

# Government Funding At Amnesty International

## Trusts, Foundations and Institutional Fundraising Programme

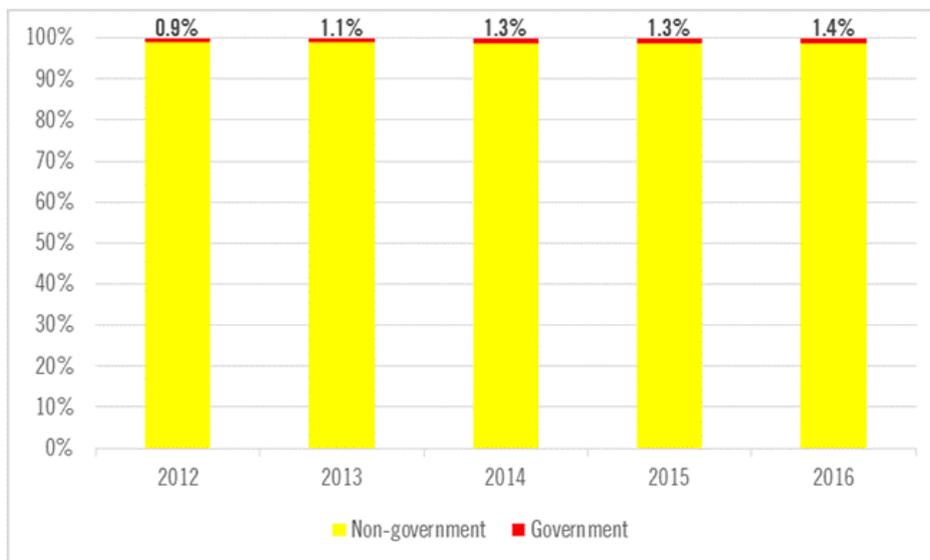
Written by Jules Chalmers, prepared for Amnesty Sweden December 2017

### Do you see a trend in Government funding to Amnesty? If so, what is the trend?

The current persistent trend is low levels of Government funding. The funding isn't supported with significant fundraising resource, nor is it co-ordinated as part of a strategic, global approach.

In addition, there is no agreement between those who want to end Government funding completely and those who see it as essential.

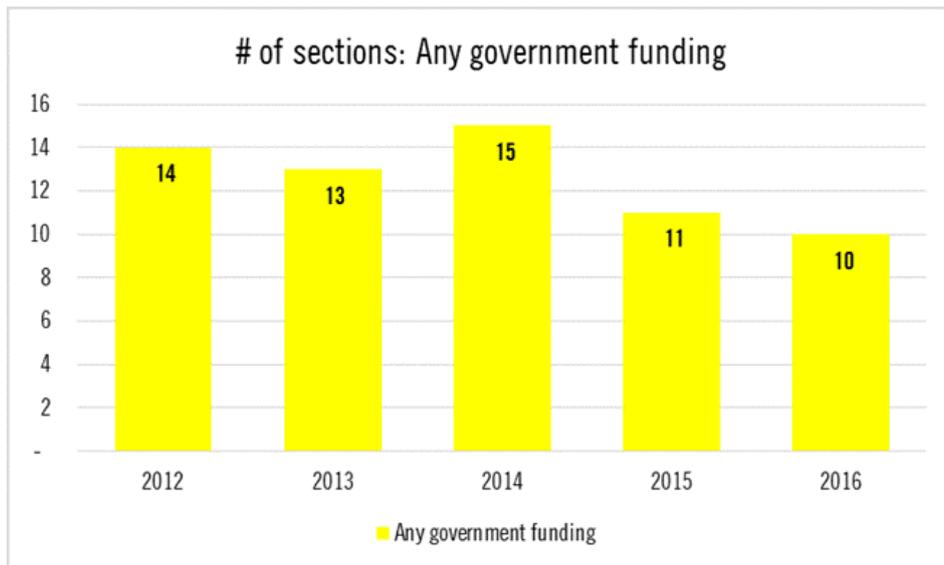
*Figure 1: Summary of income as a percentage of the Movement's overall income: Government income, in real terms, isn't showing an upwards growth trend (0.9 – 1.4% over a five year period is below inflation).*



### Which Sections receive Government funding?

Only ten entities receive Government funds, with the proportions of government funding in relation to external income in 2016 as follows:

Belgium – French	12.78%
Belgium – Flemish	12.44%
Poland	11.41%
Portugal	8.18%
UK	5.74%
Turkey	5.64%
Netherlands	2.94%
Italy	1.06%



**When the AIS developed the fundraising policy, what were the main arguments to keep Government funding and to remove funding for relief?**

The main arguments are listed below under key risks. A number of sections stated that government money should not be accepted. However, some stated there is a lack of evidence that current levels of government and corporate giving have led to criticism and withdrawal of support. Ultimately there was no consensus.

During 2018 the issue will be re-examined when the current fundraising policy is reviewed. We anticipate that there won't be consensus on this issue and that it will be up to individual Sections to decide what will work in their market.

*Figure 2: Summary of commonly stated risks and counter responses in relation to accepting government funding.*

Key Risks	Key Opportunities
Damaged reputation	Stronger reputation (global south), we are seen as high level because we are able to work with embassies.
Donor confusion about why Amnesty needs funds	Clearer articulation of cases for support through the rigorous process of applying for restricted government funding.
Decreased effectiveness	Greater effort and resources for managing and assessing effectiveness through audits & external evaluations that are requirements of restricted government funding.
Reduced income from other donors	Increase in income with greater ROI, threat to IG from data protection regulations (GDPR) mitigated, sections in global south have access to large, long-term, stable funding.

**Is there any discussion in AIS or sections/structures around removing Government funding? Has any new analysis been done on this?**

The last formal discussion was during 2015 when the Global Fundraising Policy and Guidelines were prepared. Since then there have been no formal discussions about removing or stopping Government funding. The Movement's attitude towards Government funding ranges from wanting a blanket ban, to total disengagement to pragmatism and even enthusiasm.