United States, Department of State
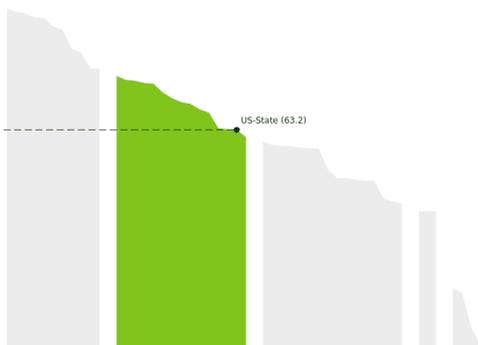
| SCORE: 63.2 | POSITION: 25/47 | 2020 GOOD |

US-State (63.2)

OVERVIEW

The US Department of State (State) is responsible for the implementation of US foreign policy and supports US foreign assistance programs, including those of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). It leads on the design and implementation of the Foreign Assistance Dashboard (ForeignAssistance.gov) and is responsible for coordinating and publishing all US agency IATI data, excluding USAID and the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). State became an IATI member in 2011 and first published to the IATI Registry in 2014.

| 2018 FAIR | 2016 FAIR | 2015 FAIR | 2014 POOR | 2013 POOR |

Organisational planning and commitments
14.4 / 15

Finance and budgets
16.7 / 25

Project attributes
15.5 / 20

Joining-up development data
16.7 / 20

Performance
0 / 20

ANALYSIS

State moved into the 'good' category for the 2020 Index ranking it third out of the five US agencies we assessed. It moved from quarterly to monthly publication to the IATI Registry for the 2020 Index. State published just over 70 percent of data searched for in the 2020 Index to the IATI Registry.

State published most of its **finance and budget** indicators in the IATI format, which made this one of the highest scoring components, although it was missing project budget documents. Total organisational budgets were only two years forward-looking. Other financial indicators, including commitments and disbursements and expenditures, although improved from 2018, were not always available.

For **joining-up development data,** State did well in providing aid type, flow type and grant type but was missing key documents on procurement such as contracts and tenders.

State published all **project attributes** to the IATI Registry. However, descriptions, sub-national locations, and titles failed quality checks because they were not detailed enough or could not be found.

State published data for all **organisational planning and commitments** indicators to the IATI Registry. State added its full country strategy documentation, which it did not provide in 2018.

We did not add points for any of the **performance** indicators. Although State published some reviews and evaluations to the IATI Registry and on ForeignAssistance.gov for the first time this year, they were not detailed enough nor could we consistently find them. State did not publish objectives, results or pre-project impact appraisals at all.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- State should work to improve its project level data quality. With the lack of basic information, such as full titles and descriptions, project level budgets, sub-national locations and

such as full titles and descriptions, project level budgets, sub-national locations and performance documents, a user will continue to have difficulty finding useful project level information.

- State should work to improve the publication of contracts and tenders which were largely missing.
- It should start to publish financial data and documentation on its activities and publish three-year forward-looking budgets where possible.
- It should publish its performance objectives and results, and work on publishing more detailed evaluations.

DEEP DIVE

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: 1.87

Audit   Score: 1.88

Finance and budgets

Score: 16.7 / 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: 3.22

**Project budget**   Score: 1.67

Project budget document   Score: 0

Commitments   Score: 3.15

Disbursements and expenditures   Score: 2.73

Budget Alignment   Score: 2.5

Total organisation budget   Score: 3.47
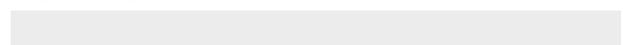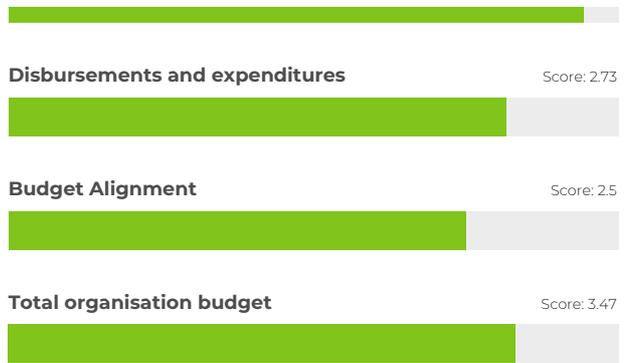
Project attributes

Score: 15.5 / 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: 0.5

Description   Score: 0.5

Planned dates   Score: 1

Actual dates   Score: 0.99

Current status   Score: 1

Contact details   Score: 1

Sectors   Score: 3.48

Sub-national location   Score: 0

Implementer   Score: 3.5

Unique ID   Score: 3.5

Joining-up development data

Flow type   Score: 3.33
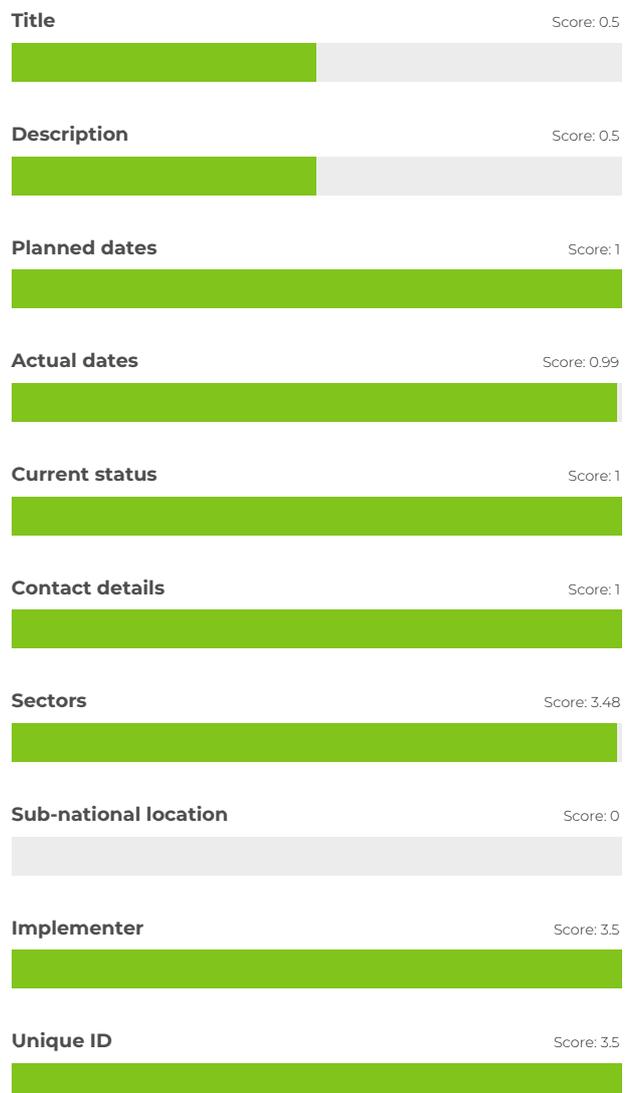
Joining-up development data

Score: 16.7 / 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.

Aid type Score: 3.33

Finance type Score: 3.33

Tied aid status Score: 3.33

Conditions Score: 3.33

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