United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

US-USAID (65.2)
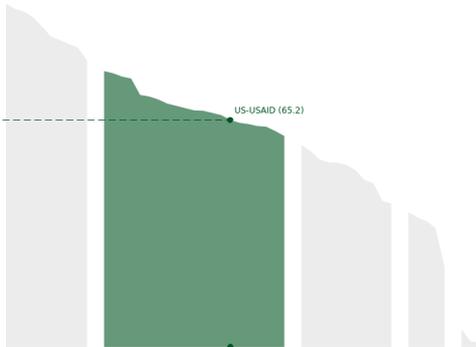
| SCORE: 65.2 | POSITION: 25/50 | 2022 GOOD |

OVERVIEW

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) is the leading development agency in the US and is the largest bilateral aid agency in the world. It works to end extreme poverty in over 100 countries. A joint State Department and USAID team hosts the website, ForeignAssistance.gov, which reports data from a range of US government agencies involved in the implementation of US foreign assistance. The data from this website is used to report to the US Congress and the OECD.

USAID became an IATI member in 2011 and published data jointly with other US agencies from 2013. In 2017, USAID began publishing its own data separately.

| 2020 GOOD | 2018 GOOD | 2016 FAIR | 2015 GOOD | 2014 FAIR | 2013 FAIR |

Organisational planning and commitments
13.7 / 15

Finance and budgets
12.8 / 25

Project attributes
14.1 / 20

Joining-up development data
17.8 / 20

Performance
6.7 / 20

ANALYSIS

USAID remained in the 'good' category but dropped a significant twelve points, falling into the bottom half of the category as compared to the 2020 Index. It dropped points across all five components of the Index, with some falling more than others. It also dropped to third place among the four US agencies assessed in the Index. USAID, however, is the only US agency to maintain monthly publication of its IATI data.

USAID performs above the 'good' group average on the organisational planning and commitments component, its highest scoring component. It scored full points for its organisation strategy, annual report, allocation policy, procurement policy, and audit. This was consistent with 2020. It dropped points on country strategies due to a number of regional strategies not meeting assessment criteria.

USAID's information on joining-up development data scored just under 90% of the available points. Procurement data on tenders, which USAID did not publish consistently across its activities, lowered its score. It did not disclose any contracts data in IATI, but we consistently found these on a related portal.

USAID performed relatively well on the project attribute component but dropped four points from the 2020 Index. It published in the IATI Standard format for all indicators. USAID scored no points for conditions, the major contributor to the overall drop for this component. The other lowest scoring indicator in the component was sub-national locations, which it published for just over two percent of its IATI activities.

Where USAID published finance and budgets indicators, it scored well on commitments, disaggregated budgets, disbursements and expenditures, and total organisational budget. As with other US agencies, this last indicator was only two years forward-looking. However, it did not publish data or score for three of the seven indicators, budget alignment, project budget, and project budget documents. No data was found for any of these three indicators in other formats.

For performance related information, USAID dropped four points from 2020, scoring below average for the 'good' category. It published all indicators to the IATI Registry with objectives, reviews and evaluations, and pre-project impact appraisals having relatively good quality data. However, coverage of performance-related documents was low, with less than two percent of activities scoring against the four performance indicators. USAID failed quality checks for results due to no actual results being available.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- USAID should improve the consistency, timeliness and comprehensiveness of its objectives, pre-project impact appraisals, reviews and evaluations, and results data across all its activities.
- USAID should prioritise the publication of project budgets and project budget documents to the IATI Registry.
- It should provide project specific conditions and/or provide a statement on why conditions are not present.
- USAID 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: 13.7 / 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) or Memorandum of Understanding	Score: 1.22
Audit	Score: 1.87

Finance and budgets

Score: 12.8 / 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: 3.24

Disaggregated budget   Score: 3.24

Project budget   Score: 0

Project budget document   Score: 0

Commitments   Score: 3.25

Disbursements and expenditures   Score: 3.1
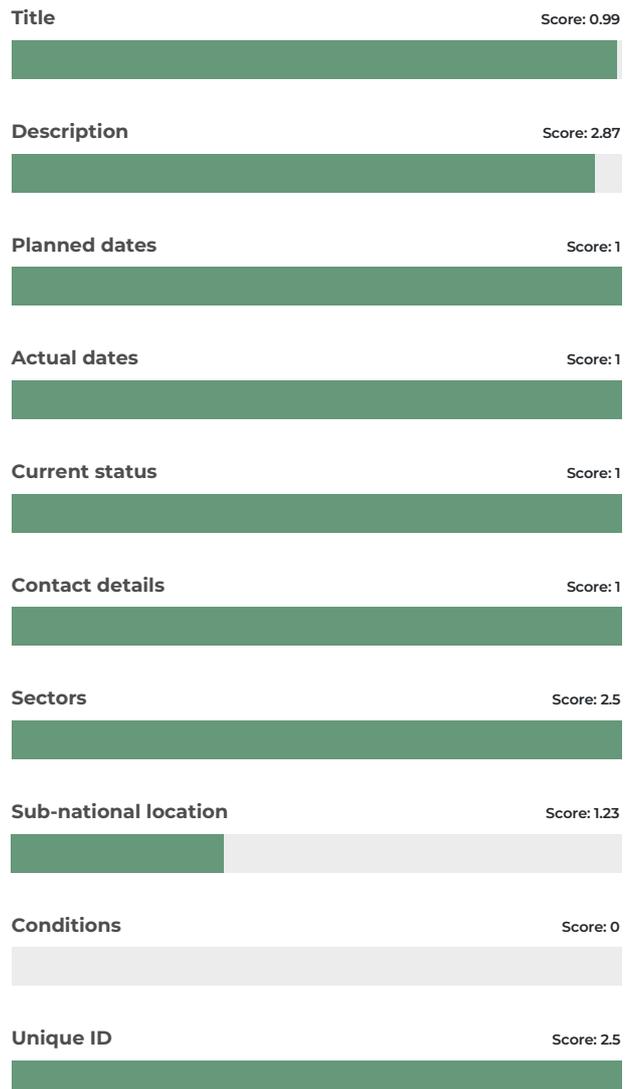
Budget Alignment   Score: 0

Project attributes

Score: 14.1 / 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.

Title   Score: 0.99

Description   Score: 2.87

Planned dates   Score: 1

Actual dates   Score: 1

Current status   Score: 1

Contact details   Score: 1

Sectors   Score: 2.5

Sub-national location   Score: 1.23

Conditions   Score: 0

Unique ID   Score: 2.5

Joining-up development data

Score: 17.8 / 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: 3

Aid type — Score: 3

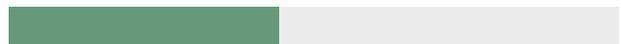**Finance type** — Score: 3

Tied aid status — Score: 3

Networked Data - Implementors — Score: 3.33

Networked Data - Participating Orgs — Score: 1.16

Project procurement — Score: 1.33

Performance

Score: 6.7 / 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 aid organisations to account and also to share knowledge with others on what worked and what did not during a project.
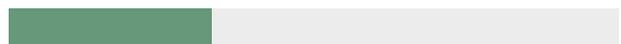
Objectives — Score: 1.73
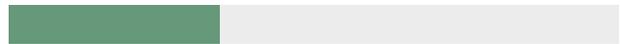
Pre-project impact appraisals — Score: 1.67
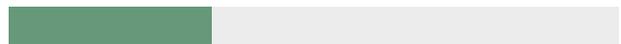
Reviews and evaluations — Score: 1.67

Results — Score: 1.67