Portfolio document

Version 2.1

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APTIVATE

Our story

We are helping build a world in which all people meaningfully participate in decisions that affect their lives.

In 2003 two aid workers teamed up with two technical friends. Driven by a belief in using communication and technology to help alleviate poverty they began to empowering people with information.
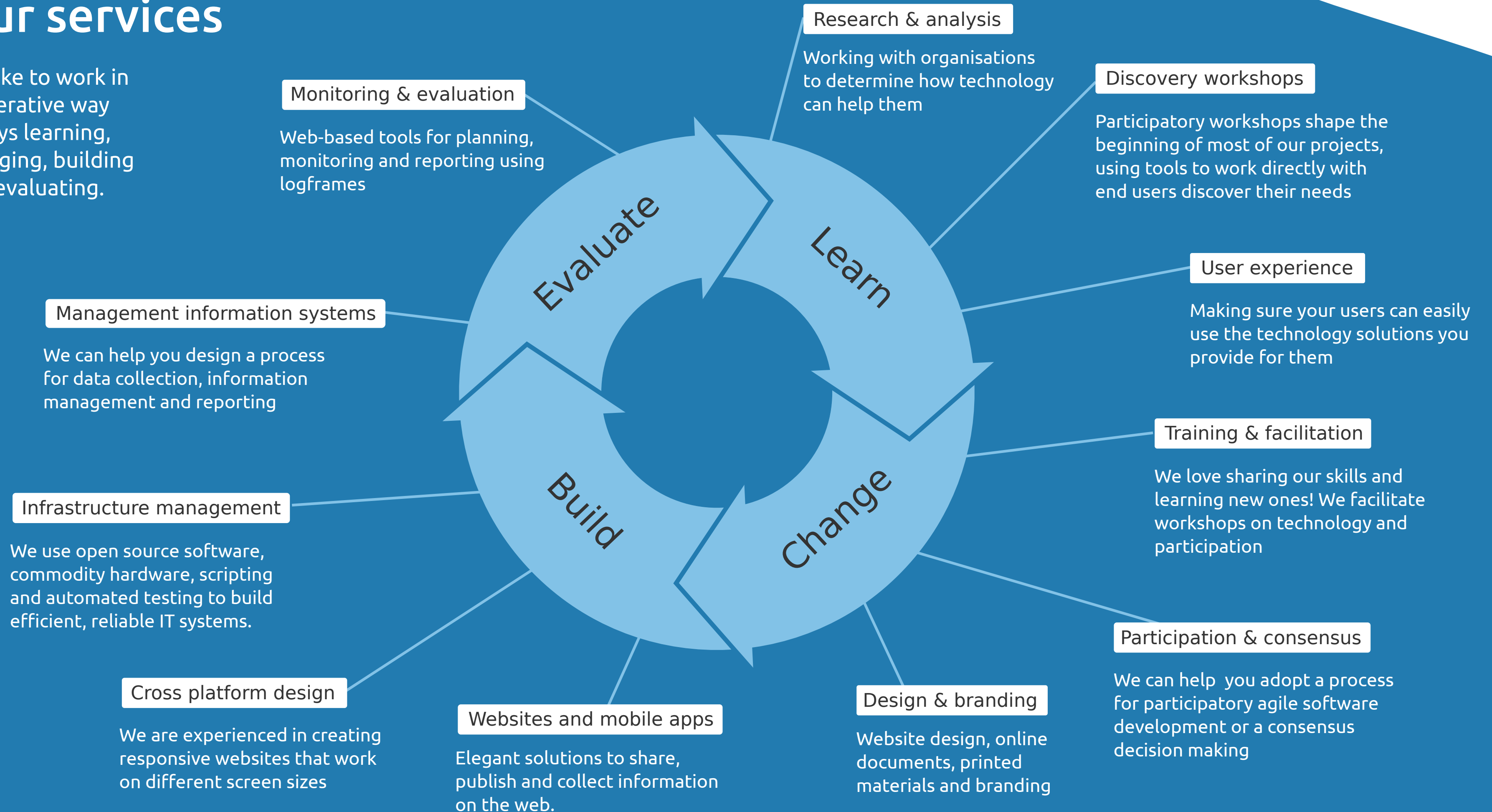
Today we are experts in providing low bandwidth, open source technology for the international development sector

APTIVATE

Our services

We like to work in
an iterative way
always learning,
changing, building
and evaluating.

Monitoring & evaluation

Web-based tools for planning,
monitoring and reporting using
logframes

Research & analysis

Working with organisations
to determine how technology
can help them

Discovery workshops

Participatory workshops shape the
beginning of most of our projects,
using tools to work directly with
end users discover their needs

Management information systems

We can help you design a process
for data collection, information
management and reporting

User experience

Making sure your users can easily
use the technology solutions you
provide for them

Infrastructure management

We use open source software,
commodity hardware, scripting
and automated testing to build
efficient, reliable IT systems.

Training & facilitation

We love sharing our skills and
learning new ones! We facilitate
workshops on technology and
participation

Cross platform design

We are experienced in creating
responsive websites that work
on different screen sizes

Websites and mobile apps

Elegant solutions to share,
publish and collect information
on the web.

Design & branding

Website design, online
documents, printed
materials and branding

Participation & consensus

We can help you adopt a process
for participatory agile software
development or a consensus
decision making

Evaluate

Learn

Build

Change

How we work

Participation

Involving users in defining your project goals

Aptivate's core belief is that people should have a right to participate in decisions that affect their lives. Therefore we seek to enable and facilitate participation as fully and as early as is realistic in our projects.

In order to build a deeper understanding of the requirements we recommend Involving real end-users at every stage of the process. This ensure the end product provides a real solution to their needs.

Low bandwidth

Ensuring people can actually use your product

Users in developing countries often have low bandwidth and intermittent internet connections, as well as older technology.

Everything we build is created with this in mind so that people can use the site or service with different screen sizes. The page file size needs to be kept as low as possible so that it loads in a reasonable time.

Open source

Allowing our work to have even more impact

Creating open source code means that the work we do can benefit others. There is a huge open source community and often we are able to use the code other people have created and adapt it.

The code for many of our projects is available to download, use and adapt for free on GitHub at: https://github.com/aptivate

Agile

Making the most of your budget

The advantages of flexible and iterative "agile" approaches to developing software are becoming widely recognised. This is where planning and delivery is in short cycles of one or two weeks, rather than all the design work being done up-front before the development starts "waterfall".

During a project, things change, the ability to adapt is vital to success. In our Agile software development process you are part of the project team and in control of what features are prioritised and what is built next. You working closely with the team to design each feature providing feedback and testing with users as we go.

# CMS website providing advice, tools and resources

BEAM Exchange

www.beamexchange.org

BEAM aims to bring together a globally engaged group of professionals, incentivised to share their knowledge and learning. It provides guidance, tools and resources to help markets change the way that they work, so that poor people are included in the benefits of growth and economic development. The website needed to display a large amount of information in an easily navigable way as well as being low bandwidth and accessible to all.

• Low bandwidth design
• Information architecture design

6 Iterations

Reach: International

Learn Change Build Evaluate

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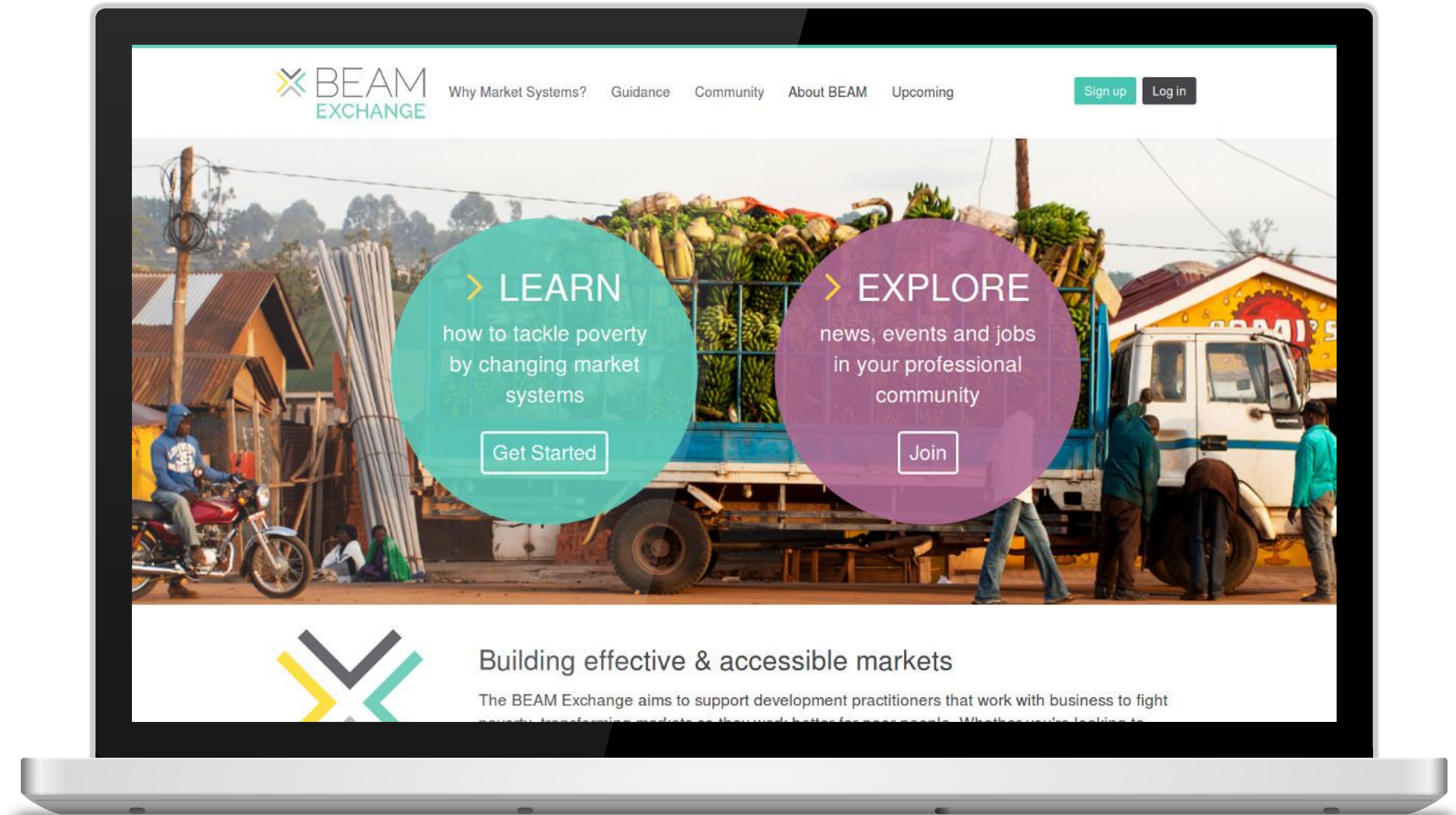
A responsive, interactive map for international water charity

WaterAid

washwatch.org/en/about-wash/map/

This map was published to coincide with Africa water week at the end of may 2014. The purpose was to make water and sanitation data more accessible, by the use of highly visual animated graphical devices such as timelines and dynamic charts. Developed in a single iteration the process worked very smoothly due to constant communication between decision makers and developers.

- Participatory workshop
- Research & analysis project
- Project field evaluations

2 Iterations

Reach: Africa

Share #AfricaWaterMap

2014

Sub-Saharan Africa
66.0% of people had access to water in 2014

Progress of Africa's access to
water 1990-2030

Drag the slider to change the year and click on a country to see more information.

0 %   access to water   100 %

Water | Sanitation | Reset timeline

2014
Zambia
64.6%

Everyone, Everywhere by 2030
Total number of new people gaining access to water

currently | for target
28 m | **17** m

more people per year will gain access to water | extra people per year needed to reach 2030 target

Only an extra 1.4% of the 2030

2014

1990   2000   2010   2020   2030

Website redesign and brand implementation

WASHwatch

washwatch.org

It is not easy to find out whether governments are meeting their policy commitments on water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). WASHwatch.org aims to help address this with an online platform for monitoring government commitments and financing. On the site you can compare country scores for the commitments they have made and find out whether they are meeting them or not.

- Multi-lingual site
- User tested information architecture
- Low-bandwidth responsive design

9 Iterations

Reach: International

Learn   Change   Build   Evaluate

Evaluating digital engagement in participatory budgeting

World Bank

In the past four years, a growing number of World Bank operations have started to test the use of ICT-supported citizen participation mechanisms (such as e-participation). They needed a comprehensive Evaluation Framework that could help inform World Bank activities in the field of ICT-enabled participation. The overall objective was to address a major gap in this field with more robust and systematic evaluations to capture lessons better, reduce redundancies across projects and improve effectiveness.

• Participatory workshop
• Research & analysis project
• Project field evaluations

Reach: International

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Stock control, accounting and reporting

World Food Programme

RITA is a tracking system for non-food items for use by WFP Logistics including stock control and accounting, reporting, and two-way offline synchronisation.

- Data visualisation
- Designed to be used from the field in crisis situations
- Designed to work over low-bandwidth connections and off- line
- Maintains database integrity when synchronising offline copies

Number of iterations: 20

Reach: International

Aptivate

Accessible field mobile data collection tools

CBM & Mobility India

CBM UK and Mobility India work internationally with disabled and vulnerable children, adults and families. Aptivate developed a information management solution which allows visually impaired field workers using mobile phones to monitor activities in a real time cost and time efficient way. A web-based reporting engine allows local and overseas program managers to better serve the needs of community and empower community members in the process.

• User Experience
• Desktop and mobile app development
• In - country training and facilitation

Number of iterations: 15

Reach: India

Learn   Change   Build   Evaluate

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Health service score cards for developing countries

Reaction! UK

IHP+ Results is a web-based system for the automated generation of scorecards based on M&E data, scoring the performance of national health services in developing countries.

- Multilingual site
- Data visualization
- Highly graphic yet low-bandwidth design
- Automated graphics generation from database
- Social media integration

Number of iterations: 3

Reach: International

Learn Change Build Evaluate

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Log frame monitoring system

Voices for Change (V4C)

V4C is a programme that will help adolescent girls and women get improved access to health, education, economic, political opportunity and justice. As a DFID-funded programme, V4C uses a log frame to design, manage and report on its interventions. Aptivate built a web-based management information system using the organising principle of the log frame. It provides a dashboard view for managers and activity monitoring.

- Discovery workshop
- Low-bandwidth friendly
- Django & JavaScript build

Number of iterations: 5

Reach: Nigeria

Learn   Change   Build   Evaluate

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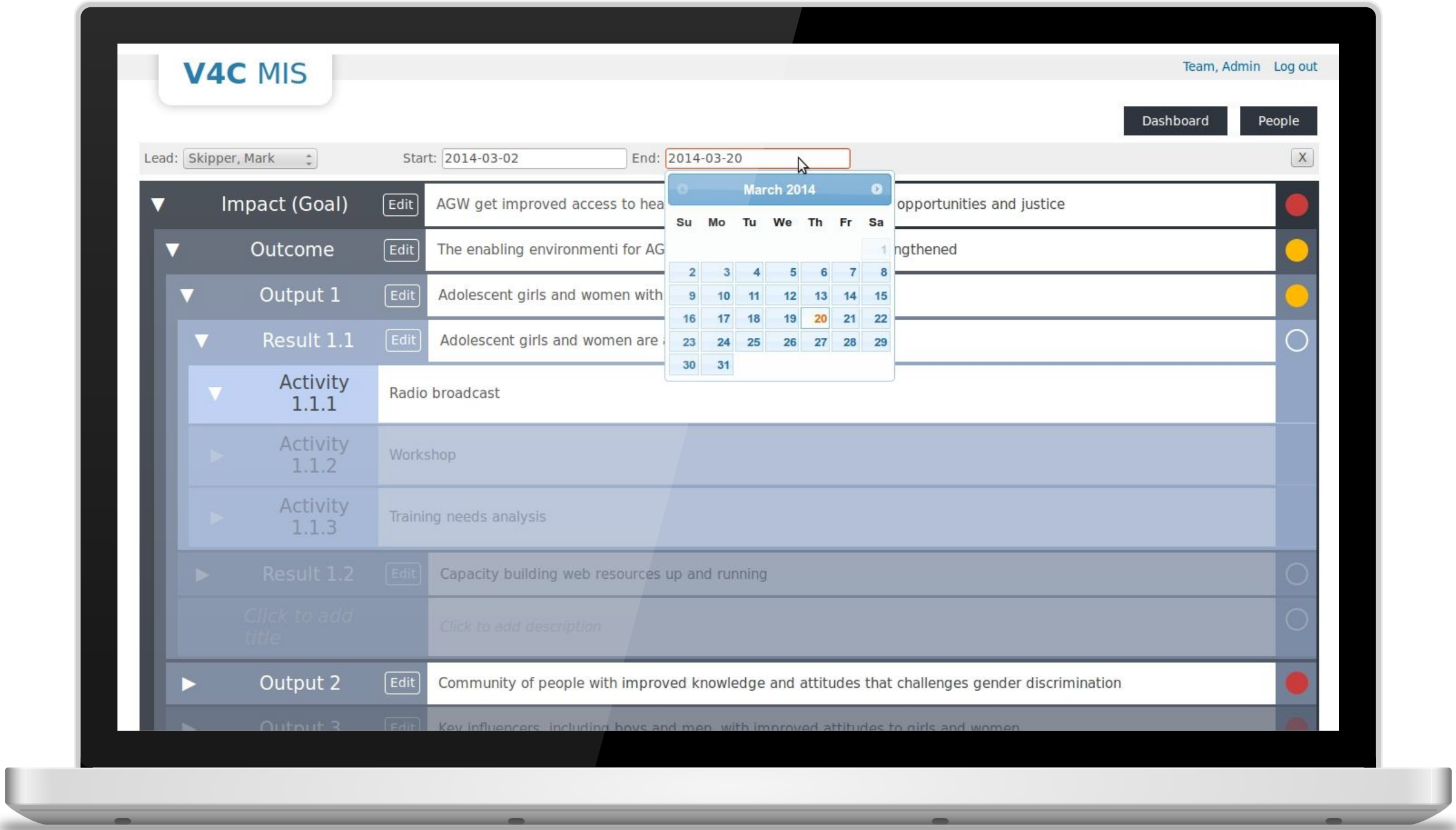
M&E and knowledge management system

SPARC Nigeria (developed with Itad)

A Knowledge Management platform with an integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Management Information System (M&E MIS) for the SPARC (State Partnership for Accountability, Responsiveness and Capability) programme. This was a secure, internal tool that supported a team distributed across a number of states in Nigeria as well as international consultants.

- Supports matrix management
- Document management with full text search
- Operates in low-bandwidth

Number of iterations: 16

Reach: Nigeria

Learn Change Build Evaluate

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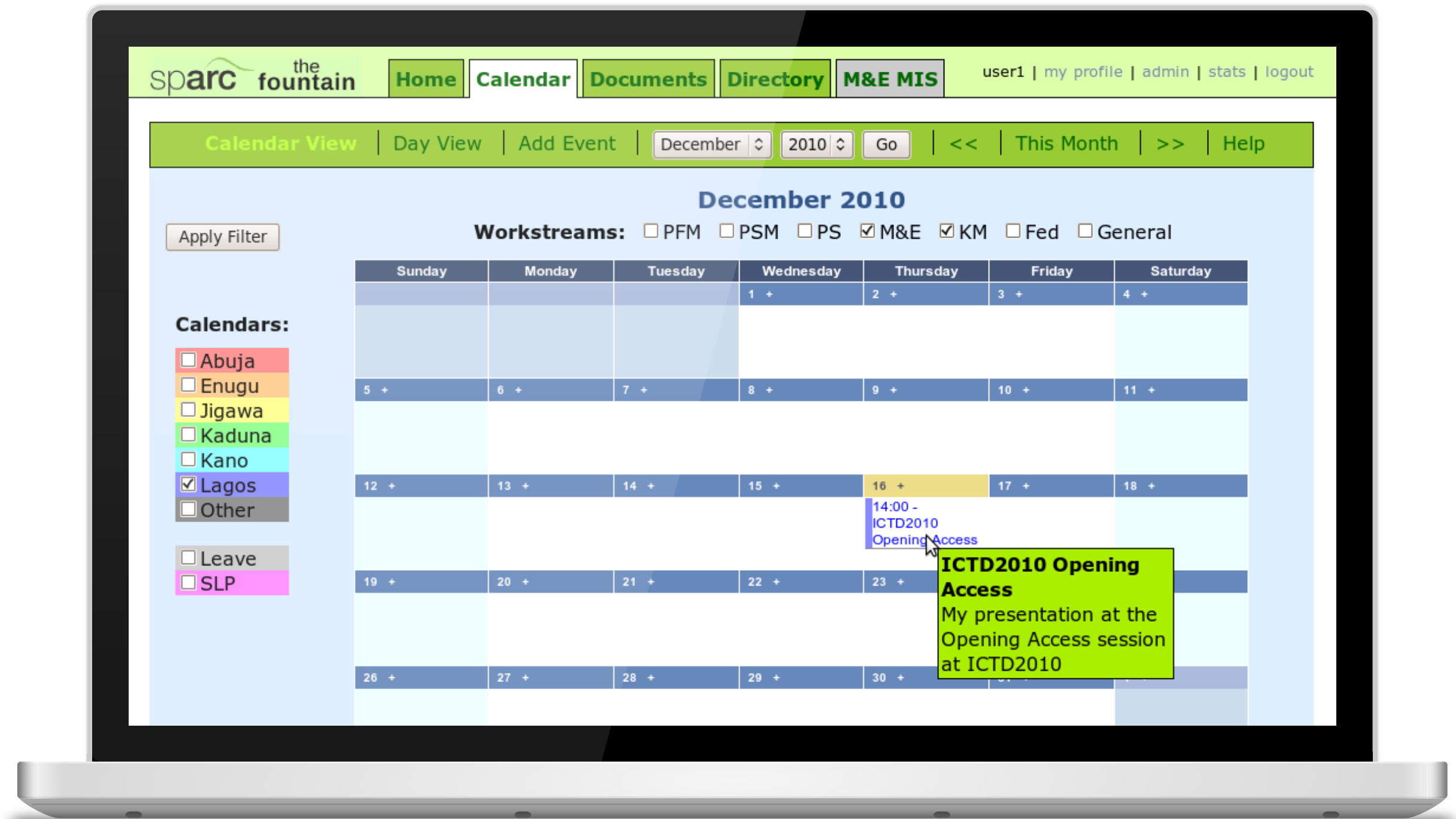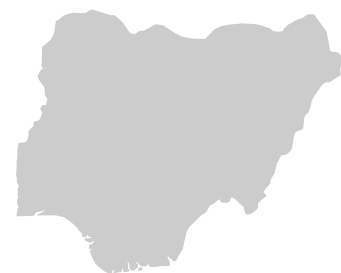
Branding & user-friendly website re-design

INASP

www.inasp.info

A re-brand and site redesign for INASP. The old INASP website was full of excellent resources, including many publications and training course outlines, but they were often difficult to find. The project made resources more easily accessible, and supported academic institutions to access journals.

- Organisation Re-brand
- UX and site redesign
- Responsive design & Django build

Number of iterations: 6

Reach: International

Learn Change Build Evaluate

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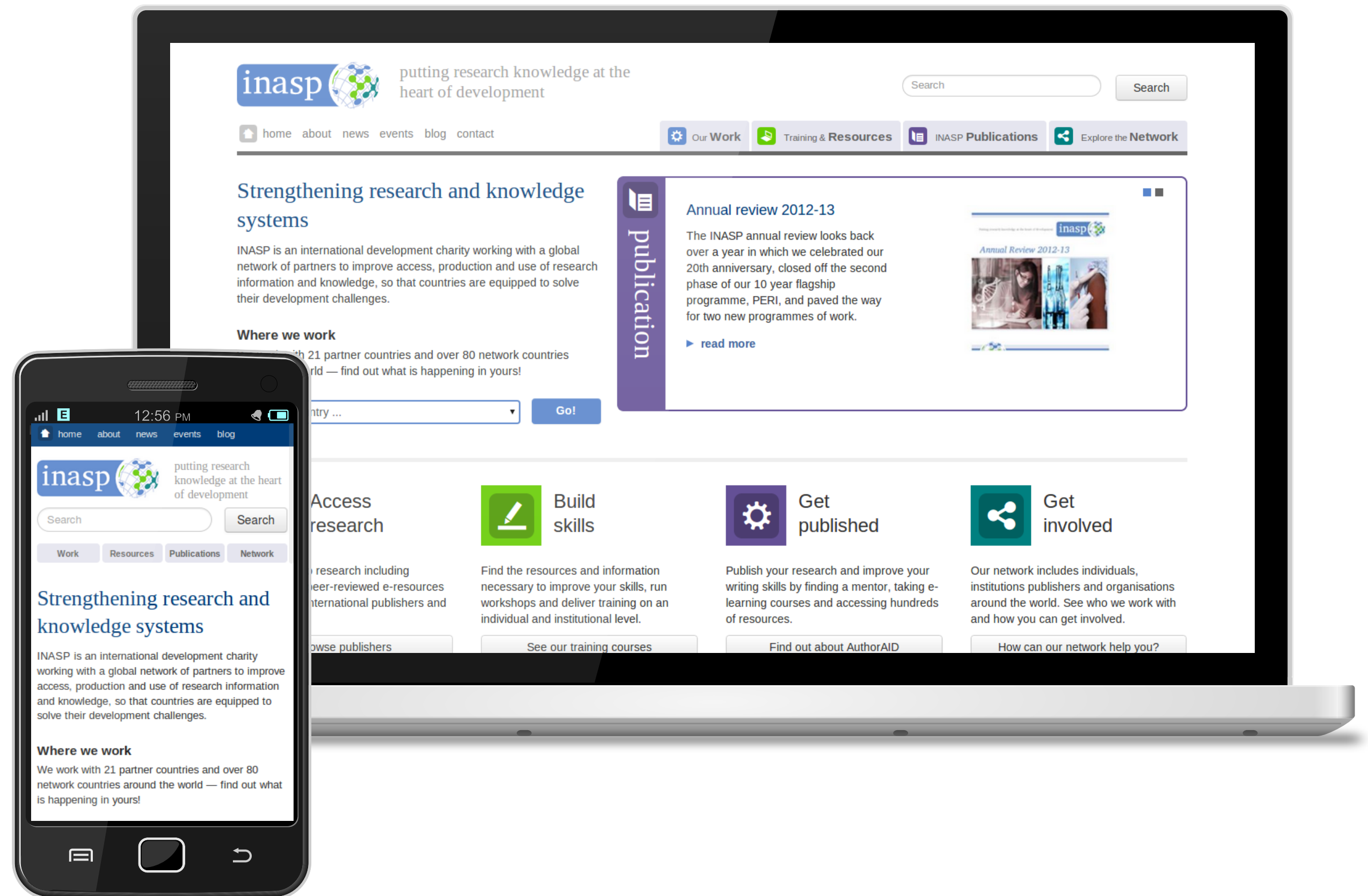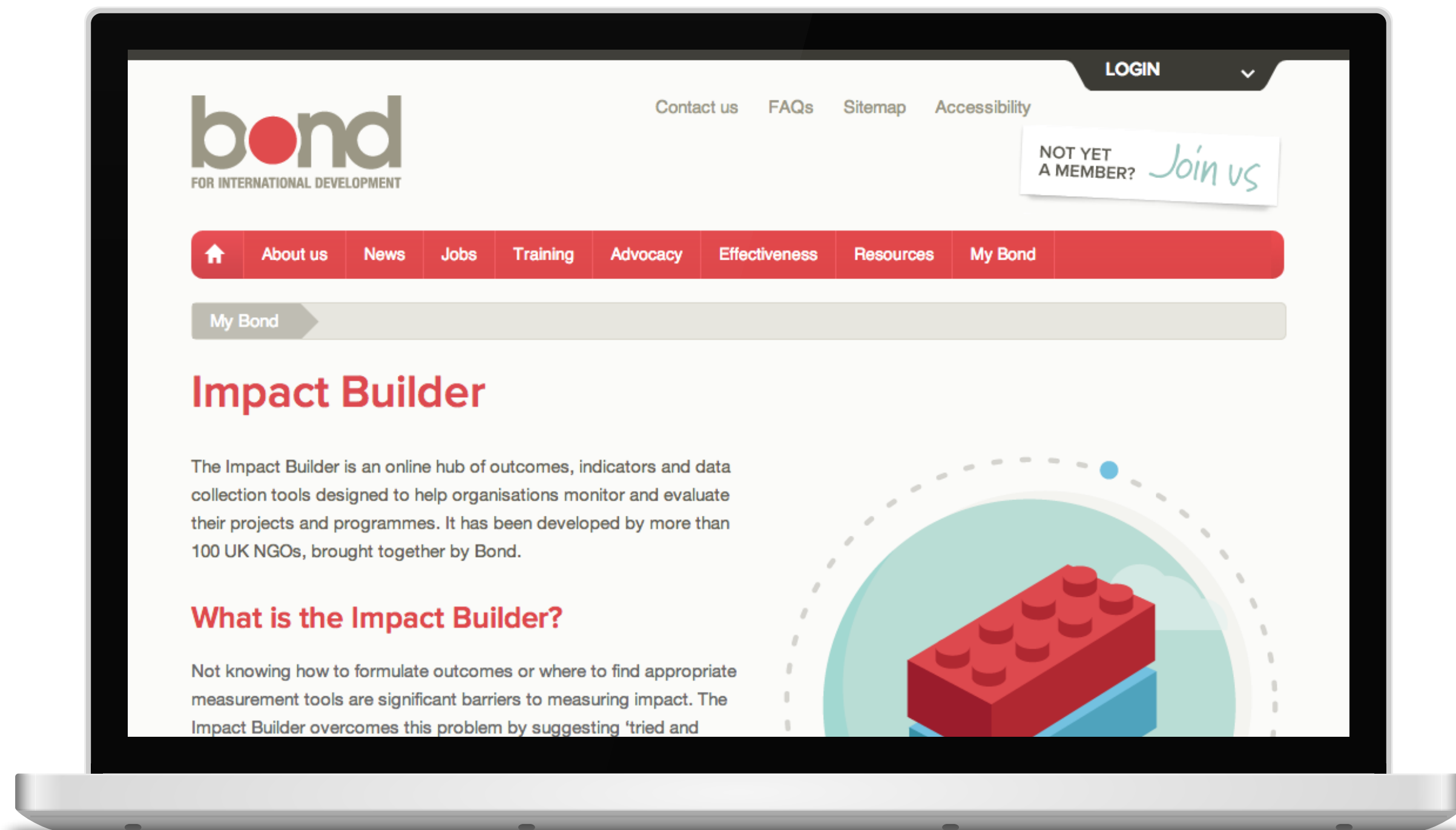
Helping NGOs find monitoring and evaluation tools

Bond Impact Builder

my.bond.org.uk/impact-builder

This application provides a simple pathway for NGOs who aren't monitoring and evaluation experts to decide which indicators and data collection tools are appropriate for the their sector and approach. Bond use Drupal for all their web infrastructure and the Improve It Framework application is built to fit in with that.

- Low-bandwidth design
- User-friendly interface
- A multi-step questionnaire to establish M&E needs
- Save and email M&E tools

Number of iterations: 3

Reach: UK

Learn   Change   Build   Evaluate

Aptivate

Budgeting and accounting system

Open Society Foundation

A budgeting and accounting system to assist an international funding body to plan at various levels from budget line-items on specific projects to organisation-wide strategic objectives. The system also assists the funder in the monitoring and evaluation of the projects they fund.

- Data intensive application
- Low-bandwidth design
- Budget approval workflow
- Email integration

Number of iterations: 23

Reach: UK, Hungary
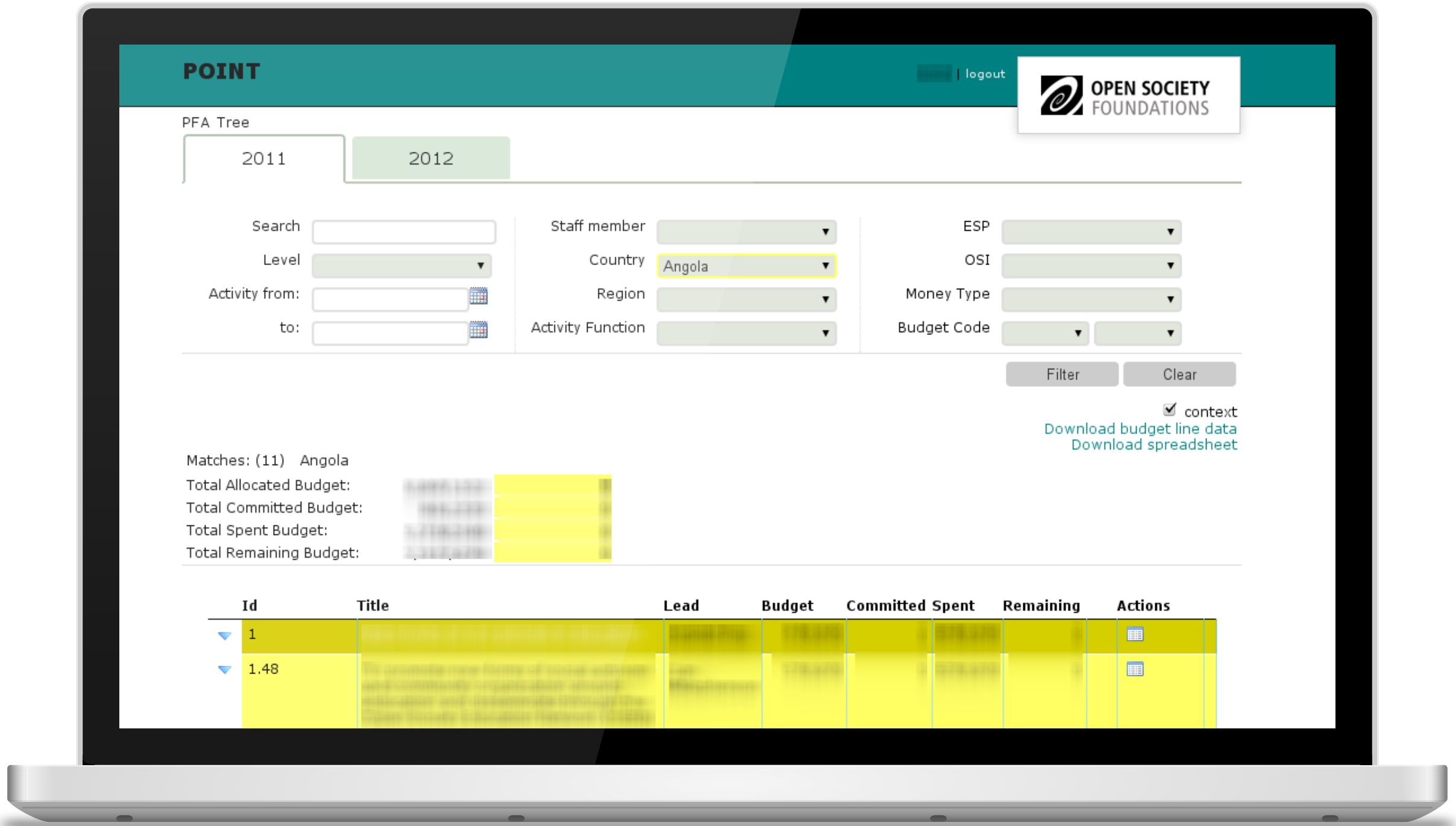
Grants management system

RUFORUM

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity
Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) required
a management information system to store
information on the people they work with and
the grants they administer. The system that
Aptivate built allows grant recipients to complete
their reports online and for RUFORUM give
feedback and to send automated reminders
when reports are due.

- Discovery workshop
- Complex multi-stakeholder workflow
- Django build

Number of iterations: 16

Reach: Uganda

Learn   Change   Build   Evaluate

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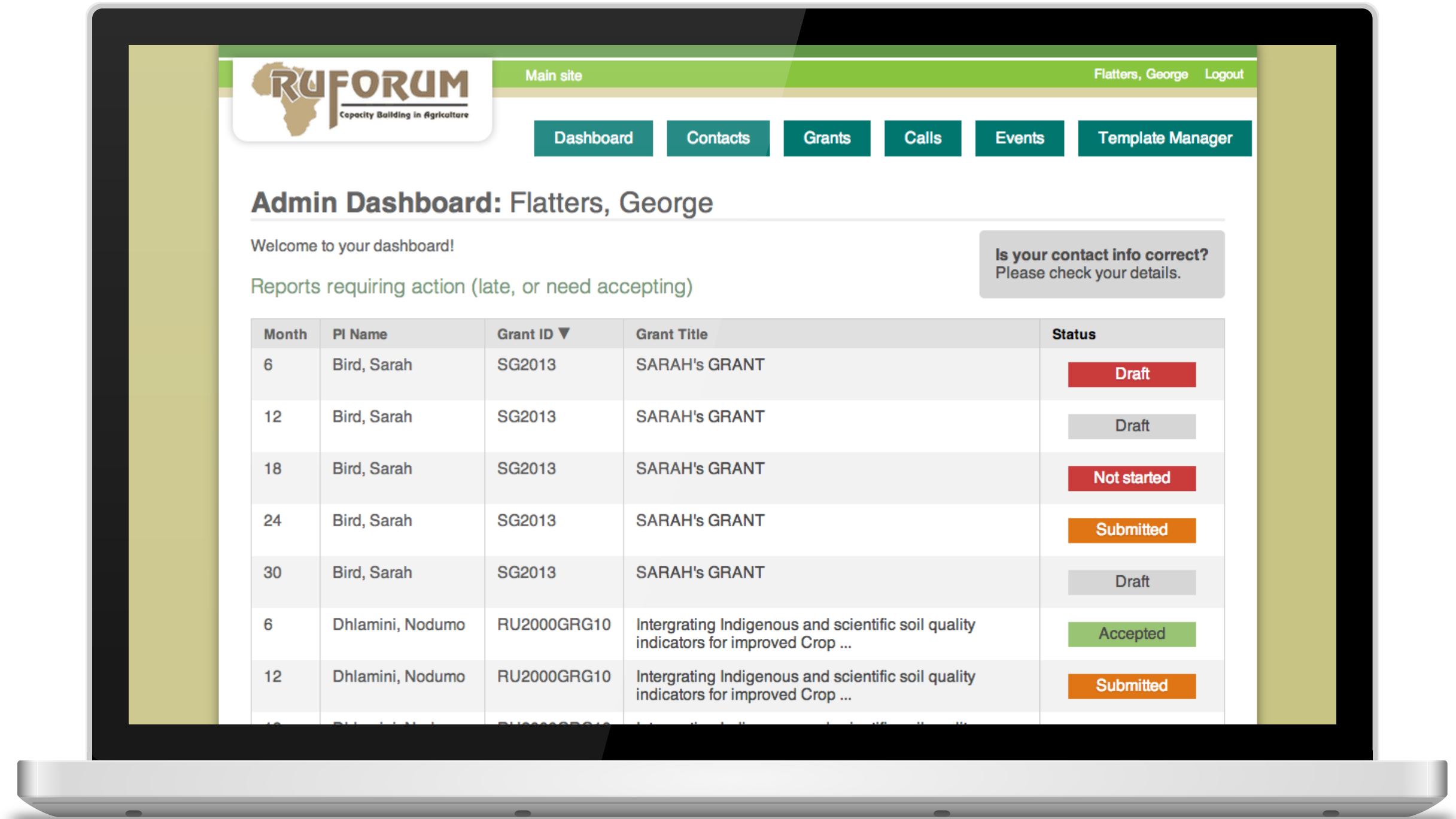
Site review and design refresh

Publish What you Fund

www.publishwhatyoufund.org

The improved Information Architecture and visual design of the new Wordpress CMS draws users to key content. Publish What You Fund aimed to attract user towards their International aid transparency index, which was previously lost deep inside the site architecture. Aptivate undertook a review of the site and designed a new user-centered site structure and undertook a visual website refresh.

• UX review of Wordpress website
• Information Architecture and visual design
• Wordpress theme

Number of iterations: 1

Reach: International

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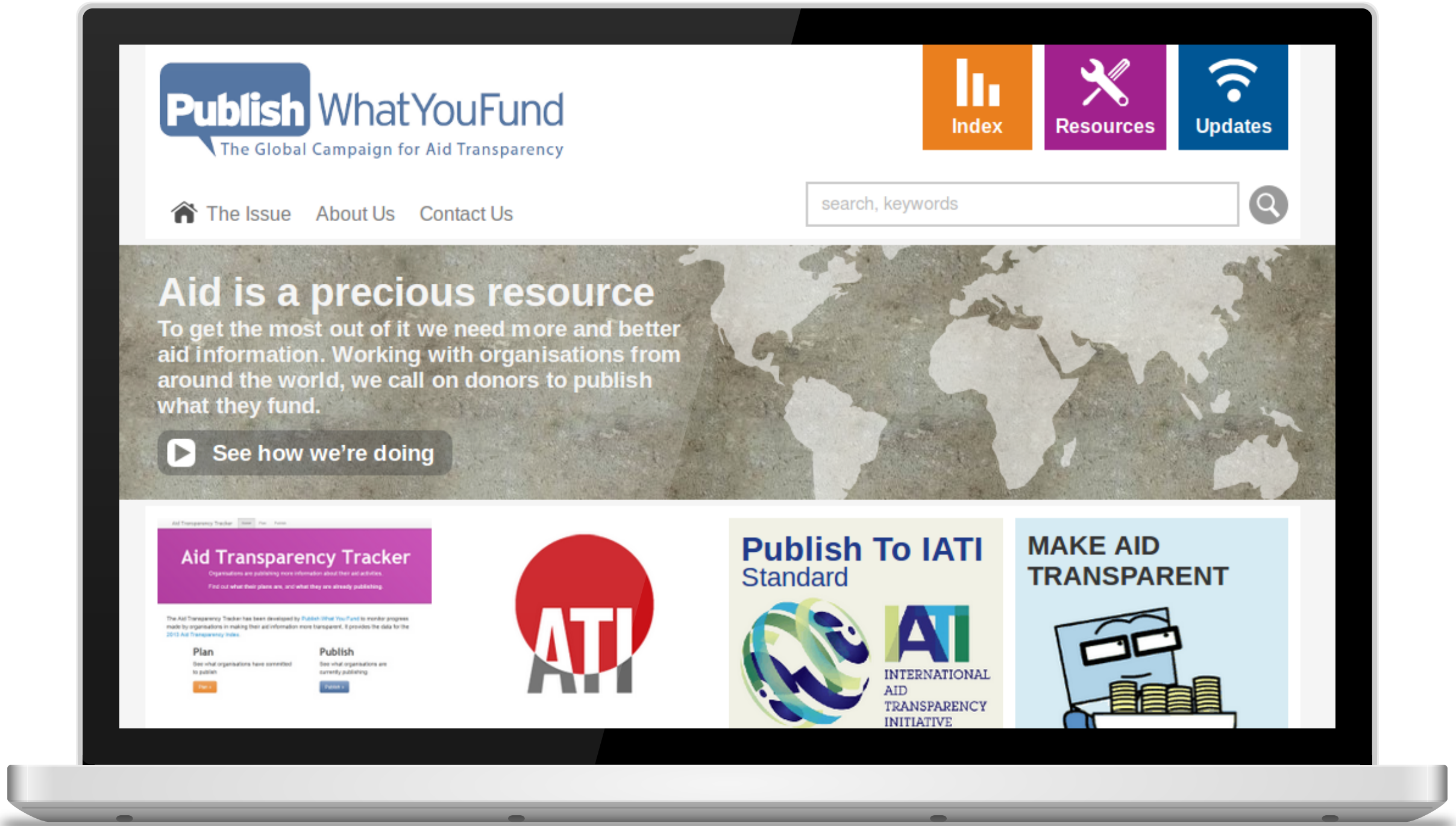
# User experience review & responsive design

Knowledge Point

www.knowledgepoint.org

Knowledge Point aims to connect engineers and humanitarian workers with questions to experts in their field, building a public knowledge base online. Aptivate undertook a use experience review and implemented a new site designs based on the findings.

- UX review of site
- Information Architecture and visual design
- Responsive design and HTML prototypes

Reach: International

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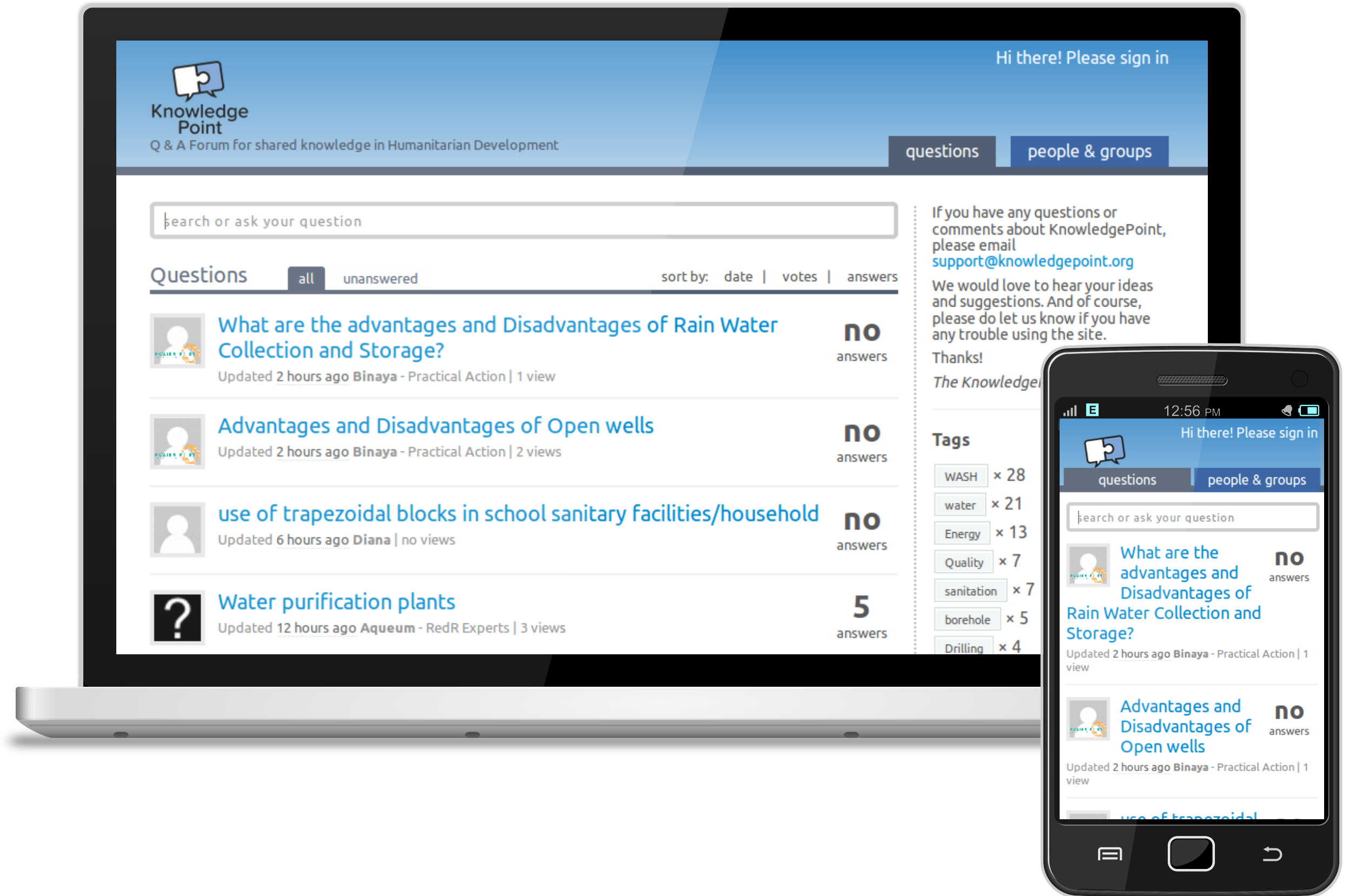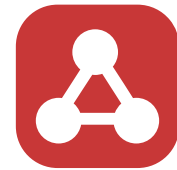
# CMS driven website re-design

3ie

www.3ieimpact.org

User centered website re-design and django-cms content management system for Impact Evaluation organisation 3ie.

Their goal was to to reach policy makers. Their existing website had grown quickly and information was getting lost among the labyrinth-like architecture and key messages to policy makers and researchers ware getting lost.

- UX review and new Information architecture
- Visual site refresh with liquid layout
- Django build with database consolidation

Number of iterations: 6

Reach: India

Learn   Change   Build   Evaluate

Aptivate
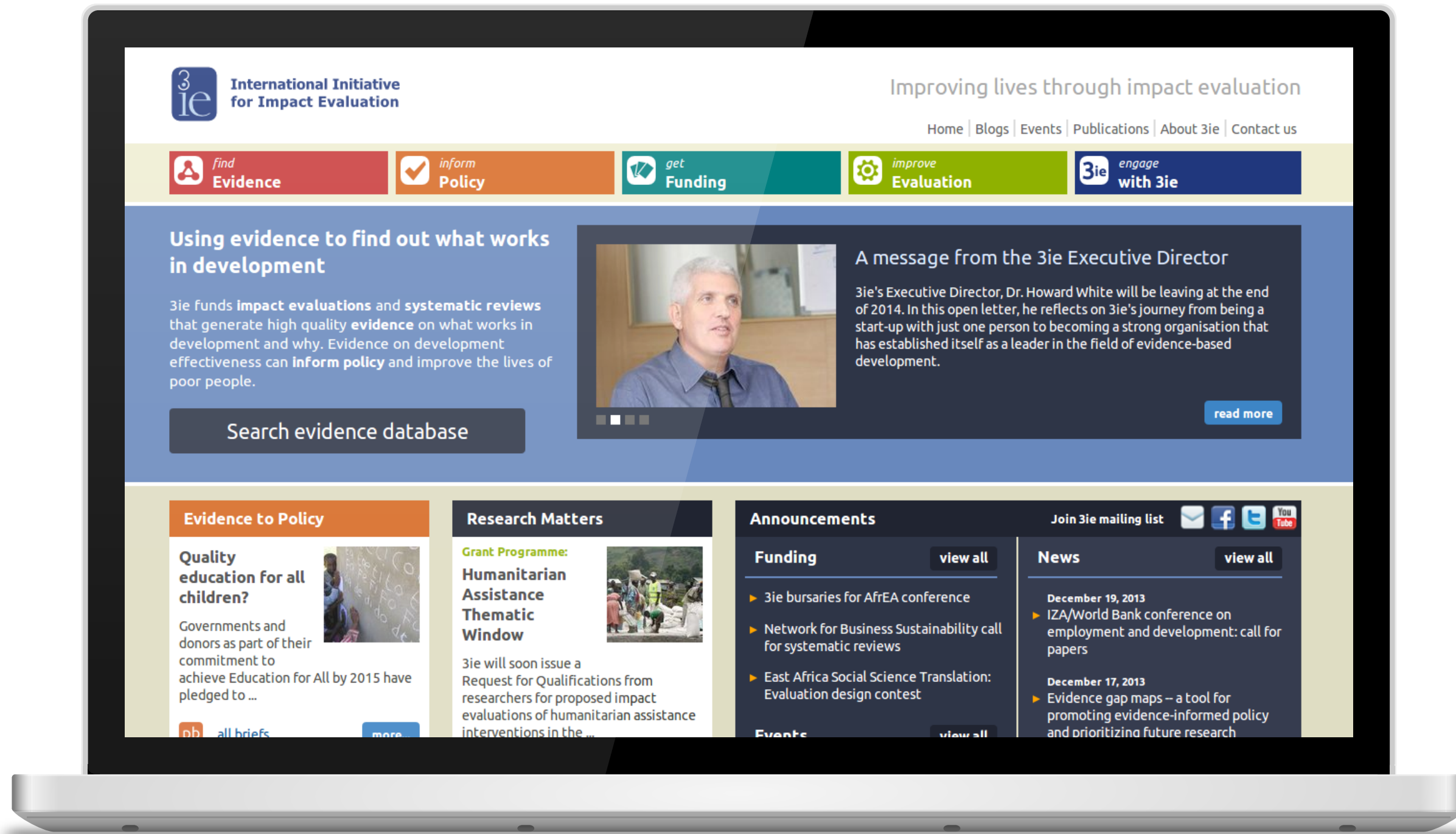
Discovery workshops

WaterAid

We held a series of discovery workshop with WaterAid staff from the UK, Africa, Asia, the Pacific region and Central America to uncover the users' stories for the organisation's planned Global Planning Management Information System.

The participants made personas to represent the different users of the system and what they would need to achieve with the system. We also did an analysis of the organisation's existing planning and IT systems.

• User personas
• Discovery workshop facilitation
• Implementation recommendations

Number of iterations: 1

Reach: International

Mamun   38
Partner Monitoring officer

location: Dhaka, Bangladesh
tech: very bad internet, on computer a lot,
            hi IT skills, load shedding a major problem
background: Married with young children. Process
            centred, and technically confident he is
            responsible for ensuring the consistency of
            the data coming into Wateraid. He responds
            to requests from management and needs to
            clean a lot of data to ensure correct
            formatting. His job is exacerbated by lack of
            consistency of inputs from partners and
            pressures from Wateraid.

"I need to ensure the quality outputs at field level and quality inputs of PMIS"

Julia
Fundraising coordinator

location: Peckam, Lond
tech: Confident, da
background: Julia's job is to
            fundraising tea
            what they requi
            has to commun
            struggles with t

            Julia is engage
            a baby. She's a
            articulate comm
            engaged. Cycles
            weeks. She's de

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# User Experience review of programme

Authoraid

www.authoraid.info

Authoraid aims to help researchers in the south to publish more often to journals. The existing mentoring programme was not engaging users as it had hoped and they asked us to review it and make improvements. Our user experience insights led us to a new user engagement model towards quick, easy collaboration and messaging.

- UX & feature redevelopment
- Responsive design
- Rebuild of site from Plone to Django

Number of iterations: 10.5

Reach: International

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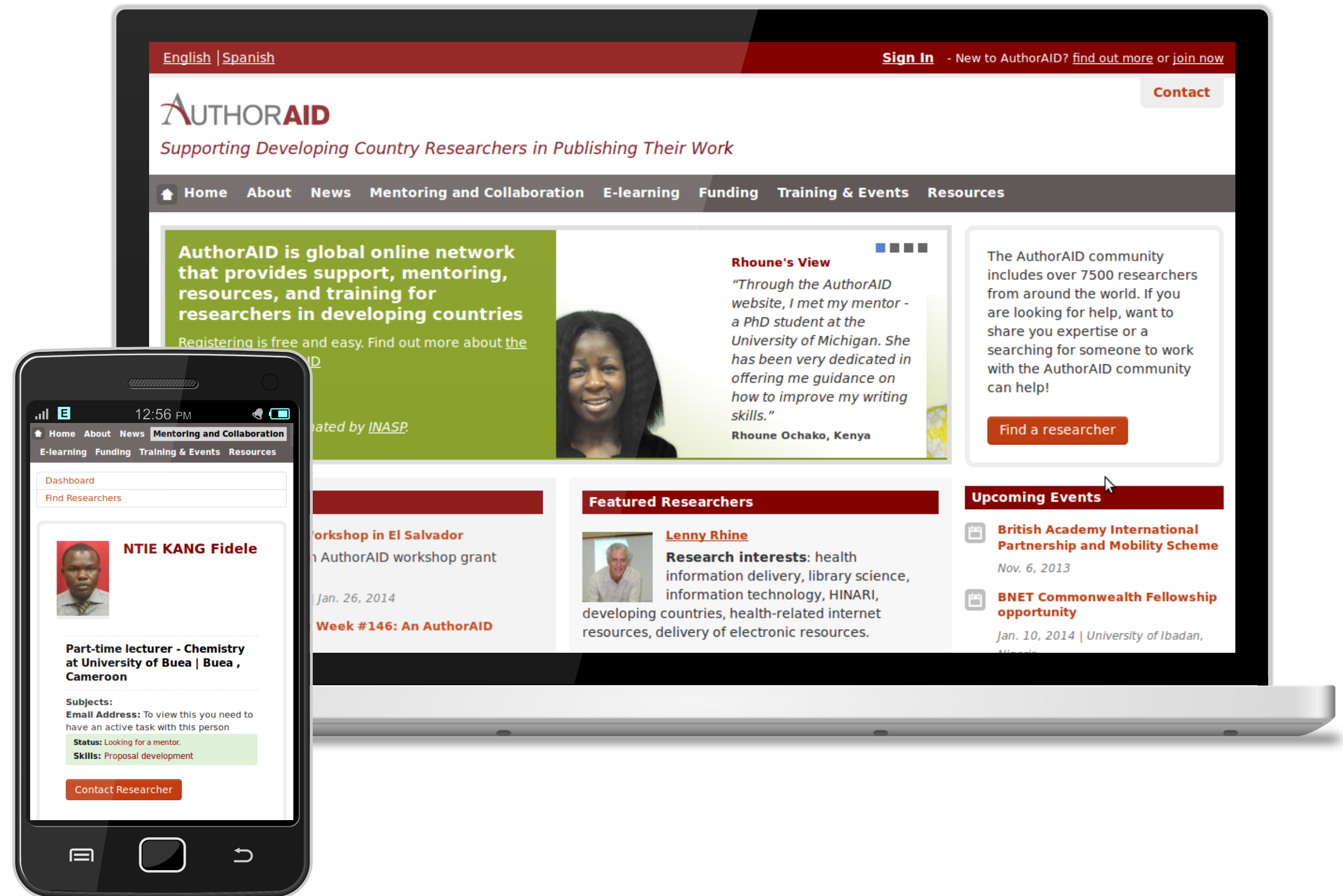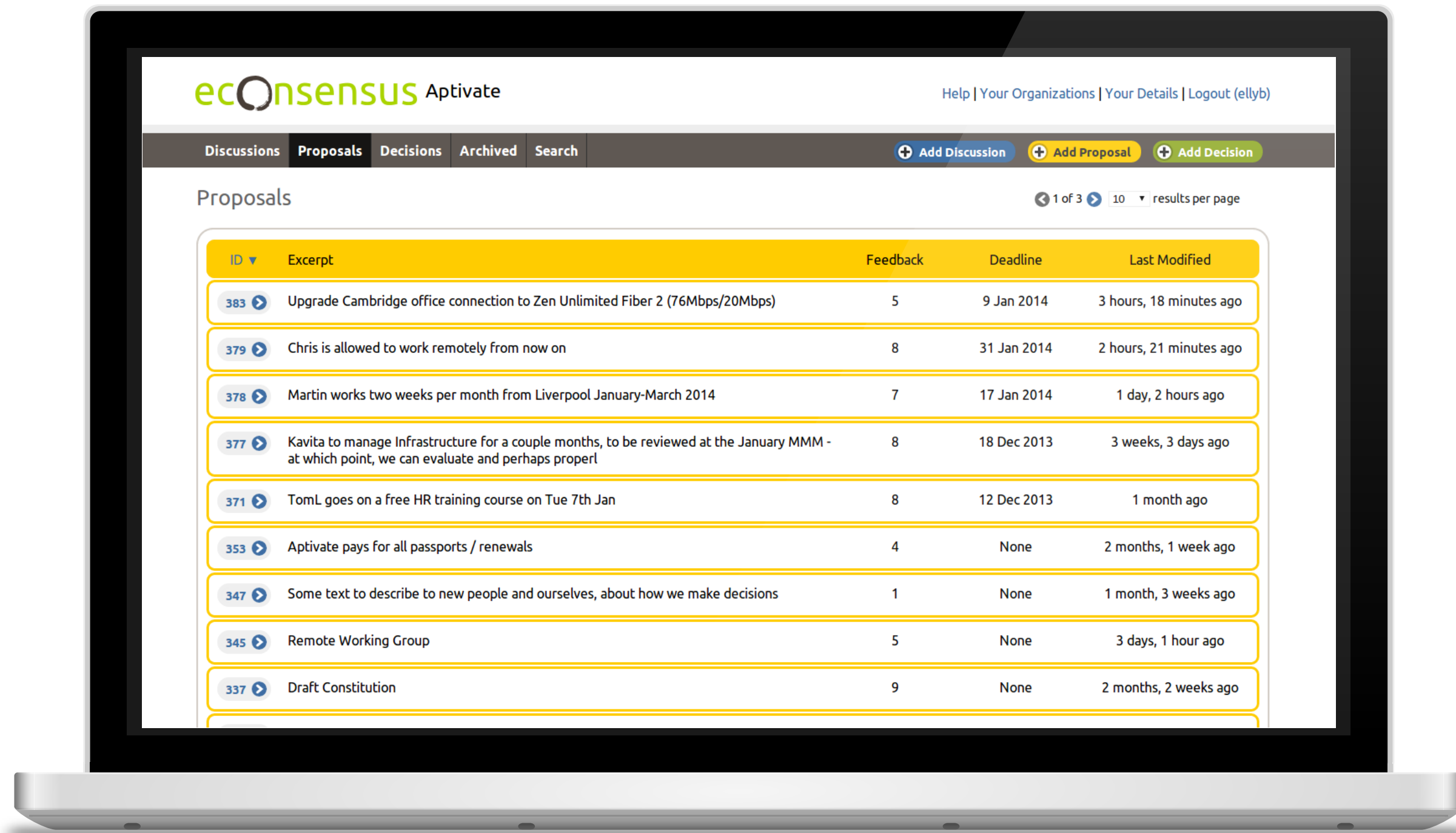
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Participatory decision making

Econsensus

An asynchronous consensus decision making tool for groups to keep track of decisions that affect everybody.

Aptivate used to keep track of decisions in the form of policies in various shared repositories and wikis. It wasn't easy to keep track of the discussions and concerns people had when arriving at those decisions outside of management meeting. Econsensus was created to fill a need for keeping everyone in the loop and not just in email threads that could easily be lost. Built in Django, Econsensus is an online open source project

• UX and visual design
• Responsive application development in Django
• Online hosted service

Reach: International

Learn Change Build Evaluate