Aid Transparency Index 2022

United States, Millennium Challenge Corporation (US, MCC)

SCORE: 92  POSITION: 5/50  2022 VERY GOOD

OVERVIEW

Created by the US Congress in 2004, the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is an independent bilateral US foreign aid agency. It provides large scale, multi-year ‘compacts’ to eligible countries for economic growth in focused sectors. As part of the US government, MCC became an IATI member in 2011 and first published IATI data in January 2013. It started publishing as a stand-alone publisher in 2018.

2020 VERY GOOD
2018 VERY GOOD
2016 VERY GOOD
2015 VERY GOOD
2014 VERY GOOD
2013 VERY GOOD

Organisational planning and commitments 14.4 / 15
Finance and budgets 23.2 / 25
Project attributes 19 / 20
Joining-up development data 18.8 / 20
Performance 16.5 / 20

ANALYSIS

MCC remained in the 'very good' category and is currently the top performing US agency and the highest performing bilateral donor in the 2022 Index. MCC now publishes 89% of the data searched for in the Index to the IATI Registry. It publishes on a quarterly basis.

More than any other donor, MCC made extensive use of hierarchies in its data with three levels of publication for its country compacts, components, and subcomponents.

MCC published all organisational planning indicators, ranking second across all donors for this component. It continued to publish country strategies for all the countries where MCC works.

MCC scored well on project attributes, its second-best performing component. It published to IATI across all the indicators such as conditions, descriptions, sub-national locations, titles, and dates. Where sampled, data was of a high quality.

MCC scored just above average within the 'very good' grouping for the finance and budgets component, performing well across all the indicators. MCC lost minor points for having two year forward-looking total organisational budgets rather than three.

MCC scored highly for IATI data on nearly all joining-up development data indicators, including conditions, aid types and flows, contracts, and networked data implementers. MCC did slightly drop points for tenders as these weren’t published for all activities but still passed our data quality checks. In a manual search, we consistently found tenders available in other formats on the MCC website.

Finally, MCC scored lowest in the performance component but still just above average within the ‘very good’ group. It published to the IATI Registry across all four indicators, but failed sampling for reviews and evaluations largely because activities did not have interim or final evaluations. We found sampling of results, objectives, and pre-project impact appraisals to be of high quality.
DEEP DIVE

Organisational planning and commitments
Score: 14.4 / 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 recommended in the 2020 Index, MCC should work towards publishing on a monthly basis in order to provide fully up to date information.
- MCC should encourage the country Millennium Challenge Accounts, which manage the country compacts, to publish granular data in the IATI Standard detailing the implementation of activities.
- MCC can improve its finance and budgets score by providing an organisational budget that is at least three years forward-looking.
- MCC should improve the publication of reviews and evaluations for all relevant projects and activities in the IATI Standard.
- It should improve the publication of procurement information by making project-specific tenders available for a greater proportion of its projects and activities in IATI.
- MCC should publish recognised organisation references for its partner governments using the latest guidance from the IATI community.
Finance and budgets
Score: 23.2 / 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: 19 / 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: 18.8 / 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.

- **Flow type** Score: 2.85
- **Aid type** Score: 2.85
- **Finance type** Score: 2.85
- **Tied aid status** Score: 2.85
- **Networked Data - Implementors** Score: 4.75
- **Networked Data - Participating Orgs** Score: 0
- **Project procurement** Score: 2.66

### Performance

**Score: 16.5 / 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: 4.75
- **Pre-project impact appraisals** Score: 4.75
- **Reviews and evaluations** Score: 2.5
- **Results** Score: 4.52