Aid Transparency Index 2020

United Arab Emirates, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFAIC)

SCORE: 17.7  POSITION: 44/47  2020  VERY POOR

OVERVIEW

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) initially spread responsibility for development assistance across more than forty units. It has undergone significant changes in recent years. The Ministry of Cooperation and International Development merged with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in February 2016. The newly-created Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MOFAIC) maintains overall responsibility for setting policy, geographical and sectoral priorities, as well as for implementation and assessment of the impact of the country's foreign aid programmes.

ANALYSIS

UAE-MOFAIC ranks seventh of the top donors who made the greatest changes in their transparency scores since the 2018 Index. However, it remains in the 'very poor' category.

UAE-MOFAIC greatly increased the amount of information available on its website. Particularly, for the project attributes component, we awarded it 33 percent of the available points for having made data on descriptions, implementer names, titles, and sectors available to download in a summary excel document from its website.

UAE-MOFAIC also made basic data from three of the seven joined up development indicators available on aid, flow, and finance type. It also published some financial information on commitments and disbursements. We found several current organisational documents, including annual report, organisational strategy, and procurement policy. It did not publish information for all other indicators.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The UAE-MOFAIC should start publishing timely, comprehensive, and forward-looking information on its foreign assistance in a comparable and open format by adding an IATI organisational file and data about all of its activities.
- It should build on its summary statistics by providing project budget information and documentation to offer a full picture of its development aid and to make this more accessible to data users by developing a searchable aid portal.
Organisational planning and commitments

Score: 2.8 / 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: 3.3 / 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.
**Project attributes**

Score: 6.6 / 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 pinpointed to a capital city or the centre of a country) or the sector that the project deals with, for example, education or agriculture.

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**Joining-up development data**

Score: 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.
### 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.

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