Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

OVERVIEW

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (Gates Foundation) is the largest private foundation in the world. It provides grants to support initiatives in education, global health and development. It became an IATI member in 2013 and published its first IATI data in March 2014.

2020 FAIR 2018 FAIR 2016 FAIR 2014 FAIR 2013 VERY POOR

Organisational planning and commitments 10.6 / 15
Finance and budgets 16.5 / 25
Project attributes 15.3 / 20
Joining-up development data 17.1 / 20
Performance 2.5 / 20

ANALYSIS

The Gates Foundation’s score has increased by more than four points since 2020 moving it up to the ‘good’ category. The Gates Foundation now publishes to the IATI Registry on a monthly basis, rather than quarterly as was the case in 2020.

The Gates Foundation performed best in the joining-up development data component publishing to the IATI Registry for all indicators except tenders and contracts. Neither of these indicators were found in other formats.

It made all organisational planning and commitments indicators, apart from country and organisational strategies, available on the IATI Registry. Country strategies were found in other formats. The allocation policy and organisation strategy failed our quality checks.

The Gates Foundation scored below average for the performance component. This was in large part because it scored no points for pre-project impact appraisals, results, and reviews and evaluations. It did not publish any of this information to the IATI Registry. Objectives were found in other formats and scored accordingly.

For the finance and budgets component, the Gates Foundation scored well against all indicators, but the absence of a disaggregated budget at the organisational level and project budget documents at the activity level prevented it from scoring higher.

It scored well on indicators for the project attributes component except for the conditions indicator, for which it received a score of zero. No conditions documents were found in the manual survey. The Gates Foundation also dropped points on sub-national location information as it did not provide precise coordinates of projects to the IATI Registry.
RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Gates Foundation should review and address its current approach to project performance and impact. Important indicators such as pre-project impact appraisals, project objectives, results, and reviews and evaluations are vital for internal learning, continuous improvement, and broader development effectiveness.
- The Gates Foundation should look to publish objectives already available in other formats to the IATI Registry.
- It should focus on improving procurement transparency by addressing shortfalls in the publication of conditions, tenders, and contracts.
- It should improve the publication of sub-national location information by providing precise coordinates of projects to aid stakeholders seeking to understand where project activities are taking place.

DEEP DIVE

Organisational planning and commitments
Score: 10.6 / 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quality of FOI legislation</td>
<td>1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility</td>
<td>1.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organisation strategy</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual report</td>
<td>1.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocation policy</td>
<td>0.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procurement policy</td>
<td>1.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy (country/sector) or Memorandum of Understanding</td>
<td>0.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit</td>
<td>1.87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Finance and budgets
Score: 16.5 / 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total organisation budget</td>
<td>3.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disaggregated budget</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project budget</td>
<td>3.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project budget document</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitments</td>
<td>3.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disbursements and expenditures</td>
<td>3.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Alignment</td>
<td>3.28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Project attributes
Score: 15.3 / 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: 17.1 / 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: 2.5 / 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: 0