Denmark, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)

OVERVIEW

Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for the country's development cooperation which it refers to as Danida. Denmark became an IATI member in 2008 and started publishing to the IATI Registry in March 2012.

ANALYSIS

Denmark-MFA remains in the 'fair' category but has improved on its 2020 Index score by over four points. It published the majority of its data to the IATI Registry, with 59% of the Index indicators being assessed in the IATI format. It publishes to the IATI Registry on a monthly basis.

The joining-up development data component was Denmark-MFA's highest scoring component but was still below average. It published data to the IATI Registry for four of the eight indicators scoring full points for aid type, finance type, flow type, and tied aid status. It did not publish contracts, tenders, or information on its project implementers in the IATI Standard. It disclosed contracts and tenders in other formats, and we scored them as such. Tenders and data on implementers were found in other formats but no up to date contracts were available. Denmark-MFA scored some points for the networked data organisation reference test indicator as it published recognised organisational references for 30% of its activities.

Denmark-MFA scored 64% of available points in the project attributes component. It scored well across these indicators including for dates, descriptions, titles, unique ID, sectors, and contact details. However, Denmark-MFA did not disclose conditions or sub-national locations to the IATI Registry scoring no points for these two indicators. We could not find data for the sub-national location and conditions indicators during the manual checks.

Denmark-MFA published data to the IATI Registry for five of the seven indicators in the finance and budgets component. It scored well for commitments, disbursements and expenditures, and organisation budget where it published a three year forward-looking budget. It did not publish data for the project budget documents or disaggregated budgets indicators. We could not find either of these in other formats. Denmark-MFA lost points for project budgets as they were only available for less than half of its activities.

Denmark-MFA scored poorly for the organisational planning and commitments component because only a current allocation policy, organisation strategy, and country strategies were disclosed to the IATI Registry. However, country strategies were available for less than four percent of its countries. Denmark-MFA did not publish a procurement policy or an up to date audit and annual report in any format. Denmark-MFA lost points for accessibility as its portal did not publish the data under an open license.

Denmark-MFA improved its score for the performance component by over four points but still performed poorly across the indicators. It published results and objectives to the IATI Registry. It lost points for results as it only made results data available for less than a quarter of its activities. Objectives failed our quality checks but passed on the manual survey because we found them in other formats. We did not find pre-project impact appraisals or reviews and evaluations in any format.
RECOMMENDATIONS

- Denmark-MFA should improve the transparency of its performance-related data by starting to disclose pre-project impact appraisals, reviews and evaluations to the IATI Registry and ensuring that objectives and results are available for all its activities.
- It should focus on improving the comprehensiveness of its procurement data by starting to publish tenders and contracts to the IATI Registry.
- Denmark-MFA should improve its budgets and financial data by publishing forward-looking disaggregated budget and project budget documents. It should provide project budgets for all its activities.
- Denmark-MFA should ensure the publication of essential organisational documents, including its procurement policy and up to date audits, annual reports, and country strategies as these are important for stakeholders.
- Denmark-MFA should start publishing sub-national locations to the IATI Registry as this information is key for stakeholders to understand precisely where its projects are taking place.
- Denmark-MFA should start disclosing project conditions for all activities or include a statement outlining why project conditions are not included where relevant.
- Denmark-MFA should improve the publication for the networked data indicators by including implementers in its data and expanding the use of recognised organisational references for its partners using the latest guidance from the IATI community.
- As recommended in the 2020 Index, Denmark-MFA can improve the accessibility of its aid data portal by putting the data under an open license.

DEEP DIVE

Organisational planning and commitments

Score: 6.9 / 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: 14.2 / 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: 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: 14.4 / 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.

Flow type
Score: 3

Aid type
Score: 2.99

Finance type
Score: 3

Tied aid status
Score: 3

Networked Data - Implementors
Score: 1.11

Networked Data - Participating Orgs
Score: 0.85

Project procurement
Score: 0.5

Performance
Score: 4.6 / 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.

Objectives
Score: 2.5

Pre-project impact appraisals
Score: 0

Reviews and evaluations
Score: 0

Results
Score: 2.06