**Guidance and FAQ: FCDO Programme Data and Documents**

**Introduction**

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) is committed to the highest standards in aid transparency. As such, FCDO chooses to publish data and documents for all of its development programmes funded by Official Development Assistance (ODA). These are published to the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) and are presented in an accessible format on the UK Government’s Development Tracker (DevTracker), a website maintained by the FCDO.

This document provides an introduction to DevTracker, and sets out what data and documents the FCDO publishes.

**Accessing Programme Data**

The FCDO publishes a broad range of programme data to the [IATI Standard](https://iatistandard.org/en/iati-standard/), the globally agreed standard for aid transparency. Near the end of every month, FCDO’s programme information is updated with a new publication to the IATI Database, which contains aid information from any donor organisation who chooses to report. IATI is not a UK Government led initiative, but is an international membership organisation of which the FCDO’s predecessor department DFID was a founding member.

The primary way to access information on UK aid information is through the Development Tracker website (‘DevTracker’). DevTracker is the FCDO managed platform that makes UK Government ODA spend available to the public, presenting our published IAT data in an accessible format. DevTracker provides access to data and documents for all UK Government ODA programmes, not just those managed by the FCDO. Information on DevTracker is provided at the programme level.

**Documents**

For each programme, the FCDO routinely publishes a number of documents to IATI. These are the same documents used by the FCDO for internal planning, reporting, and programme management purposes.[[1]](#footnote-2) The programme documents in *Table A* are routinely published to IATI. Note that not all FCDO programmes will have every document set out in this table, and FCDO programme teams may choose to publish additional documentation where they believe there is public interest in doing so.

*Table A: Routinely Published FCDO Documents*

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Document Name** | **IATI Document Codes** | **Format** |
| Business Case | A01, A02, A03, A04, A05 | Word |
| Addendum to the Business Case | A02, A03, A04, A05 |
| Intervention Summary | A02 |
| Memorandum of Understanding | A09 |
| Memorandum of Understanding Amendment Letter | A09 |
| Accountable Grant | A09 |
| Annual Review | A07, A08 |
| Programme Completion Review | A01, A07, A08 |
| Results Framework (LogFrame) | A02, A08 | Excel |
| Evaluation Report | A01, A07, A08 | PDF |
| Evaluation Management Response | A07, A08 |
| Evaluation Recommendation Follow Ups | A01, A07, A08 |

**Frequently Asked Questions**

Q) *How often is DevTracker updated?*

A) FCDO updates programmes information on DevTracker every month, usually during the final working week. Other publishers operate on different schedules, typically publishing either monthly or quarterly.

Q) *How up to date is information of DevTracker at the time of publication?*

A) FCDO information is up to date one month in arrears. For example, data published at the end of April will reflect information as of the final day of March. This varies between publisher.

Q) *I don’t understand technical terminology used on DevTracker, or in programme documentation. Where can I find a list of definitions?*

A) The FCDO maintains an A-Z glossary of common technical terms that are used in the UK’s development programming. This can be found here: <https://devtracker.fcdo.gov.uk/faq>.

Q) *How can I download the data in Development Tracker?*

A) IATI data of any publisher worldwide is available directly via the IATI Datastore. For individual programmes in Development Tracker, IATI data can be downloaded in JSON format via the programme page. In addition, summary data for all FCDO programmes collectively is available in [CSV format](https://fcdo.iati.cloud/search/activity/?q=reporting_org_ref:GB-GOV-1&fl=iati_identifier,title_narrative_text,description_narrative_text,activity_date_iso_date,activity_date_type,activity_plus_child_aggregation_budget_value_gbp,location_name_narrative_text,location_point_pos,location.point.srsName&rows=80000&wt=csv) detailing the title, description, budget, location and start and end dates - this data is published under the [Open Government Licence v3.0](https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/). We continue to explore ways to further increase access to data in Development Tracker including collective programme information published by other government departments.

Q) *Certain documents or data for a programme haven’t been published, why is this?*

A) In some cases, certain documents may not have been produced due to a lack of need. In other instances, the information you’re looking for may have been excluded or redacted. Exclusions will be made on the grounds of sensitivity, for example where publication would raise security or commercial concerns. This is on an exceptional basis, and exclusions are only made in line with Freedom of Information Act 200 criteria. Where possible, redacted information will be published rather instead of broad exclusions of entire programmes, documents, or data. The FCDO never excludes or redacts programme information on the basis of domestic political sensitivity.

Q) *Where can I find the conditions set by the FCDO for its implementing partners of a specific programme?*

A) Any conditions placed on implementing partners will be found in the relevant contract, accountable grant, or memorandum of understanding. This includes any performance or governance related conditions. The UK does not engage in ‘tied aid’, as per the International Development Act 2002.

Q) *Where can I find pre-programme impact appraisals?*

A) Pre-programme impact appraisals can be found within a programme’s business case. These are proportionate to the size of the programme, and so business cases for programmes with larger budgets will contain more comprehensive appraisals. Typically, no further impact appraisals are conducted prior to the delivery of the programme beyond those reflected in the programme’s business cases.

Q) *Where can I find information on programme results?*

A) A number of documents contain programme level information on results. Results Frameworks, sometimes referred to as LogFrames, contain a breakdown of progress against programme objectives and can be found for all programmes that have been in delivery for over one year. Annual Reviews are produced for every programme on a regular 12-month cycle and provide a qualitative assessment of programme progress. Programme Completion Reviews are the final results document produced for each programme and are published within 3 months of programme closer, summarising what was achieved.

Q) *Does FCDO publish information for British International Investment, or Departmental Arms’ Length Bodies?*

A) FCDO publishes ODA funds dispersed from FCDO to British International Investment and Arms’ Length Bodies, but does not publish programme level information on their behalf. Arms’ Length Bodies and British International Investment are responsible for publishing their own programme information to the IATI Standard, and British International Investment has set out [its plan](https://www.bii.co.uk/en/news-insight/news/weve-published-a-new-roadmap-on-transparency/) to become the world’s most transparent Development Finance Institution.

Q) *Why does DevTracker show programmes management by organisations outside of the UK Government?*

A) Alongside displaying information on programmes published by UK Government organisations, DevTracker also shows information for programmes in which a UK Government organisation is an implementing partner. These programmes will show the lead organisation as the publisher, and will have an identifier distinct from those used by the UK Government. The information indicating whether the UK is an implementing partner in a programme is drawn from the data published by independent organisations to the IATI database.

Q) *Where can I access similar information for non-UK Government aid programmes?*

A) [D-Portal](https://d-portal.org/ctrack.html#view=search) is the leading aid portal that reflects all data published to IATI, including but not limited to UK Government programmes. Technically proficient users may also wish to access the [IATI Datastore](https://datastore.iatistandard.org/) directly, and tools and guidance to support data users can be found on the website [Code for IATI](https://codeforiati.org/). The FCDO has no direct involvement in managing the D-Portal, IATI Datastore, or Code for IATI websites.

1. Note, some documents may have sensitive information redacted, or be fully excluded from publication, in line with the exclusions established by the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)