United States, Department of Defense

US-Defense (39.8)
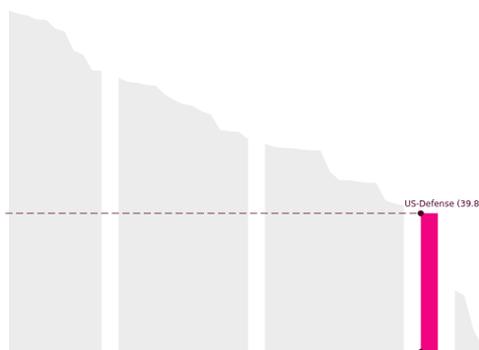
SCORE: 39.8	POSITION: 43/47	2020 POOR

OVERVIEW

The Department of Defense (Defense) works to encourage and enable international partners to work with the United States to achieve strategic objectives, a number of which are foreign assistance-related. Such operations typically work to train, equip, and support foreign defence and security establishments under a discrete set of circumstances. Like the other US agencies, Defense became an IATI member in 2011. It first published to the IATI Registry in May 2013.

2018 FAIR	2016 FAIR	2015 POOR	2014 POOR	2013 POOR

Organisational planning and commitments
8.1 / 15

Finance and budgets
6.8 / 25

Project attributes
12.4 / 20

Joining-up development data
12.5 / 20

Performance
0 / 20

ANALYSIS

Defense has moved down into the poor category since the 2018 Index and remains the lowest scoring US donor. Since the 2018 Index, it has published to the IATI Registry on a less than quarterly basis. We found roughly half of the data for Defense on the IATI Registry and Defense consistently scored below average across the indicators.

Out of the five components in the 2020 Index, Defense scored best in **joining-up development data** with scores for identifying aid type, finance type and tied aid status Defense's procurement documentation failed quality checks on its IATI data as we could not find activity level information for these indicators.

Defense's second-best performing component was **project attributes,** for which it scored well on project information data such as dates, titles, implementing partners and sector information. However, Defense did not score for sub-national location data, which we could not find consistently across its IATI activities.

Defense publishes an organisational file on the IATI Registry. However, many of its **organisational planning** documents such as organisation strategy, allocation policy, annual report, and country strategies were out of date or didn't meet the indicator criteria. We could only find an up-to-date audit and procurement policy on IATI and we scored other documents in the manual survey. We could not find a current annual report for Defense on its website.

Defense performed below average on **finances and budgets**. It only published some budget alignment, commitments, and disbursements and expenditure data in the IATI Standard. We found a total organisational budget with two years of forward-looking information on Defense's website, but it had no further disaggregation. Financial details on projects such as budgets were missing.

Defense did not score on **performance data** such as objectives and results and we did not find data when we manually surveyed its website.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Defense should regularly update its IATI data to ensure that the information it publishes is up to date, including its organisational documents and should try to publish at least quarterly.
- It should add project sub-national locations and improve its financial and budgetary transparency, with project budgets and the publication of its total organisational budget to the IATI Registry.
- It should prioritise the publication of key documents, such as annual reports and country strategies, as well as results and evaluations.
- Defense should consider working with ForeignAssistance.gov to improve Defense data on that website as its data is not easily accessible on its own web portal.

DEEP DIVE

Organisational planning and commitments

Score: 8.1 / 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
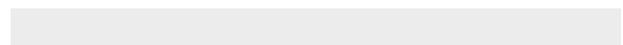
Accessibility   Score: 1.25

Organisation strategy   Score: 0.94

Annual report   Score: 0

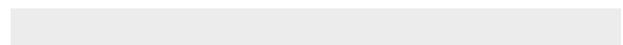**Allocation policy**   Score: 0.94

Procurement policy   Score: 1.88

Strategy (country/sector) or Memorandum of Understanding   Score: 0

Audit   Score: 1.88

Finance and budgets

Score: 6.8 / 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.
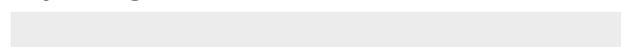
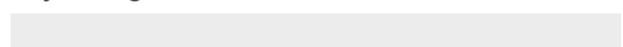**Disaggregated budget**   Score: 0
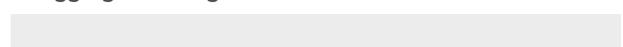
Project budget   Score: 0

Project budget document   Score: 0

Commitments   Score: 2.13

finances.

Disbursements and expenditures Score: 2.05

Budget Alignment Score: 1.74

Total organisation budget Score: 0.93

Project attributes

Score: 12.4 / 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: 0.75

Description Score: 0.73

Planned dates Score: 0.75

Actual dates Score: 0.75
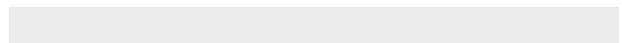
Current status Score: 0.75

Contact details Score: 0.75

Sectors Score: 2.63

Sub-national location Score: 0

Implementer Score: 2.63
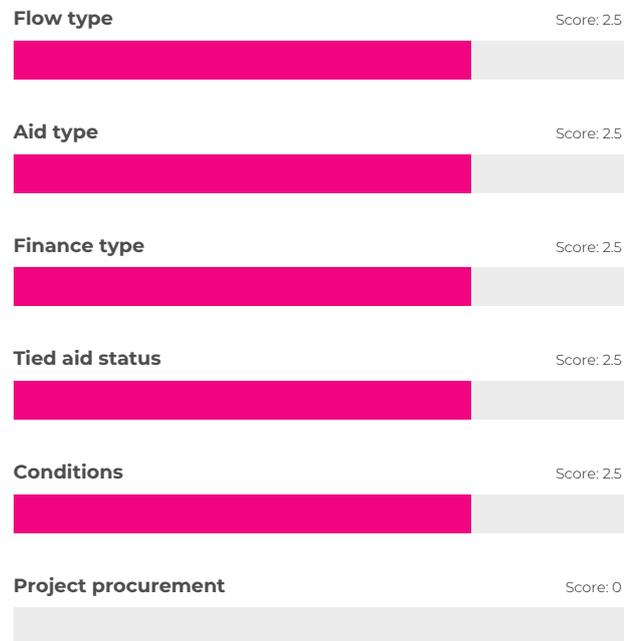
Unique ID Score: 2.63

Joining-up development data

Score: 12.5 / 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: 2.5

Aid type   Score: 2.5

Finance type   Score: 2.5

Tied aid status   Score: 2.5

Conditions   Score: 2.5

Project procurement   Score: 0

Performance

Score: 0 / 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: 0

Pre-project impact appraisals   Score: 0

Reviews and evaluations   Score: 0

Results   Score: 0