OVERVIEW

Having changed its name in 2015, Global Affairs Canada is the largest grantor of Canadian official development assistance and leads Canada’s bilateral development assistance. Global Affairs Canada became a member of IATI in November 2011 and published its first quarterly data sets in October 2012. Global Affairs Canada was Chair of the IATI Governing Board and Members Assembly until April 2018.

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**ANALYSIS**

Global Affairs Canada progressed into the ‘very good’ category from ‘good’ in 2018. It published to the IATI Registry on a monthly basis.

Global Affairs Canada was the third-highest scoring bilateral donor. It published 88 percent of the data that we evaluated to the IATI Registry. It did not disclose IATI data for a few of the indicators, however, including tenders, pre-project impact appraisals and project budget documents. Global Affairs Canada only partially published reviews and evaluations to the IATI Registry and less than 1 percent of activities contained an evaluation document. It provided tenders on a publicly available procurement site.

Global Affairs Canada ranked third best for its IATI Registry data quality within the organisational planning and commitments component and scored close to full marks on this component. It also scored highly for indicators in the joining-up development data component. With the project attributes component, however, it failed our IATI sampling for the sub-national location indicator because it primarily provided locations at the national level only. In addition, we did not find planned start dates for its activities. With the finance and budgets component, it did not disaggregate the project budgets on a quarterly basis, capital spend was not present for budget alignment, and the disaggregated budgets were only two years forward looking. For the results indicator in the performance component, results document samples failed where Global Affairs Canada did not publish actual results for projects that have been running for several years. We could not find pre-project impact appraisals or project budget documents in Global Affairs Canada’s IATI data or published in other formats.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Global Affairs Canada should aim to improve its publication by providing pre-project impact appraisals and project budget documents.
- It should also endeavour to publish actual results documents or data for projects that have been running for several years.
- It should aim to disclose all data to the IATI Registry, including starting to provide tenders and to disclose reviews and evaluations for all activities.
- It should provide specific sub-national location information.
- Global Affairs Canada can improve its finance and budgets score by providing forward-looking breakdowns quarterly rather than annually for projects and publishing full three-year forward-looking disaggregated budgets.
Organisational planning and commitments
Score: 14.9 / 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.

Finance and budgets
Score: 19 / 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.
Project attributes
Score: 16.2 / 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: 19.6 / 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.
Performance
Score: 11.3 / 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.