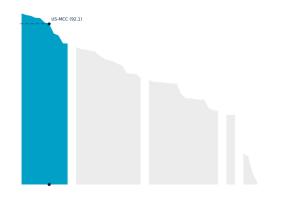


## **Aid Transparency Index 2020**

## **United States, Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)**



SCORE:	POSITION:	2020
92.1	7/47	VERY GOOD

### OVERVIEW

Created by the US Congress in 2004, the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is an independent bilateral US foreign aid agency. It provides large-scale, multi-year 'compacts' to eligible countries for economic growth in focused sectors. As part of the US government, MCC became an IATI member in 2011 and first published IATI data in January 2013. It started publishing as a stand-alone publisher in 2018.

2018	2016	2015	2014	2013
VERY GOOD				

Organisational planning and commitments 14.4/15

Finance and budgets 23.3/25

Project attributes 19/20

Joining-up development data 18.6/20

Performance 16.8/20

### **ANALYSIS**

As in previous years, MCC remained in the 'very good' category and is currently the top performing US agency and the highest performing bilateral donor in the 2020 Index MCC began reporting directly to the IATI Registry in 2018 and now publishes over 90 percent of the data searched for in the Index to the IATI Registry. It continued to publish on a quarterly basis, which is consistent with its 2018 frequency.

More than any other donor, MCC made extensive use of hierarchies in its data with three levels of publication for its country compacts, components, and subcomponents.

MCC scored above average in the **finance and budgets** component, its topranking component, in which it achieved over 95 percent of the indicator scores available. MCC lost minor points for only having a two-year forward-looking total organisational budget.

MCC also scored well on **project attributes**, for which it published to IATI across all the indicators such as descriptions, locations, titles, and dates. Where sampled, these data were of a high quality. We did not award full scores due to frequency of publication.

MCC scored highly for IATI data on nearly all of the **joining-up development data** indicators. These included conditions, aid types, and procurement (but not tenders). MCC provided data such as conditions, aid and flow types in a comparable format. In a manual search, we consistently found tenders available in other formats on the MCC website.

MCC published all **organisational planning** indicators in the comparable IATI format including country strategies, which were always available for all the countries where MCC works.

Finally, MCC scored lowest in the **performance** component. It published to the IATI Registry across all four indicators, but failed sampling for reviews and evaluations largely due to the fact that the documents reviewed in sampling did not contain in-depth evaluations. We found sampling of results, objectives, and pre-project impact appraisals to be of high quality.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

• MCC should work towards publishing on a monthly basis in order to provide fully up to date

- information.
- MCC should correctly code its documents in the IATI Standard for reviews and evaluations
  of all relevant projects and activities.
- MCC should work towards publishing project searchable tenders to the IATI Registry in order to improve its joined-up data.
- MCC should continue efforts to publish more detailed information on the work of its
  Millennium Challenge Accounts (MCAs), either through MCC or encourage the MCAs to do so
  on their own account.

### **DEEP DIVE**

# Organisational planning and commitments

Score: 14.4 / 15

AROUT 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.



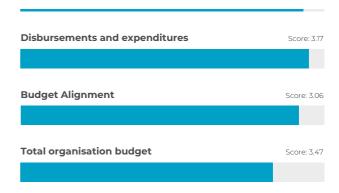
# Finance and budgets

Score: 23.3 / 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: 3.17
Project budget document	Score: 3.17
Commitments	Score: 3.11

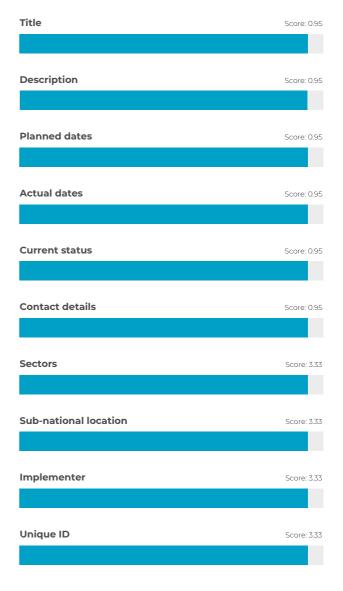


# **Project attributes**

Score: 19 / 20

A POLIT COMPONENT

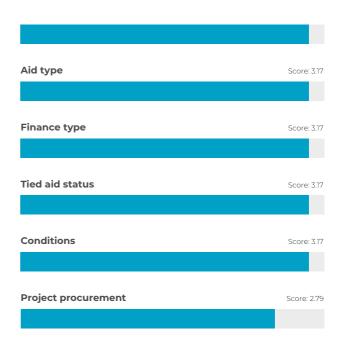
This component refers to descriptive, non-financial data, including basics like the title and description of a project. Information like this is important as it is often the entry point for data users to quickly understand what a project is about. We also look for other information that helps to put 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.



Score: 18.6 / 20

#### AROUT 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.

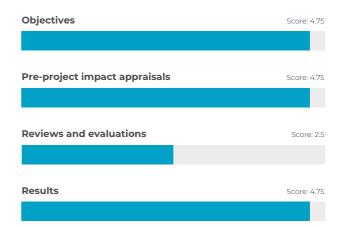


### **Performance**

Score: 16.8 / 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.



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