Global Affairs Canada

OVERVIEW

Global Affairs Canada is the largest grantor of Canadian official development assistance and leads Canada's bilateral development assistance. Global Affairs Canada became a member of IATI in November 2011 and published its first quarterly data sets in October 2012. Global Affairs Canada was chair of the IATI governing board and members' assembly until April 2018.

2020

Very Good

2018

Good

2016

Good

2014

Good

2013

Good

Organisational planning and commitments

13.8 / 15

Finance and budgets

17.8 / 25

Project attributes

12.7 / 20

Joining-up development data

16.8 / 20

Performance

10.1 / 20

ANALYSIS

Global Affairs Canada dropped back to the 'good' category having scored 'very good' in 2020. It published to the IATI Registry on a monthly basis.

In 2022, Global Affairs Canada dropped points across all five components when compared to 2020 but remains in the top-five scoring bilateral donors. It published data to the IATI Registry across most of the indicators we evaluated. However, it did not publish IATI data for conditions documents, tenders, pre-project impact appraisals or project budget documents.

Global Affairs Canada scored highly for indicators in the joining-up development data component. It failed our IATI sampling for contracts as these were not linked directly, and did not publish any IATI data for tenders. However, both were found in other formats on dedicated portals.

Global Affairs Canada also scored highly for organisational planning and commitments, with close to full marks for this component. It dropped points for the country/sector strategies indicator, where only one strategy was available, due to accessibility issues.

It scored well for the finance and budgets component publishing IATI data for all indicators except project budget documents. It did not disaggregate project budgets.

With the project attributes component however, it failed our IATI sampling for the sub-national location and conditions indicators. It primarily provided locations at the national level only and there was no statement to say why no project conditions were published.

The performance component was Global Affairs Canada’s worst component. Results data samples failed; in most cases results were either missing or out of date. We could not find pre-project impact appraisals in Global Affairs Canada’s IATI data or published in other formats. Reviews and evaluations were only partially published.

RECOMMENDATIONS
- Global Affairs Canada should aim to improve its IATI data publication by providing links to conditions documents, tenders, pre-project impact appraisals, and project budget documents.
- It should also update and publish actual results data for projects that have been running for several years.
- Global Affairs Canada should aim to disclose reviews and evaluations for all relevant activities.
- It should provide specific sub-national location information at the sub-national level.
- Global Affairs Canada can improve its finance and budgets score by providing forward-looking disaggregated budgets.

**Organisational planning and commitments**

Score: 13.8 / 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.

- **Quality of FOI legislation** Score: 1.88
- **Accessibility** Score: 1.88
- **Organisation strategy** Score: 1.87
- **Annual report** Score: 1.87
- **Allocation policy** Score: 1.87
- **Procurement policy** Score: 1.87
- **Strategy (country/sector) or Memorandum of Understanding** Score: 0.64
- **Audit** Score: 1.87

**Finance and budgets**

Score: 17.8 / 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

- **Total organisation budget** Score: 4.17
- **Disaggregated budget** Score: 2.93
- **Project budget** Score: 2.01
Project attributes

Score: 12.7 / 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: 16.8 / 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: 10.1 / 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.