



Main Findings of the FPA Watch Group's
survey on:
Liquidation phase, payment by result,
visibility and audit process

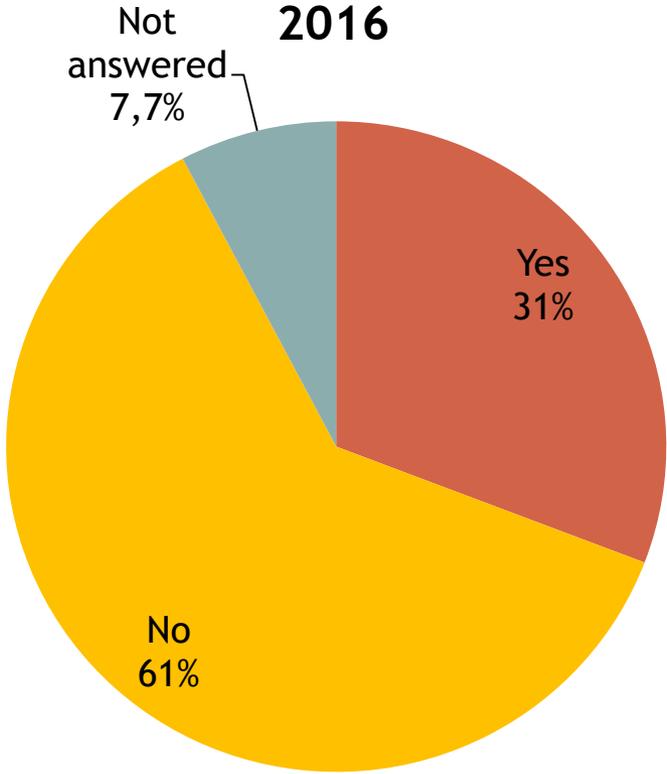
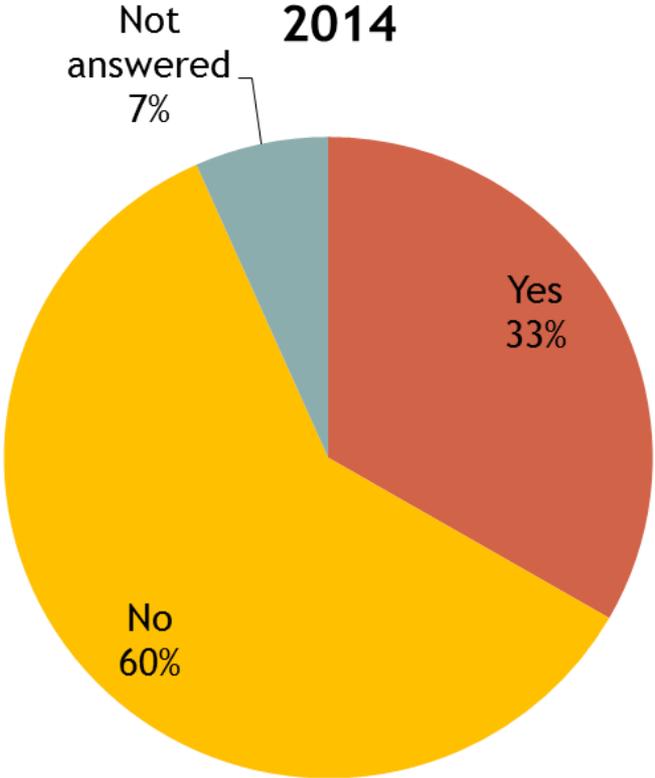
FPA Watch Group
April 2017

General information and Methodology

- The questionnaire was shared via the FPA Watch Group between the end of February and the beginning of April 2017
- 27 questionnaires were sent back representing around 33 ECHO FPA partners and more than 200 projects
- The sample profile being very similar to the one used in 2014, comparison of results between the findings from the two surveys were made possible



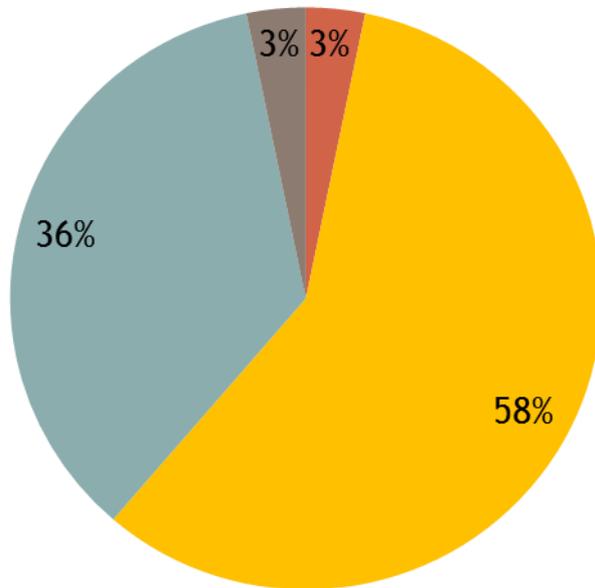
Number of NGO Partners holding a threshold remains stable



Time for first request from ECHO after the submission of the final report is getting closer to the 60 days benchmark

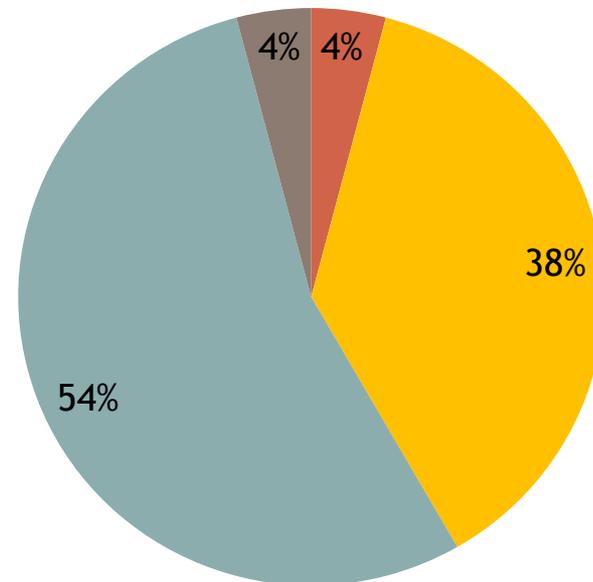
2014

■ within 15 days ■ 15-45 days ■ 45-60 ■ >60



2016

■ within 15 days ■ 15-45 days ■ 45-60 ■ >60



Narrative and Financial Final Reports

- NGOs are receiving more questions from ECHO on their financial report: in 2016 40% are often receiving question for 19% in 2014
- In 2016, 40% of the NGOs received question from ECHO on at least 1 to 2 narrative reports
- 15% of NGOs shared they were receiving very often comments from ECHO with their final payment

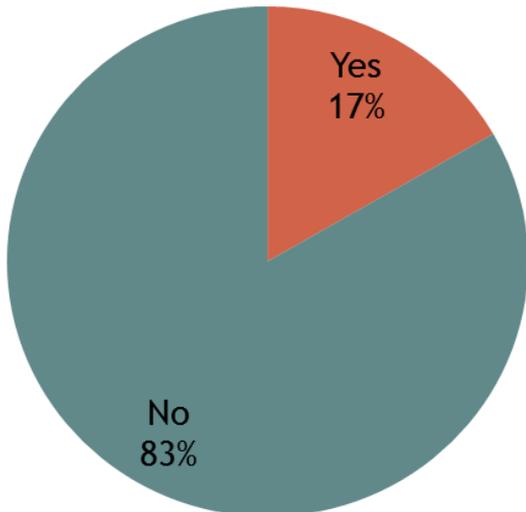
Level of achievements of results

NGOs are receiving less questions from ECHO concerning the **level of achievements of results**

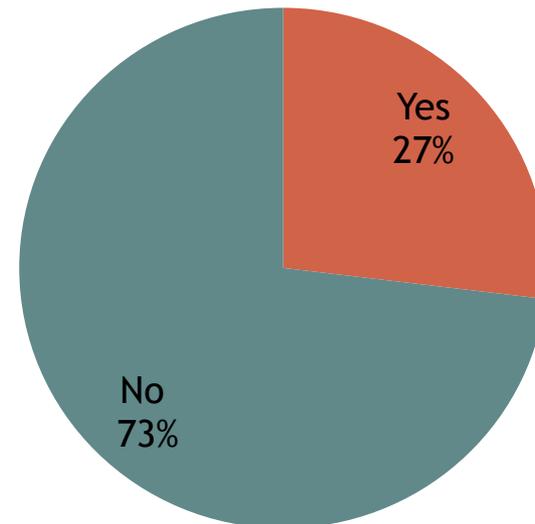
However, there is an increasing number of NGOs who saw their funding reduced because of **'low level of achievement in the projects results'**

Has ECHO ever reduced its financial contribution because of 'low level of achievement in the projects results'?

2014



2016



NGOs' perspectives on the FPA 2014 specific procedures

- More and more NGOs are using the **Fast Track procedure** from 33% in 2014 to 44% in 2016
- Most of the organisations (> 90%) have no specific issue in relation to the **5% threshold** on remaining goods
- None of the NGOs have ever been subject to the 2% penalty for not respecting visibility requirements
- However, the number of NGOs using dedicated **software** that automatically produces all the information required for the final financial report remains only around 30 %

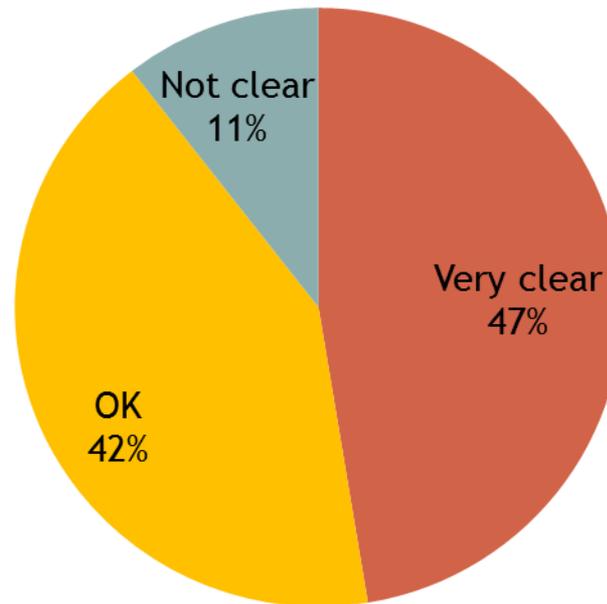
Overall Feedback on the Liquidation Phase

- NGOs would like to understand how ECHO decides to reduce funding because of low achievement of a result (and why ECHO does not take into consideration when in the same project another result is on the contrary achieved over expectation)
- Partners witness improvement in the liquidation phase process and would like ECHO to ensure that narrative and financial questions are systematically sent at once in order to avoid multiple “stop the clock” and further delays of the final payment
- NGOs suggest to introduce in Appel an automatic option counting down the days over the liquidation period

Audit Process

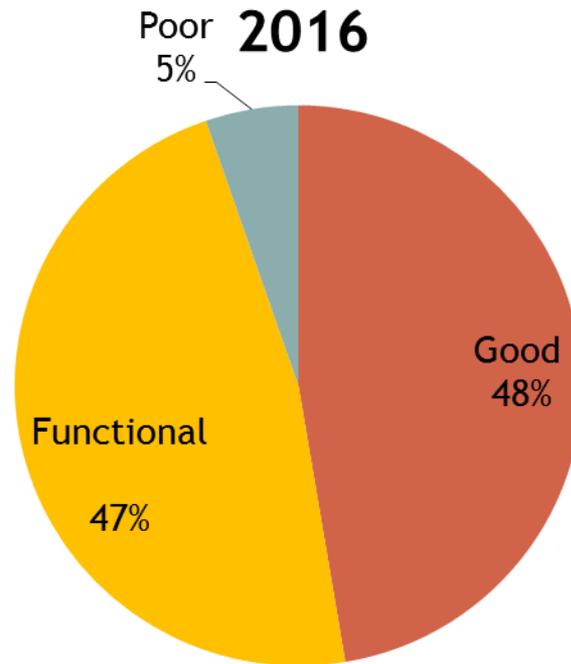
Pre-audit: how would you judge the level of clarity provided by auditors and ECHO (documentation requisition for HQ audit and list of transactions for verification?)

2016



Audit process

During the audit, how would you judge the quality of exchange and dialogue with the auditors?



However, it was highlighted that auditors are not always taking into account the humanitarian context in which projects are implemented

NGOs' recommendations on ECHO Audit process

- NGOs recommend developing more user friendly audit guidelines to make them more accessible to all staff and partners
- Auditors should have a better understanding of the field reality when auditing documents of the actions including at HQ level
- Given the limited resources in some NGOs, ECHO should avoid auditing partners over the period of December-January given that NGOs are already under heavy workload due to the publication of ECHO HIPs and deadlines for proposal submission

Thanks!

This presentation is a summary of the main findings to have the full version:
please contact VOICE marjorie@ngovoice.org