Japan, International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

SCORE: 22.9
POSITION: 47/50
2022 POOR

OVERVIEW

The Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan’s bilateral aid agency, delivers aid in the form of technical cooperation, official development assistance loans and grant aid in over 150 countries. It is also responsible for providing humanitarian aid under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. JICA is not an IATI member but first published IATI data in June 2014.

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2020
Organisational planning and commitments 6.6/15
Finance and budgets 0/25
Project attributes 4.7/20
Joining-up development data 2.5/20
Performance 9.2/20

ANALYSIS

JICA dropped over 20 points since the 2020 Index and is now at the bottom of the ‘poor’ category. It lost considerable points for failing to pass our ‘current data’ test because it did not update its IATI data for over a year, with a publication frequency of less than annual. This meant that only non IATI data sources were assessed for the 2022 Index score.

JICA maintains a web portal (https://www2.jica.go.jp/ja/oda/index.php) where it discloses up to date information on its development activities. It was therefore able to pick up some scores, primarily in the performance and project attributes components. JICA provides consistent objectives, impact appraisals and reports (which contain results and evaluations) for the activities in its web portal. It also provides basic project information such as titles, locations, descriptions, sectors and dates. We were unable to find regular conditions for the activities listed on its web portal.

JICA also gained some points in the joining-up development data component where it provided finance and flow type information for the activities in its portal. We were unable to find procurement contracts consistently on its website as JICA allows for confidentiality around some contracts. Procurement tenders were regularly available.

There was no basic and up to date finance and budget information available on the JICA website, we were only able to find total organisational budgets up to 2019 on the MOFA.go website. We were unable to find regular activity budgets in the aid portal. JICA did however publish up to date country and organisational strategy documents, annual reports and procurement policies on its website so these were also awarded scores.
DEEP DIVE

Organisational planning and commitments
Score: 6.6 / 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- As JICA does publish a good amount of data on its web portal it should aim to update this data in the IATI standard on at least a quarterly, if not monthly basis.
- JICA should publish its total organisational budget and three year forward-looking disaggregated budgets both on its website and to the IATI Registry.
- JICA should fix its organisational file to ensure that the documents found on its website are available in a comparable and searchable format on the IATI Registry as well as providing forward-looking allocations data for the countries and/or strategies which it has outlined in its policies.
Finance and budgets
Score: 0 / 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: 4.7 / 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: 2.5 / 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: 9.2 / 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.