

Aid Transparency Index 2024

How has funding for agriculture in Liberia changed over the last five years? Have international agencies met their commitments to provide nutrition funding? How much US foreign assistance is directed to local actors? Who funds education in Bangladesh? Which organisations are working in Peru? Who is funding the construction of health clinics in Kaduna State, Nigeria, and how has the money been spent? How much UK aid goes to private contractors? Who are the top funders of gender equality projects in Guatemala? Does climate finance align with country needs in Kenya? What international funding is directed to Women's Economic Empowerment in Pakistan? Who is funding indigenous land rights and where are the gaps? How do aid flows to Chad align with the country's national priorities? Where exactly is food aid being channelled? How is the Netherlands planning to spend its global health budget next year? How much funding is currently going to unpaid care?

Executive summary

The Aid Transparency Index has tracked the transparency of the largest international aid organizations over the last 12 years. Results from the Index have shown an incremental but persistent increase in the quality of aid data published by these organizations. The 2024 Aid Transparency Index has recorded its highest ever scores, showing a continuation of this trend. The work, however, is not finished. Some publishers have effectively stagnated in their performance in the Index, and some organizations have dropped, sometimes significantly.

Performance on the 2024 Index comes at a time when aid transparency data is being used more than ever by aid and development agencies, journalists, think tanks and civil society organizations. High quality, granular, real time aid data is essential for better decisions around funding, planning, coordination, accountability, and to build longer term improvements, resilience, and self-sufficiency.

The 2024 Index has recorded its highest ever scores

OVERALL. The average score across all organizations in 2024 was the highest recorded so far – this increase reflects incremental improvements in the quality, quantity and timeliness of aid data published by the 50 international aid organizations we assess.

All but one of the organizations are publishing at least some data in the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) Standard – meaning it is open, standardized, comparable and machine readable. This has resulted in the lowest number of organizations ever scoring in the ‘very poor’ category.

TOP OF THE CHART. At the top of the rankings, the African Development Bank (AfDB) (Sovereign) ranked first, the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) ranked second, and the highest-ranking bilateral aid agency, the US Millennium Challenge Corporation came third. Altogether, 12 organizations achieved ‘very good’ scores, the most ever in this category.

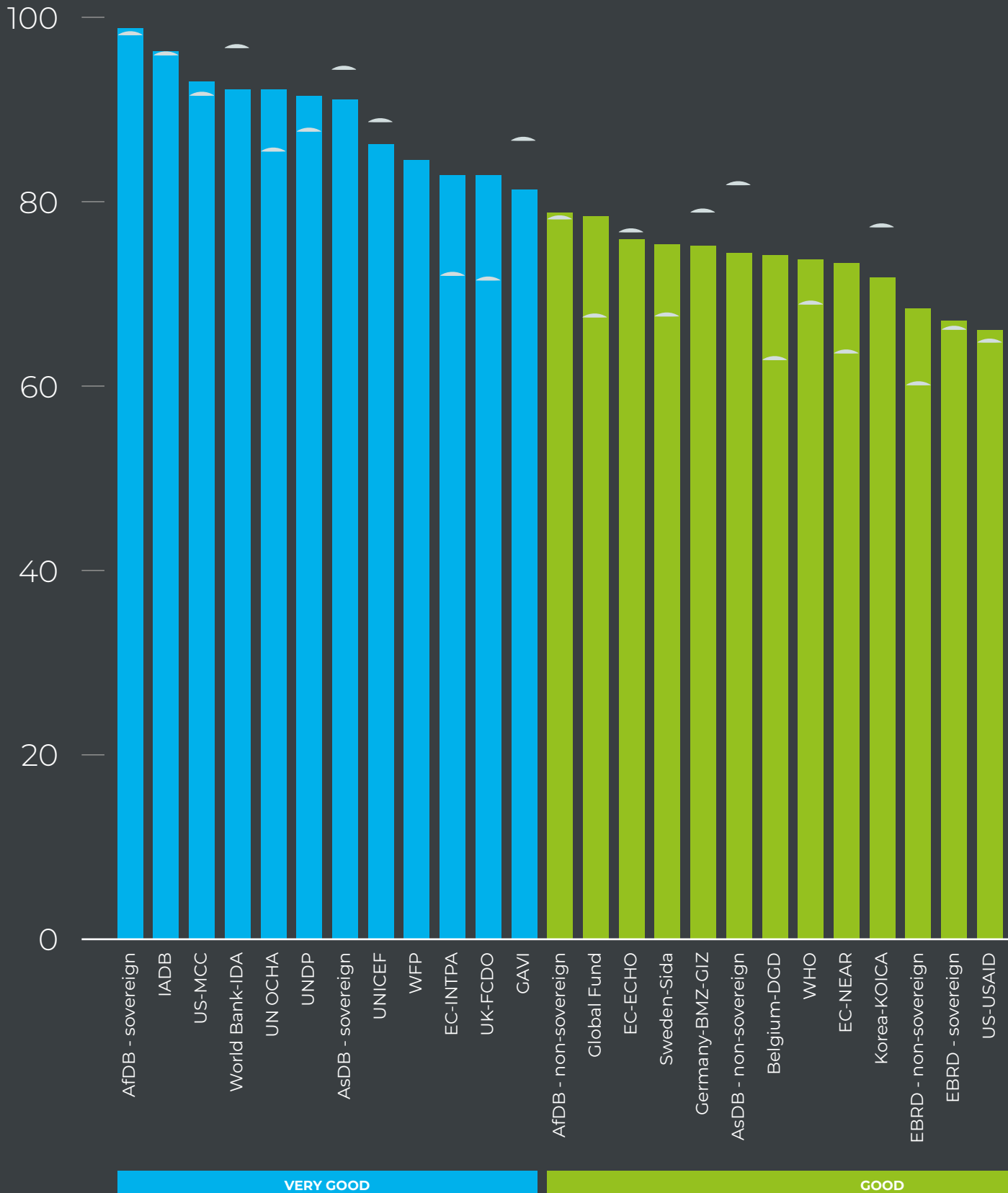
MOST IMPROVED. The UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and the European Commission Directorate General for International Partnerships increased their scores by 11 and 10.5 points respectively. Lower down in the rankings, the United Arab Emirates Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation increased its score by 43 points as it started publishing detailed IATI data for its activities, and Japan International Cooperation Agency jumped 31.9 points as it re-started its IATI publication following a hiatus in 2022.

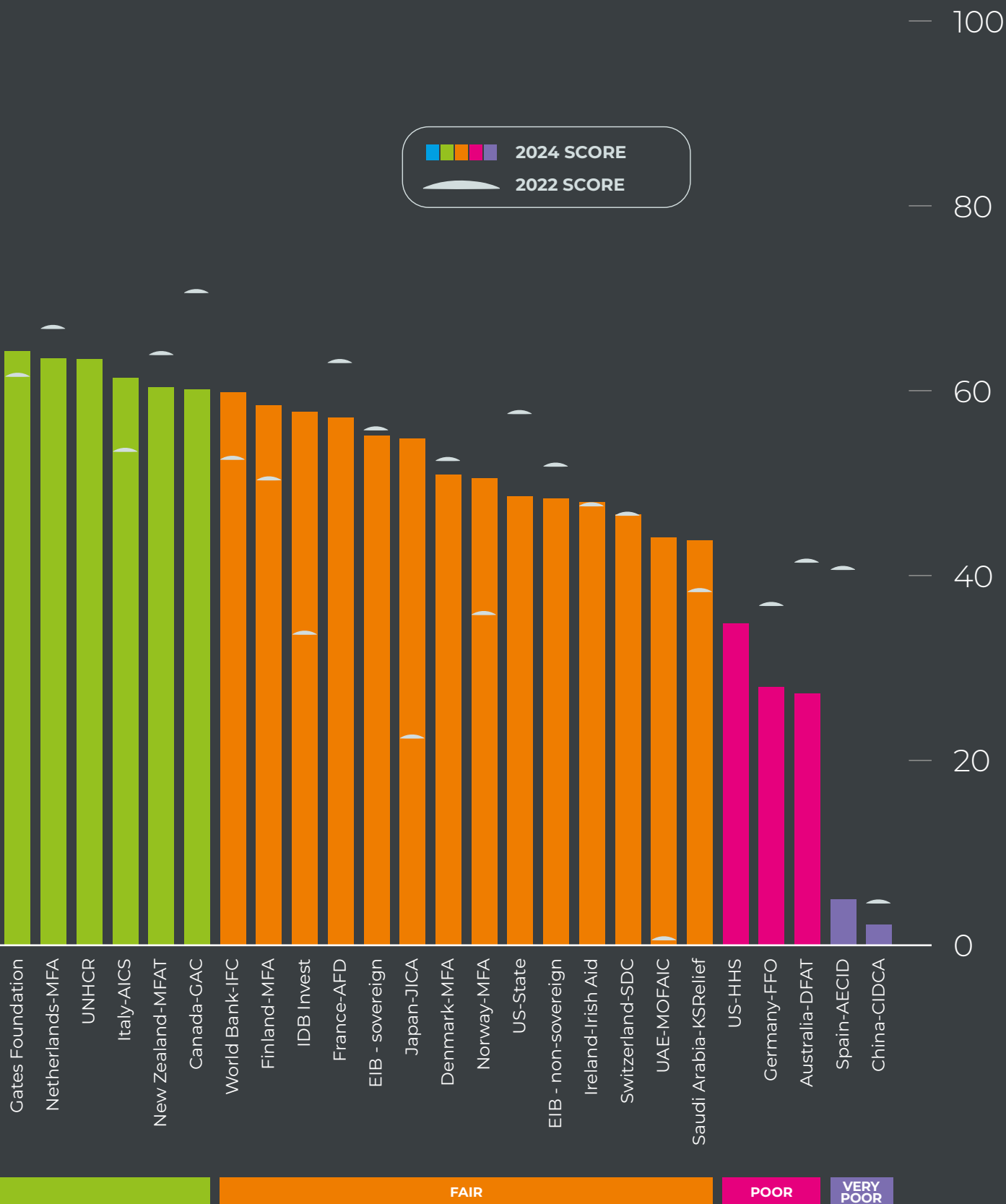
UN organizations perform well in the Index

Six UN organizations were assessed in this Index. All publish good quality IATI data on their projects and organizational policies. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs was the highest-ranking UN organization, achieving fourth place with a score of 92.2. The World Food Programme and UNHCR – the UN Refugee Agency, both first timers to the Index, scored 84.5 and 63.4 respectively.

Click [here](#) to visit the 2024 Aid Transparency Index website

Overall scores and ranking





The sovereign portfolios of development banks are top performers

The Index assesses six sovereign (public sector) portfolios and six non-sovereign (private sector) portfolios of development finance institutions (DFIs). The sovereign portfolios of DFIs occupy three of the top five positions in the ranking: AfDB (1st), IADB (2nd) and World Bank International Development Association (4th). DFIs tend to include more expansive confidentiality clauses in contracts with the private sector which limit disclosure, and non-sovereign portfolios generally rank lower than their sovereign counterparts.

Performance data can be used to scrutinize projects

Transparency of performance data (e.g., evaluations) has improved with each iteration of the Index, with 72% of organizations publishing at least some high-quality aid data about their objectives, a third publishing good, up-to-date project results, and just over a quarter publishing project evaluations. Although the gains to date demonstrate that publishing robust performance data is possible, this issue stubbornly remains the area most in need of prioritizing.

We're starting to see improvements in the transparency of the aid network

Transparency into the complicated network of donors and implementers can add valuable information to show how aid flows between organizations. To encourage organizations to be more transparent about who they work with, we introduced the **Networked data** indicator. It incentivizes the use of recognized, consistent references for organizations. Since 2022 there has been significant improvement in the use of such references. Ten organizations were using standard references for the first time, and 17 increased the number of references used.

Timely data is important – and improving

Aid data in the IATI Standard can be used for real-time decision making, provided it is current when published and regularly updated. The Index now measures both. The number of monthly publishers (best practice) jumped from 30 to 37; our new time lag test shows 34 agencies publishing data that was a month old or less.

The Index drives improvements in aid data

The two-stage Index assessment is a collaborative process. Following an initial scoring, we engage with agencies to provide detailed feedback on their performance against each of the 35 indicators. Agencies act on this feedback to improve their data quality in time for the final assessment. For the 2024 Index we saw an increase of 6.0 points in the overall average score between the first and second rounds of assessment – a significant improvement which translates to more timely, good quality and useable aid information.

The Index helps to define aid transparency and data quality by setting out detailed criteria, which we continue to refine over time, responding to evolving practice. Small changes to the assessment and scoring approaches over iterations of the Index have ratcheted up the transparency requirements of the assessment. This means that overall data quality as measured by the Index is significantly better than at any other time. We will continue to increase the rigor of the Index to drive greater transparency in the coming years.

The 2024 Aid Transparency Index was independently researched and written by Publish What You Fund, the global campaign for aid and development transparency. The contents are the sole responsibility of Publish What You Fund. It was produced with financial support from the International Aid Transparency Initiative.