point to the data which shows that on average in 2012, 81% of funds were spent on charitable activities.

**Risks:** Making your financial data available in an Open Data format leads to a loss of control over how it is displayed. This perspective is dysfunctional, given that the public are rightfully demanding improved accountability and transparency.

Charity	2012	2013
Concern	■	■
SVDP	■	■
Goal	■	■
Trocaire	■	■
I.W.A	■	■
Enable Ireland	■	■
Barnardos	■	■
Irish Cancer Society	■	■
Focus	■	■
Oxfam ROI	■	■
Gorta	■	■
Plan Ireland	■	■
Self-help Africa - Ireland	■	■
Irish red cross	■	■
The MS of Ireland	■	■
Isppc	■	■
Worldvision	■	■
Special Olympics Ireland	■	■
Unicef	■	■
Hospice	■	■
Sightsavers	■	■
Barrettstown	■	■
Age Action	■	■
Debra	■	■

Fig 2: Charity – Percentage of Funds spent on Charitable Activities in 2012

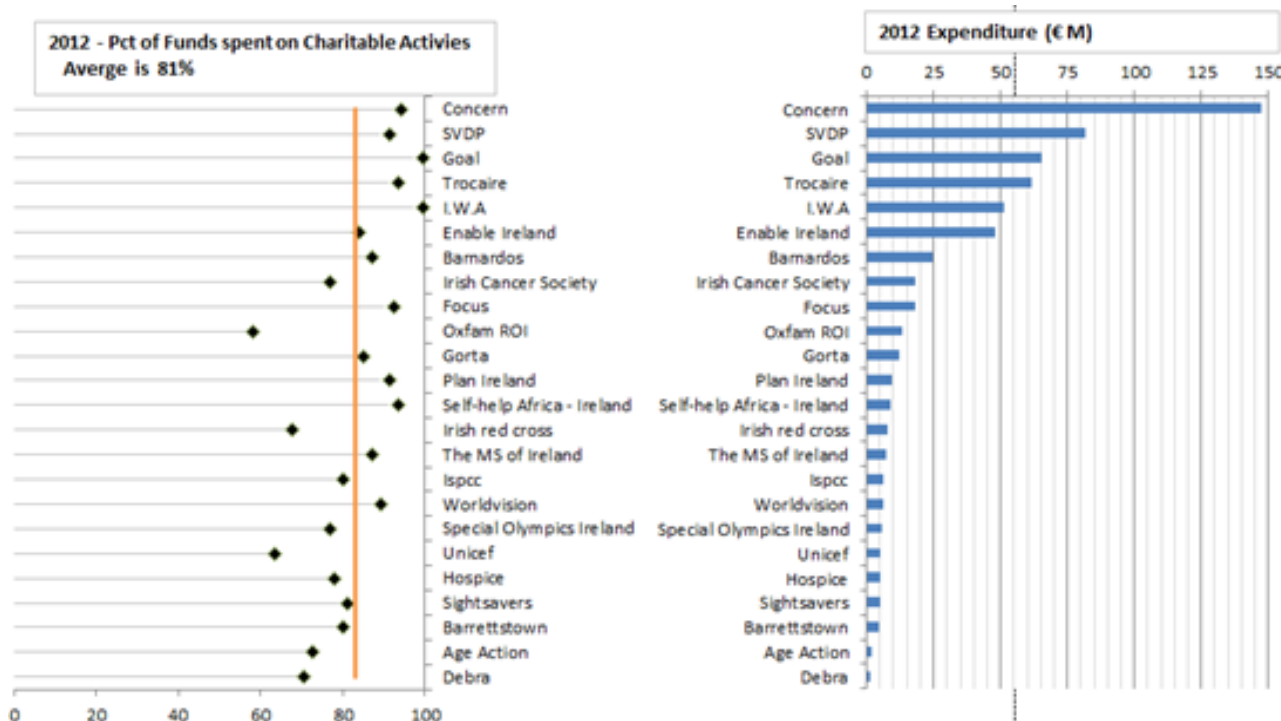
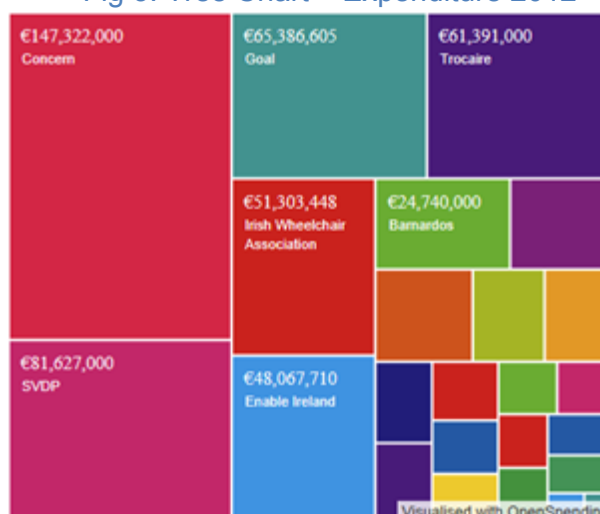


Fig 3: Tree Chart – Expenditure 2012



### Links to interactive displays

- [Tree Chart - Expenditure 2012](#)
- [Bubble Chart - 2012](#)

### 2012 Open Data Files (24 Charities)

- [ds01\\_charity\\_2012\\_summary](#)
- [ds02\\_charity\\_2012\\_expenditure](#)
- [ds03\\_charity\\_2012\\_income](#)

### 2013 Open Data Files (1 Charity)

- [ds02\\_charity\\_2013\\_expenditure](#)

\*\* Stories can be linked to the numbers.

Haiti [€8,121,000](#) 2013

### Summary:

Helping your charity learn about open data not only improves efficiency/openness, but also helps rebuild public trust. However, we have been genuinely taken back by the level of “resistance” or perhaps more adeptly a lack of leadership in the area of financial transparency. To paraphrase (O’Farrell, 2006 - public sector reform), “Statements of Transparency and Accountability are simply rhetoric - Without leadership that is all that they will ever be”.

To move from rhetoric to true leadership requires positive action across three sectors;

1. Charity Sector - Proactively publish 2013 Annual Reports Financial information as Open Data.
2. Government Funding Organizations – Encourage organizations receiving government funding to publish their Annual Reports Financial information as Open Data.
3. Charity Regulator – Publish Charity data that is held by the regulators office as Open Data.

### Call to Action:

ID	Task	Owner
1	Email your 2013 Annual Report’s Financial data in an excel file format to <a href="mailto:openknowledgeireland@gmail.com">openknowledgeireland@gmail.com</a>	Charity CFO’s
1a	Append financial data to the 2013 income and expenditure datasets	OK Ireland
2	Under the remit of <a href="#">Open Government Partnership</a> - Promote Open Data and Transparency behaviours across all Government Funding Depts – Irish Aid, HSE, etc. Encourage all partners in receipt of funding to publish financial data in an open format.	D/PER
3	Publish the Charity Regulator data in an Open Data format	Charity Regulator

There is a great desire to help charities; we can provide [open data training](#), we can access other volunteers but there must be a reciprocal response to truly embrace openness and transparency, so that collaboratively, we can position your Charity to prepare for [Open Data](#) and simultaneously rebuild public trust in the sector.