

Aid Transparency Index 2020

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



SCORE: 77.6	POSITION: 13/47	2020 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 conflict. New Zealand-MFAT became an IATI member in 2008 and began publishing IATI data in July 2013.

2018	2014	2013
POOR	FAIR	FAIR

Organisational planning and commitments 12.2/15

Finance and budgets 18.9/25

Project attributes 16.9/20

Joining-up development data 17.1/20

Performance 12.5/20

ANALYSIS

New Zealand's MFAT made the highest leap in scores out of the forty-seven donors in the 2020 Index. From sitting at the bottom of the 'poor' category in 2018 to ranking second in the 'good' category this year, it improved by nearly 50 points.

MFAT published quarterly, which was up from its less than annual publication rate in 2018. It was the second highest scoring quarterly publisher after the United States' Millennium Challenge Corporation.

Within the **joining-up development data** component, it published basic aid information on flow type, aid type and finance type to the IATI Registry 100 percent of the time. It should make conditions more readily available in document format, and only made contracts available in just over 30 percent of its IATI activities. It made tenders available in other formats through a tender portal.

MFAT published all of the **project attribute** indicators in the comparable IATI format and it performed well by publishing all titles, current status, contacts details, and sectors. It published project descriptions and dates 90 percent of the time but only provided sub-national locations for 10 percent of its activities.

MFAT published all of the **organisational planning** indicators to the IATI Registry and most scored full points for being current. We found an allocation policy in other formats.

The ministry published data for six of the seven **finance and budget** indicators to the IATI Registry. It made available three-years forward-looking total organisational and disaggregated budgets as well as disbursements and expenditure data for over 90 percent of its activities. MFAT made commitments and the budget sector alignment codes available inclose to 60 percent of its activities. It did not publish project budget documentation to the IATI Registry and we instead found it in other formats.

MFAT performed above the group average for **performance**-related information. It published objectives across all four components for 90 percent of its activities. However, its publication of results, reviews and evaluations, and pre-project impact appraisals were lower, with fewer than 10 percent of activities containing these three data sets.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- New Zealand-MFAT should publish an allocation policy to its IATI organisational file.
- MFAT should improve its publication of project financial and budgetary data to include project budget documents.
- It should prioritise the publication of performance-related information, including reviews and evaluations, and results.

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 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: 1.88
Accessibility	Sec. 1
Accessionity	Score: 0
Organisation strategy	Score: 1.88
Annual report	Score: 1.88
Allocation policy	Score: 0.94
Procurement policy	Score: 1.88
Strategy (country/sector) or Memorandum of Understanding	Score: 1.88
Audit	Score: 1.88

Finance and budgets

Score: 18.9 / 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: 16.9 / 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.



Joining-up development data

Flow type	Score: 3.17
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Score: 17.1 / 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.



Performance

Score: 12.5 / 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 donors to account and also to share knowledge with others on what worked and what did not during a project.

Objectives	Score: 4.72
Pre-project impact appraisals	Score: 2.52
Reviews and evaluations	Score: 2.71
Results	Score: 2.55

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