Aid Transparency Index 2022

United States, President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (US, PEPFAR)

SCORE: 68.6
POSITION: 20/50
2022 GOOD

OVERVIEW

The President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) is the US government’s global initiative to combat HIV/AIDS and constitutes the largest commitment by any country to address a single disease. It is formally part of the Department of State. PEPFAR approves all US activities relating to combating HIV/AIDS in its priority countries and ensures policy coordination among US implementing agencies and departments. The US became an IATI member in 2011 and PEPFAR first published to the IATI Registry in 2014.

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

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ANALYSIS

PEPFAR significantly improved from the 2020 Index, gaining nearly nine points, and moving back into the middle of the ‘good’ category. Its publication frequency to the IATI Registry moved from less than quarterly in 2020 to quarterly in 2022. It now ranks second of the four US agencies assessed in this year’s Index.

PEPFAR scored best for information on the joining-up development data indicators, improving its score by nearly five points from the 2020 Index. This year it made two procurement indicators, contracts and tenders, available in the IATI Registry. However, both these indicators failed our data quality checks as documents were not project specific. We found PEPFAR’s procurement strategy as it was only in draft form.

PEPFAR performed well on organisational planning and commitments indicators. For all indicators, such as the annual report and audit, PEPFAR published in the IATI format, which made this the organisation’s second-best component. However, PEPFAR did not score on its organisational strategy as it was only in draft form.

PEPFAR disclosed IATI data on all the project attributes indicators such as activity dates, contact details, sector information, and descriptions. However, PEPFAR can improve the quality of its titles, as it used many acronyms and consequently failed the quality checks. PEPFAR did not score on conditions (conditions failed data quality checks and was the lowest scoring indicator in this component) as it only made general conditions documents available across its activities.

The finance and budgets component saw PEPFAR’s biggest improvement, increasing by just over five points. It did relatively well on commitments, project budget documents, and disbursements and expenditures. It disclosed a two year forward-looking budget for total organisational budget but dropped points on project budgets, as it failed data quality checks because the disaggregated budgets were not current. Forward-looking project budgets were found in another format as a bulk CSV download.

The performance component was PEPFAR’s worst score. Although it improved its project objectives data, it scored below average on reviews and evaluations. While PEPFAR did include reviews and evaluations in its IATI data, it failed quality checks because they were not specific to activities for which they were published. PEPFAR did not publish any pre-project impact appraisals either in IATI or in other formats.
RECOMMENDATIONS

- PEPFAR could improve its overall score by making sure it provides complete titles with all acronyms explained, and disclosing project-specific conditions, tenders, and contracts.
- PEPFAR should publish an up to date and full organisational strategy in a timely manner.
- As previously recommended in the 2020 Index, PEPFAR should start publishing more detailed and project-specific reviews and evaluations and results data.
- It should start publishing pre-project impact appraisals to the IATI Registry.
- PEPFAR should improve the disaggregation of financial data on IATI, providing at least a three year forward-looking organisational budget.
- PEPFAR should consider whether it can be a stand-alone publisher to IATI which allows for more timely and accurate publication of its own data; it should also become a monthly publisher, giving stakeholders more timely information.
- PEPFAR should continue to improve the publication of recognised organisation references for its partners using the latest guidance from the IATI community.

DEEP DIVE

Organisational planning and commitments
Score: 11.8 / 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: 18.3 / 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: 13.8 / 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: 17.7 / 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: 7.1 / 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.