New Zealand, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT)

SCORE: 64.4
POSITION: 26/50
2022 GOOD

OVERVIEW

The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) is responsible for the New Zealand aid programme, which covers development cooperation and provides humanitarian support in natural disasters and conflicts. New Zealand-MFAT became an IATI member in 2008 and began publishing IATI data in July 2013.

ANALYSIS

Following New Zealand's impressive jump into the 'good' category in the 2020 Index, MFAT's score has dropped a disappointing 13 points for the 2022 Index. It remains in the 'good' category, although now at the lower end.

New Zealand-MFAT dropped six points in publication of performance related data as it failed to update results and impact appraisal documents in its IATI data, and these were not found in other data sources. Its reviews and evaluations and objectives were only published for around half of its IATI activities.

Within the joining-up development data component, it continued to publish to standard codes and references within its data but has stopped publishing up to date contracts. Regular tender applications were found on its website.

MFAT continued to publish basic project attribute information in the comparable IATI format, and it performed well, only dropping two points, by publishing all titles, descriptions, contact details, and sectors. However, it only provided sub-national locations for seven percent of its activities.

For organisational planning data, it continued to score 80% of the points for disclosing current reports and strategies and only lost points for a procurement policy which was found on its website.

MFAT continued to publish data to the IATI Registry for six of the seven finance and budget indicators. It made three year forward-looking total organisational budget available, and provided some disaggregation across its focus countries. It continued to provide disbursements and expenditure data for over 90% of its activities. MFAT made commitments and the budget sector alignment codes available in close to 60% of its activities. However, it did not publish project budget documents to the IATI Registry which was instead found in other formats, and it published just over half of the available activity budgets.
DEEP DIVE

Organisational planning and commitments
Score: 12.2 / 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- New Zealand-MFAT should build on its transparency improvements made in 2020 and continue to publish performance related data such as reviews and evaluations, and results.
- MFAT should improve its publication of project financial and budgetary data to include project budget documents and full disaggregated organisational budgets.
- It should look to publish regular and updated contractual information for the activities and organisations which it contracts.
Finance and budgets

Score: 17.5 / 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.

Project attributes

Score: 14.2 / 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: 14.8 / 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: 5.7 / 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.