



# DEVTECH

## Fiscal Transparency Mechanisms for Delivering Effective Public Budget Scrutiny: **The Case of Foreign Aid**

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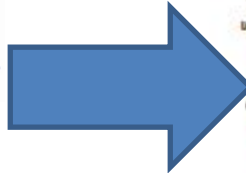
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## IMF EVALUATES BUDGET INSTITUTIONS IN G-20 COUNTRIES

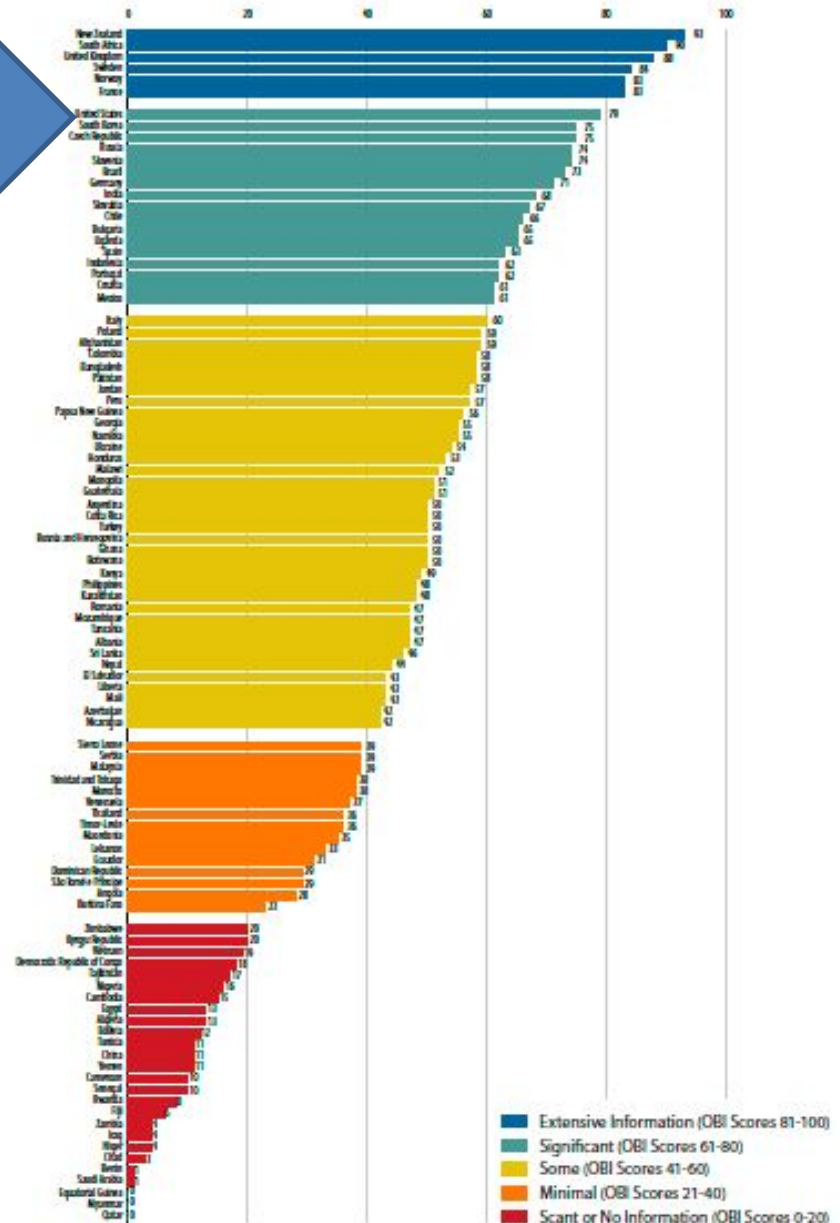
- **Fiscal Reporting:** The consolidated financial statements give a comprehensive view of the federal government's finances.
- **Macroeconomic and Fiscal Forecasting:** OMB, CBO, and GAO independently prepare long-term fiscal projections for the federal government with a range of alternative scenarios.
- **Fiscal Risk:** The budget documents include a comprehensive discussion of fiscal risks.
- **Independent Fiscal Agency:** Among G-20 countries, the United States CBO is the largest and best resourced fiscal council.



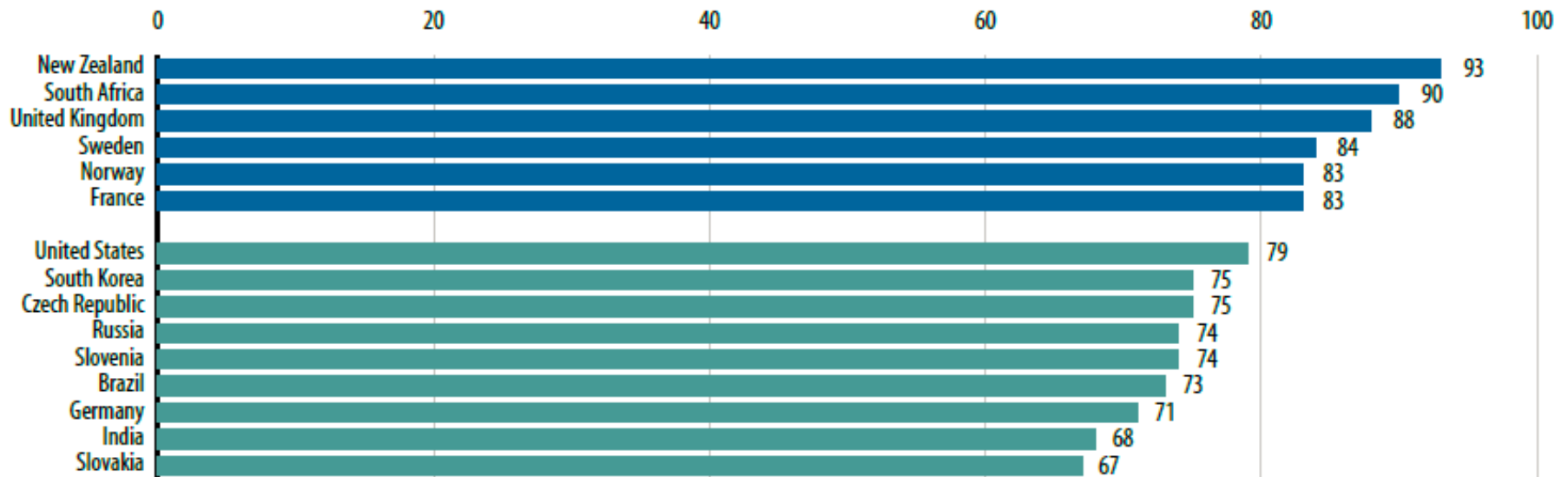
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## OPEN BUDGET INDEX 2012



## OPEN BUDGET INDEX 2012



- Missing Budget Statement – president’s assumptions
- Missing Citizen’s Budget – budget in **simple terms**;



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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

September 25, 2012

**BULLETIN NO. 12-01**

**TO THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ESTABLISHMENTS**

**SUBJECT:** Guidance on Collection of U.S. Foreign Assistance Data



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**TO THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ESTABLISHMENTS**

**SUBJECT:** Guidance on Collection of U.S. Foreign Assistance Data

- Since January 2009, the Administration has been leading an effort to improve aid effectiveness in accordance with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and U.S. G8 and G20 commitments.
- The United States is taking unprecedented steps to provide greater transparency on its foreign assistance investments around the world.



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**SUBJECT:** Guidance on Collection of U.S. Foreign Assistance Data

**Data solicitation** authorized under Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, (22 U.S.C. § 2394).

**Greenbook:** The required report is the annual report to Congress on US Overseas Loans and Grants.

**OECD DAC:** Reporting on U.S. Official Development Assistance for the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD

These reports have been compiled annually for more than **40 years**.



## IATI

The International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) launched in 2008 aims to increase aid's effectiveness by improving the transparency of aid information.

- To meet its goal IATI set up:
  - The IATI standard ([www.iatistandard.org](http://www.iatistandard.org))
  - The IATI registry ([www.iatiregistry.org](http://www.iatiregistry.org))

## Usefulness of IATI data

- Theory: IATI data is centralized in a registry and the data is ‘open, standardized, and flexible’ making it easy to convert and transform for any need.
- Practice: IATI data is:
  - User unfriendly, search function leaves datasets hard to find,
  - Data files name and descriptions leave contents unclear,
  - XML files often will not open correctly without proper schemas,



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# IATI

INTERNATIONAL  
AID  
TRANSPARENCY  
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IATI Consultations / Using IATI Data / Considerations in using IATI data

## CSV / Spreadsheet version of IATI



Tim Davies

posted this on November 14, 2011 19:44

Are you looking to use IATI data within spreadsheet or statistical software? This thread is for discussions of using flat tabular versions of IATI data.

Share your questions, ideas, tips and tricks here.

0 people found this useful. - [Be the first!](#)

## Comments



Javier de la  
Torre

Trying to download CSV for a particular organization seems to take ages or does not work.

<http://iatiregistry.org/dataset/undp-998>

Click on CSV, simple CSV and wait.

I am trying to download the data to visualize it on a map using CartoDB.

“I am trying to download the data to visualize it on a map using CartoDB.”

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Tim Davies  
Practical  
Participation

- 1) Download and extract the XSLT transformations used to generate CSV from the XML
- 2) Download the IATI XML file you want to convert.
- 3) Run xsltproc to apply the transformation

Hello Javier,

This is likely to be an issue with the size/complexity of the UNDP file, which the server based CSV conversation is struggling to process.

If you have working on a Mac or Linux machine (or can install xsltproc or some other XSLT processor on your computer) then the following might help. The lines prefixed > should run at a terminal prompt (without the >) to run through this all.

**1) Download and extract the XSLT transformations used to generate CSV from the XML from <https://github.com/aidinfolabs/IATI-XSLT> into a folder called IATI-XSLT**

```
> wget https://github.com/aidinfolabs/IATI-XSLT/zipball/master
```

```
> unzip master
```

```
> mv aidinfolabs* IATI-XSLT
```

**2) Download the IATI XML file you want to convert.** For example

```
> wget http://data.undp.org/api/assets/AE747B48-8D0D-4E41-B5AF-6AABC911F7A3
```

**3) Run xsltproc to apply the transformation**

```
> xsltproc IATI-XSLT/templates/csv/iati-activities-xml-to-csv.xsl AE747B48-8D0D-4E41-B5AF-6AABC911F7A3 > output.csv
```

The first parameter is the location of the style sheet to use, the second is the name of the original XML document, and '> output.csv' sends the output to a file rather than the terminal. Given the number of activities in the UNDP file, this may take some time to run.

xsltproc should be available by default on a mac or most linux installs, but if not google to details of how to install it on your platform.

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## Greenbook: Comprehensive, Simple, Elegant



USAID LEADERSHIP

WHO WE ARE WHAT WE DO WHERE WE WORK RESULTS & DATA NEWS & INFORMATION WORK WITH USAID

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### FOREIGN AID EXPLORER



This data visualization shows where U.S. Assistance funds have been allocated over the past 66 years.

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### FOREIGN AID EXPLORER



Learn more about the number of projects and total funding by agency, sector or geographic location.

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GO



## Conclusions

- Focus on delivering intuitive and effective solutions
- Continue international efforts:
  - We will avoid criticism from IATI large vocal support base.
  - Costs of publishing the current US version of IATI data is relatively small.
  - Meeting the IATI requirement to publish quarterly, forward spending, or subnational will be difficult