

Aid Transparency Index 2020

Asian Development Bank (AsDB) - Sovereign Portfolio*



SCORE:	POSITION:	2020
98	1/47	VERY GOOD

OVERVIEW

The Asian Development Bank (AsDB) provides non-concessional loans, equity investments, loan guarantees, concessional loans, grants, and technical assistance to lower and middle-income governments, as well as the private sector, in Asia and the Pacific region. It also engages in projects more directly orientated towards social development and poverty alleviation. The AsDB is not an IATI member but publishes to the IATI Standard. Its first publication was in June 2013.

Organisational planning and commitments 14.4/15

Finance and budgets 25/25

Project attributes 20/20

Joining-up development data 20/20

Performance 18.7/20

ANALYSIS

AsDB-Sovereign Portfolio has remained in the 'very good' category. Since we could not find data about the AsDB's private sector portfolio, only the sovereign portfolio was assessed for this index.

AsDB published data about its sovereign portfolio to the IATI Registry on a monthly basis. AsDB-Sovereign Portfolio ranked first in the Index, remaining in the top spot from the 2018 Index. AsDB-Sovereign Portfolio published data for all of the indicators that we evaluated to the IATI Registry.

We awarded AsDB-Sovereign Portfolio top scores for the quality of IATI data in thejoining-up development data, project attributes, and finance and budgets components. It scored well for the organisational planning and commitments component, however, it lost points for the quality of FOI legislation indicator because of the exceptions articles in its information disclosure policy. These do not apply an objective harm test to confidentiality of third-party information provided, which fails one of our three criteria for this indicator. The IATI data available for the performance component also scored well, however, AsDB-Sovereign Portfolio's results documents failed our data quality checks because the results it provided were not up-to-date. It did not publish complete reviews and evaluations for all relevant activities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- AsDB should publish data about all of its activities so that we can make an assessment of the bank as a whole rather than just a subset of its projects.
- AsDB-Sovereign Portfolio should improve the quality of its results documents published to the IATI Registry.
- It should also publish reviews and evaluations to the IATI Registry across all relevant activities.
- AsDB-Sovereign Portfolio should review the exceptions articles in its access to information policy and include an objective harm test for confidentiality of information provided by third parties.

*For reasons of data availability it was only possible to review the transparency of this development bank's sovereign (government backed) portfolio and not its private investments.

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 in place 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: 1.88
Annual report	Score: 1.88
Allocation policy	Score: 1.88
Procurement policy	Score: 1.88
Strategy (country/sector) or Memorandum of Understanding	Score: 1.88
Audit	Score: 1.88

Finance and budgets

Score: 25 / 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.

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

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 (rather than simply being pin pointed to a capital city or the centre of a country) or the sector that the project deals with, for example, education or agriculture.

Title	Score: 1
Description	Score: 1
Planned dates	Score: 1
Actual dates	Score: 1
Current status	Score: 1
Contact details	Score: 1
Sectors	Score: 3.5
Sub-national location	Score: 3.5
Implementer	Score: 3.5
Unique ID	Score: 3.5

Joining-up development data

Score: 20 / 20

ABOUT COMPONENT

This component looks at how well a donor'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, who need to integrate information on aid with their own budgets and systems.

Flow type	Score: 3.33
Aid type	Score: 3.33
Finance type	Score: 3.33
Tied aid status	Score: 3.33



Performance

Score: 18.7 / 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 donors 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 appraisals	Score: 5
Reviews and evaluations	Score: 4.93
Results	Score: 3.75

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