African Development Bank – Sovereign Portfolio

AfDB - sovereign (98.5)
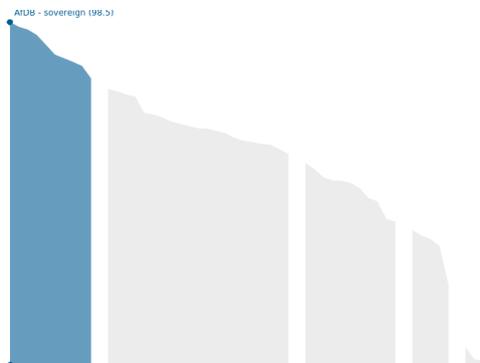
SCORE:	POSITION:	2022
98.5	1/50	VERY GOOD

OVERVIEW

The African Development Bank (AfDB) promotes regional cooperation and unity across the African region. Its sovereign portfolio provides non-concessional and concessional loans, grants and technical assistance to lower and middle-income governments. AfDB became an IATI member in 2011 and started publishing IATI data in June 2013.

2020
VERY GOOD

Organisational planning and commitments
14.2 / 15

Finance and budgets
24.5 / 25

Project attributes
20 / 20

Joining-up development data
19.8 / 20

Performance
20 / 20

ANALYSIS

AfDB - Sovereign Portfolio ranks first in the 2022 Aid Transparency Index, jumping to the top spot from its fourth place ranking in 2020 and achieving the highest score of any publisher to date. AfDB has remained consistently in the 'very good' category since 2014 demonstrating its commitment to excellent publication and transparency. AfDB's non-sovereign portfolio was assessed separately in the 2022 Index.

AfDB publishes data for its sovereign portfolio to the IATI Registry on a monthly basis and data for the indicators assessed in the Index were consistently available in the IATI format.

All data published to the IATI Registry passed our quality checks, most notably for the results indicator from the performance component, which passed all our data quality sampling checks for the first time this year with actual results data and documentation being consistently available.

AfDB - Sovereign Portfolio achieved full or near-full scores across three components: joining-up development data, performance and project attributes scoring above average across all indicators and only losing scores slightly for its procurement; contracts and tenders where procurement data was available for around 90% of activities. For the recently added networked data indicator AfDB is not yet using standardised organisations references in its IATI data, however community guidance on this has recently been published which publishers can now use to improve standardisation. Most notably AfDB made major improvements from 2020 in its results, and reviews and evaluations data, an area which has traditionally seen poor publication across many donors.

Near full scores were achieved for organisational planning and commitments and finance and budgets. Although still well above average, AfDB - Sovereign Portfolio lost scores where full country strategy policy documents were not consistently published and for the lower scores of the access to information policy indicator due to the exceptions articles in its disclosure and access to information policy (where an objective harm test for identified legitimate interests is not always applied). In addition, disaggregated project budgets were available across 82% of the published IATI activities.

- AfDB should ensure that it discloses contracts, tenders and reviews and evaluations for all relevant activities where possible.
- AfDB should review the exceptions articles in its disclosure and access to information policy and include an objective harm test for confidentiality of information provided by third parties.
- AfDB can start to publish recognised organisation references for its partner governments using the latest guidance from the IATI community.

DEEP DIVE

Organisational planning and commitments

Score: 14.2 / 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.

Quality of FOI legislation	Score: 1.25
Accessibility	Score: 1.88
Organisation strategy	Score: 1.87
Annual report	Score: 1.87
Allocation policy	Score: 1.87
Procurement policy	Score: 1.87
Strategy (country/sector) & Memoranda of Understanding	
Audit	Score: 1.87

Finance and budgets

Score: 24.5 / 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.

Total organisation budget	Score: 4.17
Disaggregated budget	Score: 3.67
Project budget	Score: 3.33
Project budget documents	
Commitments	Score: 3.33
Disbursements and expenditures	Score: 3.32
Budget Alignment	Score: 3.33

Project attributes

Score: 20 / 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.

Attribute	Score
Title	Score: 1
Description	Score: 3
Planned dates	Score: 1
Actual dates	Score: 1
Current status	Score: 1
Contact details	Score: 1
Sector	
Sub-national location	Score: 3.5
Conditions	Score: 3.5
Unique ID	Score: 2.5

Joining-up development data

Score: 19.8 / 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.

Attribute	Score
Flow type	Score: 3
Aid type	Score: 3
Finance type	Score: 3
Tied aid status	Score: 3
Networked data	
Project procurement	Score: 2.82

Performance

Score: 20 / 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: 5

Pre-project impact appraisal

Reviews and evaluations	Score: 4.99

Results	Score: 5