African Development Bank – Non-Sovereign Portfolio

OVERVIEW

The African Development Bank (AfDB) promotes regional cooperation and unity across the African region. Its non-sovereign portfolio provides non-concessional and concessional loans, equity investments, loan guarantees and technical assistance to lower and middle-income governments and the private sector. While AfDB became an IATI member in 2011 and started publishing IATI data in June 2013, it only began consistently publishing data for its non-sovereign operations in late 2021.

ANALYSIS

AfDB - Non-Sovereign Portfolio ranks 12th in the 2022 Aid Transparency Index, in comparison to its sovereign operations which scored first. Its non-sovereign portfolio enters the Index at the top end of the ‘Good’ category and was assessed separately in the 2022 Index for the first time.

AfDB published most of its data for its non-sovereign portfolio to the IATI Registry, with 75% of the Index indicators being assessed in the IATI format. However, several of these indicators did not pass our quality checks including: project budget documents and results documents/data.

AfDB - Non-Sovereign portfolio scored above average across all the components but achieved its highest scores for the organisational planning and commitments component scoring 14.5 out of the 15 available. It published all organisational documents to a high standard and only lost scores where full country strategy documents were not consistently published and for the access to information policy indicator. This was due to the exceptions articles in its disclosure and access to information policy (which are not always restricted to protecting against identified legitimate harms).

AfDB's non-sovereign data scored above average for the performance component where it achieved 7 points above average. This was driven by excellent coverage and quality of project objectives, and reviews and evaluations. This component score could be improved by committing to publish up to date and actual results data and/or documents.

AfDB - Non-Sovereign portfolio also scored above average in joining-up development data where it published excellent data on its implementing organisations. In project attributes it did well on basic information such as descriptions and locations. For finance and budgets it scored well for publishing total organisational budgets a full three years ahead as well as budget alignment data.

AfDB - Non-Sovereign portfolio lost points for project procurement; contracts and tenders, where it disclosed less than 2% of procurement tenders for all published activities and no contracts. For financial information, AfDB published no disbursements or expenditure data and no project budgets in its non-sovereign IATI data (despite some of this information being available elsewhere). As this is essential information for data users to track funding flows, we recommend AfDB starts publishing this financial information in the IATI Standard for its non-sovereign projects. Conditions are also an important data point (particularly for non-sovereign
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Organisational planning and commitments
Score: 14.2 / 15

ABOUT COMPONENT

This component looks at the overall aims and strategy of an organisation. We check for any public commitments to aid transparency. We also make sure audits are published and if planning documents have been published, including by parent organisations (including national governments) where applicable. We make note of any Freedom of Information laws and critically, we make sure that organisations have tried to make their information easy to access and understand. You should not have to be an expert in open data to be able to find and use this information.

Finance and budgets
Score: 16 / 25

ABOUT COMPONENT

This component is critical to allow you and anyone else to follow the money. We expect to find the total budget of the
organisation being assessed, right down to individual transactions for each development activity. In particular, forward-looking budgets from donors are important for partner country governments to be able to plan their own future finances.

Project attributes
Score: 16.1 / 20

ABOUT COMPONENT

This component refers to descriptive, non-financial data, including basics like the title and description of a project. Information like this is important as it is often the entry point for data users to quickly understand what a project is about. We also look for other information that helps to put a project in context, such as its sub-national location or the sector that the project deals with, for example, education or agriculture.
Joining-up development data
Score: 17.3 / 20

ABOUT COMPONENT
This component looks at how well an organisation's data is able to be linked and connected with other bits of information. There is a diverse nature of flows, activities and actors within the development sector. Aid and development finance data needs to be effectively linked and connected with the rest to provide a full picture for the user. This can be particularly important for partner country governments, which need to integrate information on aid with their own budgets and systems.

Performance
Score: 15 / 20

ABOUT COMPONENT
This component refers to the essential data and documents that assess whether a project is on track or has been achieved. This includes things like baseline surveys, progress against targets, mid-term reviews and end of project evaluations. This information is important to hold aid organisations to account and also to share knowledge with others on what worked and what did not during a project.