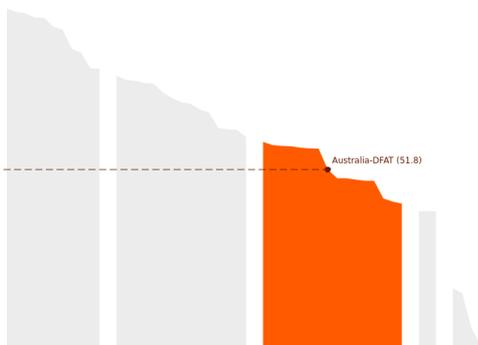


Australia, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)



SCORE:
51.8

POSITION:
34/47

2020
FAIR

OVERVIEW

In November 2013, Australia integrated the Agency for International Development (AusAID) into the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), which is now responsible for implementing Australia's aid programme. Its aims to advance Australia's security interests internationally and raise living standards by reducing poverty in the Indo-Pacific region. Australia became a member of IATI in 2008 and first published IATI data in September 2011.

2018
FAIR

2016
FAIR

2014
FAIR

2013
FAIR

Organisational planning and commitments
5.9 / 15

Finance and budgets
12.7 / 25

Project attributes
15.7 / 20

Joining-up development data
17.5 / 20

Performance
0 / 20

ANALYSIS

DFAT has remained in the 'fair' category for the fifth consecutive edition of the Index despite dropping more than five points since 2018. DFAT publishes to the IATI Registry on a quarterly basis.

Of the **organisational planning and commitments** indicators, DFAT only published its annual reports to the IATI Registry and published procurement policies, allocation policies, and audits in other formats. We could not find DFAT's organisational and country strategies. DFAT performed below average with regards to **finances and budgets**. While it published an organisational (disaggregated budget), we could not find activity-level project budgets and found that it published project budget documents inconsistently or else did not meet the indicator definitions. DFAT scored well on budget alignment and published commitments as well as disbursements and expenditures in the IATI Standard. DFAT scored slightly above average for **project attributes**, as it published all of them to the IATI Registry except for sub-national location, which was not available in any format. It scored above average for all **joining-up development data** indicators. However, while it published contracts and tenders consistently, DFAT did not make them available in the IATI format. DFAT failed to score against any of the **performance** indicators. It did not publish pre-project impact appraisals, project objectives, results, or reviews and evaluations to the IATI Registry. Where we were able to find these documents, they either did not meet the indicator definitions or appeared inconsistently.

DFAT needs to make sure it also gets the basics right. In too many instances, including for results documents and objectives, the links to the required documents were broken. We also frequently found that budget documents, including line item breakdowns and reviews and evaluations were out of date. Moreover, DFAT frequently linked reviews and evaluations to the organisation's annual reports rather than to project-specific assessments detailing what the activity achieved and whether it met the intended objectives.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- DFAT should prioritise the publication of organisational and country strategies to inform stakeholders of its focus and objectives

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- It should review and address its current approach to project performance and impact and make available information on project impact appraisals, project objectives, results, and reviews and evaluations. Such information is vital for internal learning, continuous improvement, and development effectiveness.
- It should regularly update its data to ensure that dates and activity statuses are correct and that links to key documents (including results documents and objectives) remain intact.
- It should improve its financial and budgetary transparency by including line-item budgets at the activity level for all projects.

DEEP DIVE

Organisational planning and commitments

Score: 5.9 / 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.

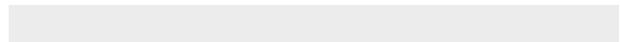
Quality of FOI legislation

Score: 1.25



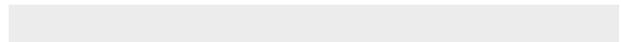
Accessibility

Score: 0



Organisation strategy

Score: 0



Annual report

Score: 1.88



Allocation policy

Score: 0.94



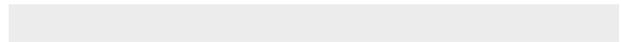
Procurement policy

Score: 0.94



Strategy (country/sector) or Memorandum of Understanding

Score: 0



Audit

Score: 0.94



Finance and budgets

Score: 12.7 / 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

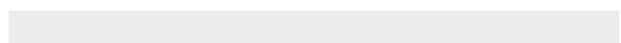
Disaggregated budget

Score: 2.21



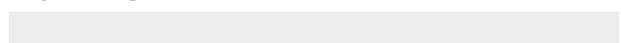
Project budget

Score: 0



Project budget document

Score: 0

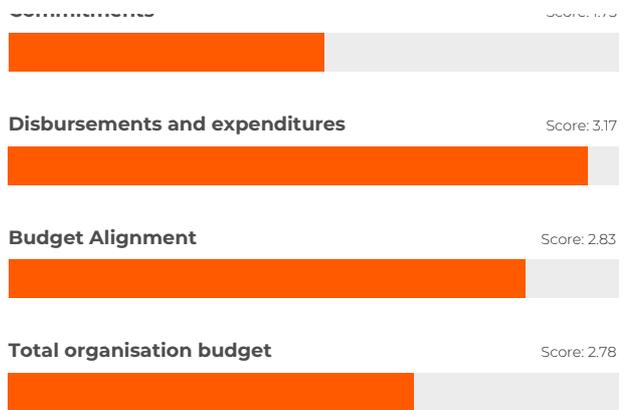


Commitments

Score: 1.73



finances.



Project attributes

Score: 15.7 / 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

Score: 17.5 / 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: 3.17



Aid type Score: 3.17



Finance type Score: 3.17



Tied aid status Score: 3.17



Conditions Score: 3.17



Project procurement Score: 1.67



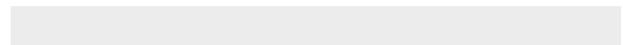
Performance

Score: 0 / 20

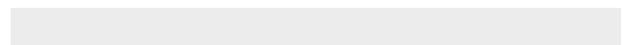
ABOUT COMPONENT

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

