Towards the 2020 Aid Transparency Index

Alex Tilley
What is the Index

The only independent measure of aid transparency among the world’s major development agencies. It measures transparency according to:

• Organisational planning and commitments
• Finance and budgets
• Project Attributes
• Joining up development standards
• Performance
The Index is a giant quality check

Six months of work
45 agencies
At least 18,900 data fields/documents manually checked

A dedicated research team
35 indicators
42 independent reviewers
The Index is a feedback, engagement and improvement tool

The consultative, two-stage nature of the process arguably represents the only feedback mechanism for donors, at present, regarding the quality of their IATI and other aid transparency data.

The chart to the right shows the impact of this feedback in the 2018 Index process.
The Index is also a ranking
Too many organisations fail on basic data quality issues:

- Incorrect activity dates and statuses
- Missing or invalid country codes
- Misleading transaction information
- Noisy data

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<td>2107-09-30</td>
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Source - d.portal
Index 2018 - Results

The pieces of information critical to assess project and donor impact are the most difficult to find – if available at all

- Collectively, donors only score 27% on average for the performance component.

Director of a NGO platform in Cotonou, Benin

“We cannot play our watchdog role if we do not know what the objectives are, what results are expected. We have asked, for example, the European Union to share their log frame with us right at the beginning of their projects. That way, we have a roadmap we can follow.”
2020 Index - who will be assessed and when?

- Donor selection criteria remains the same as in 2018
- All donors from 2018 remain in the 2020 Index
- Two new donors have been added: Saudi Arabia (KSRelief) and Turkey (TIKA)
- This reflects the increasing participation of south-south donors and our continued focus on bilateral aid
- Data collection will start on 1st December 2019 and end on 30th March 2020. The Index report will be launched in June 2020
Methodology

• The 2020 index will not feature any major changes to the index methodology.
• One indicator has been changed - Capital Spend -> Budget Alignment.
• Online consultation through Github is now live, running from 9\textsuperscript{th} to 19\textsuperscript{th} September.
Engagement

• We have sent emails to our main contacts for all of the donors included in the Index.

• We will work with donors and independent reviewers during the data collection process.

• Get in touch if you have any questions about how to improve transparency!
The 2020 Aid Transparency Index

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