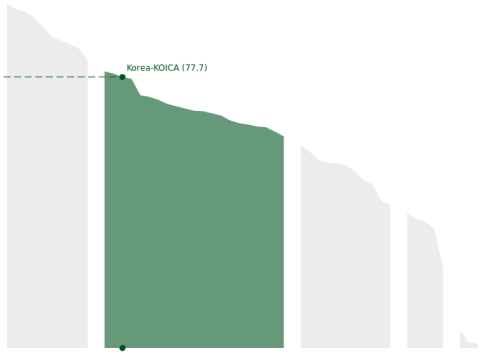
South Korea, International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)



SCORE:	POSITION:	2022
77.7	13/50	GOOD

OVERVIEW

Established by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) implements South Korea's grant aid and technical assistance programmes. KOICA became an IATI member in January 2016 and first published IATI data in August of the same year.

2020	2018	2016	2014	2013
GOOD	POOR	POOR	POOR	POOR

Organisational planning and commitments
14.1 / 15

Finance and budgets
17.7 / 25

Project attributes
17.9 / 20

Joining-up development data
17.6 / 20

Performance
10.5 / 20

ANALYSIS

Since 2018, Korea's KOICA has been steadily increasing its scores. This year it has increased by seven points compared to the 2020 Index, ranking as our fourth best improver in the 2022 Index. It remains in the same category for the 2020 Index but now ranks fourth in 'good'. It started publishing to the IATI Registry for the first time in 2018 and has maintained publishing on a quarterly basis.

KOICA made gains in the finance and budgets and joining-up development data components for the 2022 Index. For finance data it improved by five points adding project budget documents to over 90% of its activities and also improving the coverage of activity disbursement and expenditure. It could improve this further by adding total project budget data to each IATI activity, as this data is already published in other formats and was scored through the manual survey. It publishes full three year forward-looking budgets but full disaggregated organisation budgets were still missing from its IATI data, although one year forward-looking was found on its website.

Joining-up development data was KOICA's second best performing component. Whilst KOICA did add procurement data this year to the IATI Registry, its contracts and tenders did not pass our quality checks as no activity specific documentation could be found. We found procurement data in other formats on its website or other data portals.

KOICA continued to publish all organisational planning documents in its IATI organisational file with current and searchable documents, with the exception of the country/sector strategies. KOICA also maintained its aid data portal and scored full points for the accessibility indicator.

KOICA maintained and added to its high score for the project attributes indicators, publishing most data for the indicators to the IATI Registry for the 2022 Index. Most notably, it added location data to its IATI activities. KOICA also added conditions data to its IATI activity files. If KOICA were to publish monthly, it would achieve full scores for this component.

KOICA lost points for the performance component. As in 2020 it scored for publishing objectives and results, which it made available on the IATI Registry. KOICA made its reviews and evaluations available on its website, but it lost points because consistent pre-project impact appraisals could not be found.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- KOICA should improve the frequency of its publication and publish updates to its IATI data on a monthly basis to ensure up to date information is provided.
- KOICA should publish total project budgets and project budget line items to the IATI Registry.
- We encourage KOICA to publish results data across all activities on the IATI Registry and start publishing reviews and evaluations and pre-project impact appraisals to the IATI Registry.
- KOICA should start publishing all available contracts and tenders for each IATI activity to the IATI registry in order to make this data more accessible.

DEEP DIVE

Organisational planning and commitments

Score: 14.1 / 15

ABOUT COMPONENT

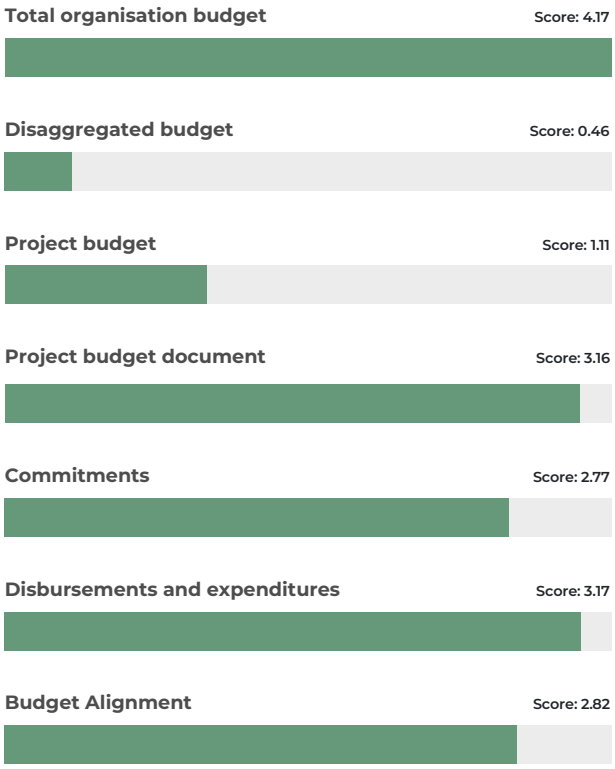
This component looks at the overall aims and strategy of an organisation. We check for any public commitments to aid transparency. We also make sure audits are published and if planning documents have been published, including by parent organisations (including national governments) where applicable. 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: 17.7 / 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 finances.

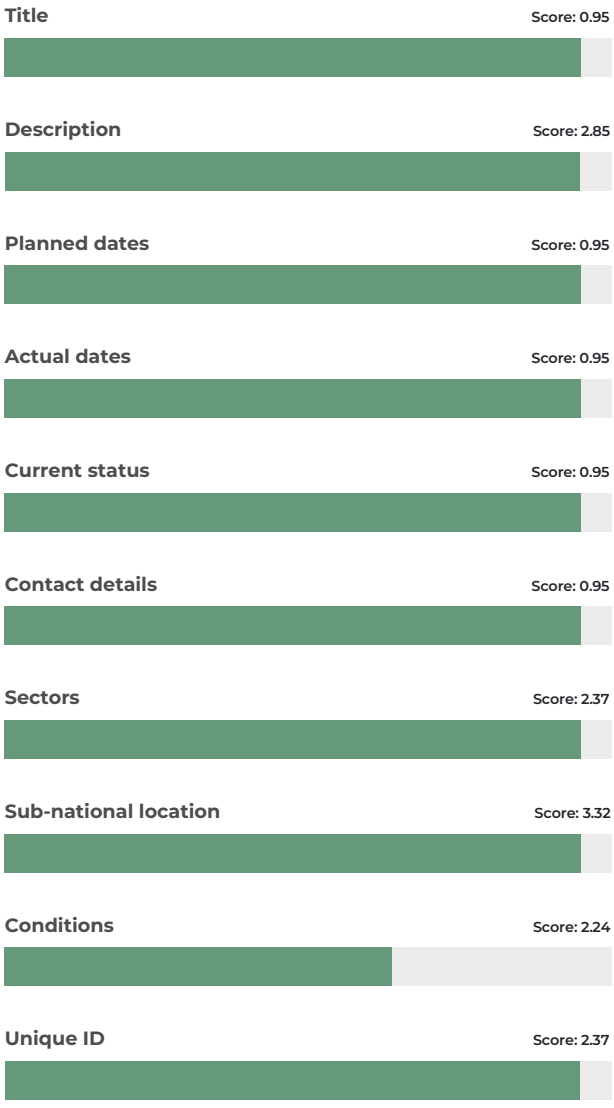


Project attributes

Score: 17.9 / 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 or the sector that the project deals with, for example, education or agriculture.

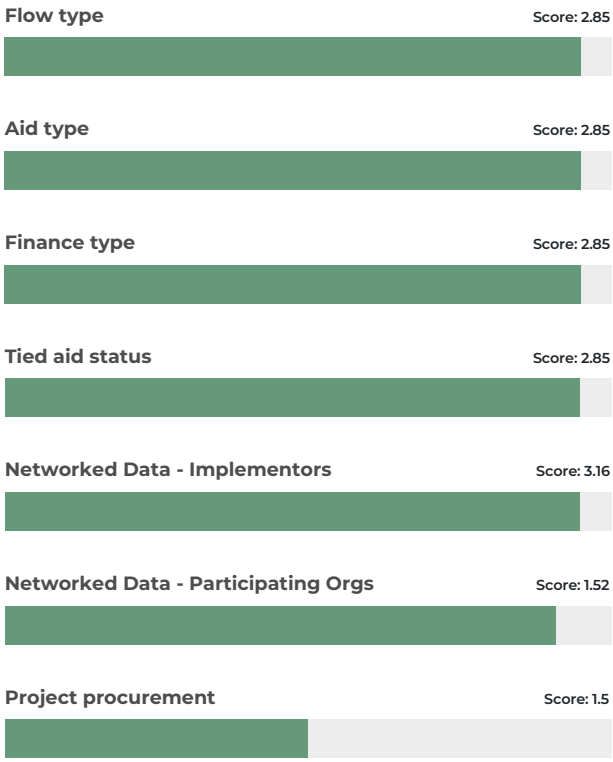


Joining-up development data

Score: 17.6 / 20

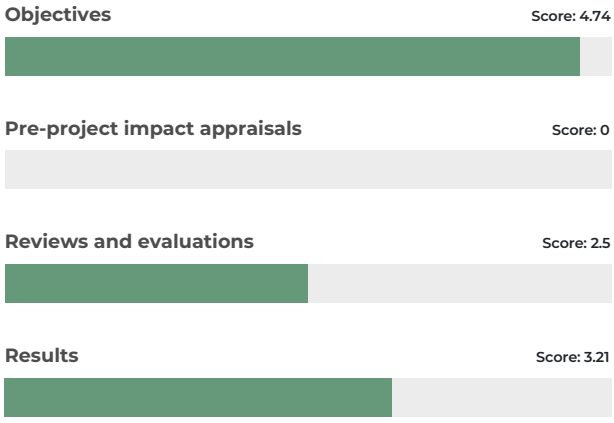
ABOUT COMPONENT

This component looks at how well an organisation'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, which need to integrate information on aid with their own budgets and systems.



Performance

Score: 10.5 / 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 aid organisations to account and also to share knowledge with others on what worked and what did not during a project.